

Bahrain barge into semis!
 Kingdom's national handball team oust South Korea to claim final four berth in 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship | P12

WORLD 6 Sisi says Egypt will not allow threats to Somalia

THE DAILY tribune



Kristen Stewart threatens to quit Hollywood

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Weekend Classroom, Weekday PJs

Militant attack on US troops in Iraq 'extremely serious'
 AFP | Washington

The US is taking the attack by Iran-backed militants on a base hosting US forces in Iraq over the weekend "extremely seriously," the White House said yesterday.

"Multiple ballistic missiles and rockets" were fired by Iranian-backed militants at Al-Assad Airbase in western Iraq late Saturday, the US military said, leading to one Iraqi and possible American casualties.

"It was a very serious attack, using a capability of ballistic missiles that posed a genuine threat," White House Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer said yesterday.

Netanyahu rejects conditions for hostage release
 AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he had rejected conditions demanded by Hamas fighters for the release of hostages, hours after the group released a report justifying its October 7 attack on Israel.

"In exchange for the release of our hostages, Hamas demands an end to the war, the withdrawal of our forces from Gaza, the release of all murderers.... If we accept this, our soldiers have fallen in vain. If we accept this, we won't be able to guarantee the safety of our citizens," Netanyahu said.

Hamas yesterday called for an end to "Israeli aggression" in Gaza, where the health ministry said the death toll passed 25,000.

Israeli strike killed 13 in Damascus
 AFP | Beirut

A strike on Damascus targeting the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Syria spy chief and blamed on Israel killed 13 people, a war monitor said yesterday in an updated toll.

"The death toll has risen to 13," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights of Saturday's strike, revising earlier death tolls.

HM King ratifies affordable-housing law for citizens

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ratified and promulgated Law (1) of 2024, amending Article (1) of Decree-Law (10) of 1976 regarding housing, following the approval of the Shura and Representative councils.

The text of Article (1) of Decree Law No. (10) of 1976 regarding housing shall be replaced

with the following text:

"The Ministry of Housing is responsible for providing housing for citizens with limited income by providing the following services: Obtaining a residence through ownership or rent; financing the purchase, construction or renovation of a residence; and obtaining a housing unit."

This shall be through any of the housing programmes pro-



HM the King

The Ministry of Housing's programmes provide upgraded housing services for citizens with limited income.

vided by the Ministry.

The Minister of Housing may include any other services aimed at providing housing for citizens with limited income."

The Prime Minister and the

ministers - each in their capacity - shall implement the provisions of this law, and it will come into effect the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Shovels of solidarity

Kuwaiti citizens repair street after Bahraini father loses life

TDT | Manama

A heart-wrenching accident last week claimed the life of a Bahraini father, leaving a gaping hole in both the road and the hearts of his loved ones. But instead of waiting for official action, a group of Kuwaiti citizens took matters into their own hands, quite literally.

Armed with shovels and compassion, they poured onto the street, not to protest, but to patch up the pothole that had become the grim reaper's toll booth. Within a mere three minutes, not only was the culprit pothole closed, but the entire street was smoothed and



mended, its scars fading under a wave of determined hands.

This wasn't just about asphalt; it was about empathy. The Kuwaitis, touched by the

Bahraini family's tragedy, refused to let another life fall victim to the same uneven ground. Their actions weren't just repairs, they were a bridge of solidarity, built with every shovelful of gravel and every word of condolence offered to the family and the Bahraini people.

In a world where headlines often scream of division and apathy, this story whispers a different narrative - one of community rising above borders, of shared grief turning into proactive hope. The road may have been repaired, but it's the spirit of these Kuwaiti citizens that truly paves the way for a future where tragedy doesn't have the final say.



Kuwaiti citizens patch up the potholes to avoid another accident

DeSantis backs Trump to be Republican nominee

AFP | Washington

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis suspended his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination yesterday, saying he would throw his support behind frontrunner Donald Trump.

In a video posted to X, DeSantis said that after his second place finish last week in the Iowa caucuses he could not "ask our supporters to volunteer their time and donate their resources if we don't have a clear path to victory. Accordingly, I am today suspending my campaign."

His withdrawal from the race comes less than two days before the New Hampshire primary, where polls showed him far behind ex-president Trump and former UN ambassador Nikki Haley.

"It's clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Trump another chance," DeSantis said in the video, noting he has had differences with the former president, notably over the coronavirus pandemic.

"He has my endorsement because we can't go back to the old Republican guard of yesterday or a repackaged form of warmed-over corporatism that Nikki Haley represents."

Trump, 77, stormed to victory in Iowa last Tuesday, with 51 percent of Republican voters choosing the twice-impeached former president over DeSantis, who gained only 21 percent, and Haley at 19 percent.

No candidate has ever lost the race after claiming the first two states, and Trump would almost certainly declare the Republican nomination.

commitment

Bahrain vows to cooperate for world's peaceful future

Kampala

Bahrain is committed to enhancing cooperation with all countries and organisations to address contemporary challenges, including ending disputes, preventing new conflicts, and building a culture of peace, co-existence, and dialogue against fanaticism and terrorism.

This was emphasised by Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, as he participated in the G77 + China Summit 2024, chaired by Uganda President Yoweri Museveni.

Dr. Al Zayani affirmed that Bahrain is ready to contribute to mitigating climate change



HE Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani speaks at the event

impacts, promote clean, sustainable energy, protect vulnerable groups, and ensure a prosperous future for all, to achieve sustainable development goals and ensure a safer future for all.

He highlighted the importance of the Third South Sum-

mit, which consists of 77 countries and China, as an opportunity to address the challenges faced by countries of the South.

The minister emphasised the urgent need for international cooperation and joint efforts within multilateral action, enabling developing countries to support economic interests and sustainable development, as well as find solutions.

The United Nations adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan in 2015, aiming to eliminate poverty, and ensure food security, as well as facilitate access to energy, education, and healthcare.

(Continued on Page 2)



'Let's act together'

(Continuation from Page 1)
TDT | Manama

Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, emphasised the need for multi-lateral collective action and international principles to achieve these goals.

He reiterated Bahrain's call on the importance of joint diplomatic work in ending wars and settling regional and international disputes and conflicts through peaceful means.

The minister said that the Kingdom calls for an immediate cessation of the war in the Gaza Strip, the protection of civilians, the release of all hostages and detainees, and ensuring that humanitarian and relief aid reaches those who deserve it in the Gaza Strip, to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population, in compliance with international humanitarian law and the relevant international norms, stressing the rejection of forced displacement of the Palestinians outside their land, being a violation of all interna-



HE Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani with participants at the summit

“Bahrain is ready to contribute to mitigating climate change impacts, promote clean, sustainable energy, protect vulnerable groups, and ensure a prosperous future for all, to achieve sustainable development goals and ensure a safer future for all.”

- HE DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

tional laws and conventions.

Dr. Al Zayani called for launching a political process that leads to a two-state solution, by establishing an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, as per international legitimacy resolutions.

He also emphasised the importance of concerted international efforts to ensure free navigation and international trade in the Red Sea, to ensure security, stability, and the interests for all countries and peoples.

The summit's final document affirmed the group's countries' respect for the United Nations Charter and international law, promoting equality, national

sovereignty, integrity, political independence, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

The document underscored the necessity of peace for sustainable development, emphasising the significance of fostering a culture of peace, through promoting pluralism, which is based on international law, friendly relations, and peaceful dispute resolution.

The summit confirmed the support of group member states for the Palestinian people's self-determination, justice, and national aspirations, in addition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Bahraini-Saudi relations



Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, met Waleed bin Abdulkarim El Khereiji, the Saudi Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the Third South Summit - G77 Plus China, hosted by the Ugandan capital city, Kampala. They discussed the deep-rooted historical Bahraini-Saudi ties, as well as their steady progress in all domains to serve common interests. Dr. Al Zayani and El Khereiji also discussed the latest developments and their impact on regional security and stability.

Bahrain-Bangladesh ties



His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the Third South Summit-G77+China, held in Kampala, Uganda. Dr. Al Zayani congratulated Muhammad Hasan Mahmud on assuming his duties as Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh, wishing him every success. The two sides reviewed the Bahrain-Bangladesh relations and discussed ways to enhance them. They also discussed several regional and international issues of common interest. Dr. Al Zayani commended the advanced level of cooperation between the two countries in various sectors.

Bahrain keen to expand UN cooperation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is keen to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in promoting international peace, security, human rights, environmental protection, and sustainable development goals as strategic fundamentals.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, adding that it was in light of the diplomatic approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed made the statement during the meet-



HE Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa at the meeting with the UN agencies

ing of the Joint Steering Committee between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Nations agencies, chaired by the Political Affairs Undersecretary.

Khalid Al Meqwad, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bahrain, and representatives from relevant ministries, government agencies, national institutions,

and 21 specialised organisations attended the meeting, held at the Ministry's headquarters via video communication technology.

The meeting reviewed potential cooperation between Bahrain and the UN to activate the strategic cooperation framework for sustainable development (2021-2024). It focused on strengthening anti-human

trafficking mechanisms, early education projects, and planting mangrove trees. The Kingdom also discussed new visions and projects for the strategic cooperation framework for 2025-2029, aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Progress

Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed com-



The meeting between Bahrain and the UN focused on strengthening anti-human trafficking mechanisms, early education projects, and planting mangrove trees.

mended Bahrain's progress in strengthening its historical and

strategic cooperation with United Nations agencies, highlighting its success in various fields.

Bahrain's successes include discussing national reports within the universal periodic review of human rights, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. These achievements align with the government's programme and economic vision of Bahrain 2030, he added.

Al Meqwad praised constructive cooperation with the government and national institutions in Bahrain, which serves human rights, sustainable development plans, and projects related to economic diversification, human development, environment, energy, food security, and the economy.

Students to benefit from F1 promotion in schools



HE Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi with Andrew Denford

TDT | Manama

Minister of Youth Affairs, His Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, highlighted the significance of Formula 1 in schools in raising awareness about many technical and engineering sciences among students and spreading them regionally and internationally.

This came as Tawfiqi received Andrew Denford, Founder and Chairman of For-

mula 1 in Schools.

The minister emphasised Bahrain International Circuit's commitment to promoting Formula 1 racing among the youth.

She affirmed the ministry's keenness to develop national talents in Formula 1 engineering design through F1 in schools.

Tawfiqi pushed for more cooperation between the ministry and F1 in schools.

Oil Minister hails BAB key role



HE Dr. Bin Daina with BAB officials

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, commended the role of the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) in launching initiatives and strategies that seek to consolidate the status of Bahrain in the banking and finance sector regionally and internationally.

Dr. Bin Daina was speaking as he met with Adnan Ahmed

Yousif, Chairman of BAB, and members of the association.

The meeting highlighted the role of the banking and finance sector in supporting national efforts in reaching carbon neutrality, as well as the implementation of programmes, initiatives, and projects to raise environmental awareness and achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Mr. Yousif commended the kingdom's efforts to protect the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Bahrain-UK relations



Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received General Sir Nicholas Carter, Former Chief of the Defence Staff of the British Armed Forces. Lieutenant General Tariq Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security, attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed regional security developments and global security challenges. The minister commended the historic Bahrain-UK relations and highlighted the importance of promoting communication and exchanging expertise.

Nominations call for Filipino awards

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy informs the Filipino community of the call for nominations by the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) for the 2024 Presidential Awards

for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO), which is open until 30 May 2024.

Requirements are available for download at www.presidentialawards.cfo.gov.ph.

Local company ordered to pay BD100,000 in insurance subscriptions



TDT | Manama

The High Civil Appeals Court upheld a ruling that required a local tourism company to pay nearly BD100,000 in insurance subscriptions for one of its employees.

The court affirmed that the worker's subscription to the social insurance system is mandatory and enforced by law.

The court rejected the company's request to obligate the employee to pay the outstanding amounts, arguing that he held the position of general manager and was authorised to sign government documents. The court stated that this does not negate the company's obligation to pay the subscriptions.

Furthermore, the employer's negligence in deducting the worker's share of the insurance contribution when paying wages does not allow them to deduct it later in any form.

According to lawyer Taqi Hussain Taqi, who summarised the details of the lawsuit, the plaintiff company claimed that the employee retired from his first job over 22 years ago and joined their company since then. He continued to receive his salary and retirement pension.

After leaving the company, he approached the social insurance institution to add his service period with the company to his previous work experience. The institution responded to his requests and demanded that the company pay approximately 100,000 dinars for his insurance subscriptions during the 22-year period.

The company refused to pay the insurance subscriptions, claiming that the employee held the position of general manager and board member and was responsible for his own insurance.

Healing Homes

Bahrain sees domestic violence drop in 2023

TDT | Manama

A ray of hope flickers amidst the complexities of human interaction. In a welcome statistic, Bahrain witnessed a 7% decrease in domestic violence reports during 2023, marking a promising shift towards safer homes and stronger families.

Public Prosecutor Dr Ali bin Fadl Al Buainain, unveiling this development at the annual press conference, emphasized the unwavering commitment to protecting fundamental rights and ensuring social well-being.

Beyond the numbers, the story unfolds in a tapestry of proactive measures. Simplifying procedures for child victims of sexual assault, minimizing the emotional burden of reliving trauma, stands as a testament to the Public Prosecution's sensitivity and focus on healing.



Recognizing the interconnectedness of the modern world, Al Buainain highlighted the importance of international cooperation in tackling transborder crimes like money laundering and human trafficking.

Beacon of hope

The "Care Initiative", launched with a compassionate

eye, stands as a beacon of hope for vulnerable individuals. Identifying and addressing urgent needs in education, health, and employment, it offered a lifeline to 347 individuals in 2023. This human-centric approach extends to alternative penalties, with 1,575 individuals finding restorative paths to reintegration.

While challenges remain, the statistics whisper a narrative of progress. The Anti-Drug Unit

receiving 1,152 reports signifies vigilance in combating addiction, while the rising number of requests for e-government services (9,002) reflects a growing embrace of technology for improved access to justice.

The 7% decrease in domestic violence reports is a testament to the power of a holistic approach that prioritizes reform and empathy.

"International cooperation is important in tackling transborder crimes like money laundering and human trafficking."

- DR ALI BIN FADL AL BUAINAIN, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

Shura Council approves law requiring businesses to train Bahraini graduates

TDT | Manama

The Shura Council approved a proposal for a new law regarding vocational training during yesterday's session.

The proposed law aims to require employers with 50 or more workers to provide training for university graduates.

The law, presented by Ejlal Isa Bubshait, Dr. Hani Ali Al Sa'ati, Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman, Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan, and Sadeq Eid Al Rahma, seeks to mandate that employers train university graduates nominated by the Ministry of Labour for a minimum period of three months in their establishments, at a ratio of one trainee for every fifty workers.

Before voting on the law, the committee's rapporteur, Hala Ramzy Fayeze, pointed out that the proposed bill aims to achieve the principle of equal opportunities among citizens.

"The proposal seeks to pave the way for new Bahraini uni-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

"The Ministry of Labour assumes responsibility for overseeing the training process provided by employers, ensuring its effectiveness in various aspects relevant to graduate development."

- HALA RAMZY FAYEZE, SHURA COUNCIL COMMITTEE'S RAPPOREUR

versity graduates to start their professional lives early by receiving practical training in private sector companies with a minimum of 50 employees. Additionally, it aims to activate the social function of capital alongside its economic role, in line with the requirements of social justice as mandated by the constitution," she said.

She further highlighted that one of the objectives of the proposed law is to enhance the awareness of foreign university graduates entering the job market about the importance of working in the private sector.

Public 'dissatisfaction' mounts over MP's weekend work shift proposal

TDT | Manama

A recent proposal made by members of Parliament to change the weekend shift has ignited a wave of dissatisfaction among the populace.

The proposition suggests replacing the current weekend days of Friday and Saturday with Saturday and Sunday, resulting in a shorter workweek of just one and a half days, similar to that of the UAE, Morocco, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mauritania.

The move has drawn criticism from various segments of society, particularly the Muslim community, who find the proposed changes inconvenient and a departure from the nation's cultural and religious practices.

Online platforms like Instagram and X have become a battleground for discussions surrounding the contentious proposal, with many individuals expressing their discontent.

Ghina, an online user, em-

phasised the significance of Friday as a holy day for Muslims, highlighting the necessity of having a day off for Friday prayers. She questioned the rationale behind following the weekend patterns of other countries, emphasising Bahrain's unique identity as a Muslim nation.

Current workweek

Ludmila, another citizen, pointed out that the current legal workweek in Bahrain stands at 48 hours. She expressed doubt that employers would willingly grant their employees two and a half days off solely on Sundays.

While larger businesses and entrepreneurs might find the change convenient, Ludmila argued that Bahrain's true beauty lies in preserving its heritage and culture. She expressed hope that the proposal would be rejected.

Rahma Alaa'i added her voice to the dissent, stating that Sundays should not be designated as a holiday.

Visit to work visa conversion under Parliament scrutiny

Tourism Ministry expresses concerns

TDT | Manama

The Parliament is preparing to discuss a proposed law that aims to prohibit the conversion of visit visas into work visas during tomorrow's session.

The proponents of the proposal argue that it is necessary to ensure job opportunities for Bahraini citizens, reduce unemployment rates, strengthen the national workforce, and prioritize the employment of Bahraini nationals.

However, the Ministry of Tourism has expressed reser-

vations about regulating visas through legislation.

The ministry suggests that administrative decisions, rather than a law, would provide the necessary flexibility required in visa regulation. It points out that different countries have successfully regulated visas through administrative measures, allowing for adaptability in addressing relevant issues.

In its response to the Parliament, the ministry emphasised that administrative decisions provide the appropriate flexibility in handling visa matters. It also allows the executive authority to objectively assess the changing circumstances and adjust regulations accordingly, in



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line with the kingdom's overall interests and plans.

The ministry called for further study of the proposal, taking into

account the Kingdom's plans to stimulate various economic sectors.

Tightening controls

Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior affirmed that the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs (NPRA) is tightening controls on all visas and residence permits, including tourist visas and work permits.

Stricter regulations are being enforced for obtaining and converting visas, including requiring sponsors to commit not to convert visitor visas into work permits, the ministry pointed out. The ministry also ensured that requests for visit visas are not converted into work visas,

among other measures.

The ministry clarified that the role of the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence primarily focuses on security aspects. The processing of each visa or residence permit is determined based on its specific type and the fulfillment of corresponding requirements, it explained.

Meanwhile, the National Institution for Human Rights cautioned that allowing visitors to convert their visas into work permits without restrictions could increase unemployment rates among Bahraini citizens and undermine the national workforce plan, which aims to prioritise Bahrainis for employment opportunities.

UoB hailed for efforts to embrace global changes

Under the patronage of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, UoB holds graduation ceremony

TDI | Manama

Education Minister, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, commended the University of Bahrain's efforts to incorporate new academic programmes, keep abreast of global changes, meet the labour market's requirements and national priorities, as well as benefit from international expertise and obtain accreditation.

Dr. Juma was speaking as he attended the graduation ceremony of UoB's 25th batch of students, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Also present at the event held at the UoB Sakhir Campus were Higher Education Council (HEC) Board of Trustees Chairman, HE Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, HE Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor, Minister of Social Development, HE Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, Minister of Information, and HE Rawan



The Education Minister with other special guests

bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs.

The Education Minister expressed gratitude to HRH Prince Salman for sponsoring the graduation ceremony.

He noted the achievement of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Success

The minister also congratulated the graduates and wished them success in their future life, commending the efforts of the UoB management, as well as academic and administrative staff.

Dr. Juma highlighted the HEC's role in modernising policies, regulations, and procedures to improve the quality of education in Bahrain.

He affirmed the council's support for all higher education institutions, both governmental and private, stressing commitment to integrating their roles to enhance the quality of academic programmes and outputs.

Pride

Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al Ansari, UoB President, expressed pride in the graduation of over 92,000 students from the UoB



HE Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma delivers a speech

since its founding in 1986 and the achievements of its current students in various fields. He noted that the past year has seen numerous first and advanced positions for students in scientific, artistic, and sports fields.

He added that UoB focuses on developing human capabilities, investing in people, and caring for them to achieve national goals.

This includes expanding postgraduate programmes, stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship, and providing value-added consultations to the community.

Course on competency in climate services

TDI | Manama

The Civil Aviation Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), hosted a course on competency in climate services.

The course began yesterday and shall continue until January 25. It is attended by 35 participants from 19 countries and international entities.

This course aims to enhance the participation of individuals and organisations in effectively providing climate information and services to various sectors, by identifying competency requirements, evaluating current competency against performance standards, and developing and implementing training.

Hussein Ahmed Shuail, Assistant Undersecretary for Air Navigation and Meteorological Services at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, affirmed that climate data is one of the essential information that goes into decision-making to implement most projects. He added that data is also used to conduct studies and research.

Shuail said that the Ministry is keen to continue developing the quality of climate services.

Court dismisses wife's appeal in pre-death property sale contract

TDI | Manama

The Court of Cassation dismissed the appeal of a wife who sought a ruling in her favour regarding the validity and enforceability of a pre-death property sale contract made by her late husband.

The contract aimed to grant her ownership of two properties and prevent his children from his previous marriage from inheriting them.

The court ruled that the contract was not valid, as it constituted a posthumous transaction that was carried out by the husband to one of his heirs while retaining possession until his death, without the knowledge of his children.

Lawyer Abdulrahman Ghunaim, representing the husband's children, explained that his clients' father had remarried after the death of their mother. He passed away after a pro-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

longed illness, and during the estate distribution process, his second wife refused to include the two properties in the estate.

The second wife based her refusal on the fact that she possessed a sale contract for the properties issued by their father before his death. Despite the fact that the children resided in the properties, she demanded

their eviction, and they were surprised to find out that she had mortgaged the properties to a bank.

Posthumous transactions

Ghunaim stated that they filed a lawsuit before the court of first instance, requesting the invalidation of the sale contracts due to their nature as posthu-

mous transactions.

They also presented evidence in the form of the sale contract itself, which showed that no payment was made, and the motive behind this transaction was to deprive them of their inheritance rights and allow the appellant to possess the properties without any legitimate compensation.

It should be noted that the children were residing in the properties, and their father's transaction did not take effect since it was a posthumous transaction subject to the rules of a will. However, the court of first instance rejected the claim, prompting the children to appeal the decision before the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals ruled in favour of the children, cancelling the previous judgment and invalidating the sale contract. It ordered the properties to be returned to the estate.

Decisive oath resolves dowry payment dispute

TDI | Manama

A decisive oath settled a dispute between a couple regarding the acceptance of the dowry.

The wife insisted on not accepting the dowry, estimated at BD2,000, while the husband insisted on delivering it to her. The wife requested her husband to take a decisive oath, and he did so. Consequently, the court ruled in favor of the husband.

Lawyer Ibrahim Khalil stated that his client's wife filed a lawsuit demanding the payment of the dowry, which she had not received. On the other hand, his client denied the claim and insisted on fulfilling the dowry payment.

The Family Reconciliation Office attempted to mediate and reconcile the parties, but it reported that there was no agreement or settlement between them.

Consequently, the court



Image used for illustrative purposes only

proceeded with the lawsuit. The wife requested her husband to take a decisive oath, declaring that he had delivered the dowry to her. The decisive oath was administered to her, confirming that he had indeed given her the dowry.

In its ruling, the court stated that according to Islamic law, the wife is entitled to receive the full dowry upon entering into a valid marriage contract.

The court mentioned that the plaintiff requested her dowry and claimed that she had not received it, while the defendant denied this and stated that he had delivered it to her.



Pongal Festival

Over 3,000 people attended the grand Pongal Festival 2024 that Annai Tamil Mandrum (ATM), Bahrain arranged at the Indian Club. The event was graced by the presence Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Vinod K Jacob H.E Mr. Yusuf Lori, Director of Information And Follow-up Capital Governorate, H.E. Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen, Member of Parliament, Mrs. Basma Abdel Karim Mubarak, MP, and many other VIP's and distinguished guests. The guests enjoyed the traditional Pongal Festival, which was served on banana leaves. Games, activities, and cultural performances were held.



Bahrain-GCC cooperation

Minister of Labour, His Excellency Jameel bin Mohammad Ali Humaidan, met with Dr. Amer bin Mohammed Al Hajri, the outgoing Director-General of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labour and the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The executive office is based in Bahrain affiliated with the GCC Secretariat General. The minister commended Dr. Al Hajri's efforts in enhancing cooperation with the GCC states in the labour and social fields. He emphasised the office's important role in developing labour market systems in the GCC states.

Weekend Classroom, Weekday PJs

AUBH's hybrid degrees let you have your cake and eat it too

TDI | Manama

Forget cramming your nights with endless classes – the American University of Bahrain (AUBH) is flipping the script on postgraduate education with a groundbreaking new dual modality approach. Starting this spring, working professionals can reap the rewards of a top-tier degree without sacrificing career momentum.

AUBH's innovative model seamlessly blends in-person and online learning, catering to the ever-growing demand for flexibility and accessibility. Saturdays are for face-to-face interaction, building connections with faculty and classmates in a vibrant classroom setting. Tuesdays? Kick back, grab your lap-



Dr. Hanan Naser

top, and conquer those modules from the comfort (or chaos) of your home office.

But the good news doesn't stop there. AUBH is also launch-

ing a brand-new Master of Arts in Multimedia Management program, designed to equip you with the skills to dominate the ever-evolving digital landscape.



Whether you're a marketing maestro or a web design wizard, this program can skyrocket your career in advertising, media, public relations, and beyond.

"This is about empowering our students to chart their own educational journey," says Dr. Hanan Naser, AUBH Interim Associate Provost. "The dual

modality approach offers unparalleled flexibility, while the Multimedia Management program equips you for the digital revolution. It's innovation, it's accessibility, and it's your future, on your terms."

So, ditch the rigid schedules and embrace the future of postgraduate education. At AUBH, you can work, you can learn, and you can conquer your career goals – all without breaking a sweat (well, maybe just a Saturday sweat). Choose from three cutting-edge programs – Master of Art in Business Administration, Master of Science in Engineering Management, and the new Master of Arts in Multimedia Management – and experience the future of learning, your way.

Export of products of national origins reach BD1.013 billion in Q4



TDI | Manama

The Information & Government Authority (IGA) has published its Foreign Trade report of Q4 2023, which encompasses data on Trade Balance, Imports, Exports of products with national origin, and Re-exports.

As per the report, the value of imports has increased by 5%, reaching to BD1.476 billion during Q4 2023 in comparison with BD1.410 billion for the same quarter in 2022. The top 10 countries for imports marked with 69% of the total value of imports.

According to the report, China ranked first for imports to Bahrain, with a total of BD207

million, followed by the Brazil being the second with BD136m, and The United Arab Emirate as a third with BD119m.

Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Alloyed marked as the top product imported to Bahrain with a total value of BD160m, while Other Aluminum Oxide was second with BD110m, followed by Parts for Aircraft Engines being the third with BD42m.

On the other hand, the value of Exports of Products with National Origin marked a decrease by 10% with a value of BD1.013 billion during Q4 2023, compared to BD1.121 billion for the same quarter in 2022. The top 10 countries accounted for 69% of the total export value.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked first among countries for the exports of Products with National Origin with BD225m. The United Arab Emirate was second with BD126m and the United States of America was third with BD97m.

Unwrought Aluminum Alloys marked as the top products exported during Q4 2023 with BD226m, followed by Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Alloyed being the second with a value of BD201m and Unwrought Aluminum Not Alloyed third with BD59m.

The total value of Re-exports decrease by 6% to reach BD188m during Q4 2023, compared to BD200m for the same quarter in 2022. The top 10 countries

in Re-exports accounted for 81% of the re-exported value. The United Arab Emirate ranked first with BD52million, followed by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as second with BD44m, and Luxembourg third with BD10.13m.

As per the report, Turbo-Jets was the top product re-exported from Bahrain with a value of BD25m, followed by Four Wheel Drive BD12m, and Private Cars came third with BD8m.

As for the Trade Balance, which represents the difference between exports and imports, the deficit amounted to BD276m dinars in Q4 2023, Compared to a deficit of 88m dinars in Q4 2022, which led to an increase in the deficit by 212%.

Bahrain Chamber launches "Jadara" Award for SMEs

TDI | Manama

Registration for the inaugural "Jadara Award" is now open, announced the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the patronage of Samee Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber. Local businesses and manufacturers are encouraged to enrol online through the Bahrain Chamber website, a process open from January 17, 2024, to February 10, 2024.

The "Jadara Award" inaugural edition comprises five distinct categories. The first category delves into customer loyalty, exploring the strategies employed by businesses to acquire and sustain customer loyalty. The second category centres around capacity building, highlighting business strategies aimed at developing and enhancing the capabilities of its members. The third category focuses on reliability and trust, encompassing practices that bolster trust and reliability in the delivery of services and products. The fourth category is dedicated to digital transformation, covering practices related to digital and electronic transformation, as well as the integration of artificial intelligence to enhance services and operational

mechanisms. The fifth category acknowledges innovation and the quality of food products, recognizing practices that have achieved excellence and quality in the realm of food production.

Waleed Kanoo, the Vice-Treasurer and head of the steering group for the committee, emphasized that the award is designed to motivate Bah-

rainer companies to elevate their performance, competitiveness, and overall growth. Additionally, it aims to foster the enhancement of production and service quality. Kanoo clarified that registration is open to all small and medium-sized companies across various local commercial and industrial sectors. General qualification criteria include possessing an active Commercial Registration (C.R), a market presence exceeding three years, and positive financial results over the past three years.

It is noteworthy that companies have the option to submit entries in multiple categories, and the award features financial incentives for the deserving winners. Interested companies may complete the registration form on <https://www.bahrainchamber.bh> before the deadline of February 1.



ArcelorMittal wants 'amicable' deal on Italy steelworks

Rome, Italy

ArcelorMittal has offered to sell its stake or become a minority shareholder in an Italian steelworks after Rome moved to put the plant under state supervision, the chief executive said in a letter seen by AFP Saturday.

Aditya Mittal wrote to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to press for an "amicable solution" to the crisis over the struggling ex-Ilva plant, one of Europe's largest steelworks.

The letter was dated Thursday, the day Meloni's hard right government announced it had



The ArcelorMittal Italia steel plant (ex Ilva) in Taranto, southern Italy

taken the first step towards putting the plant under state supervision. Talks with ArcelorMittal, which owns a 62-percent stake, had broken down over

how to keep production going and secure thousands of jobs at the plant in the southern city of Taranto. In the letter, initially reported by the ANSA news agency

but then obtained by AFP, Mittal said he was keen to avoid "extreme unilateral actions".

He says the government appears to want to end its joint venture with ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, in which state investment body Invitalia has a 38-percent stake.

To make a "clean break", ArcelorMittal has "offered to sell our entire stake to Invitalia for a fraction of our cash investment", the chief executive wrote, in English and Italian.

"Although Invitalia has refused, this offer remains on the table should the government

wish to consider it."

Alternatively, "we are prepared to remain as a minority strategic partner... as the Italian government decides on a permanent solution", Mittal wrote.

Debt problems

Rome considers the steelworks a strategic asset, but it has long been plagued by financial problems and environmental concerns. The operating company, named Acciaierie d'Italia, is no longer able to pay many of its suppliers or utility bills, and the plant is at risk of having its gas shut off. Italian Enterprise Minister Adolfo Urso earlier told

reporters that "we cannot lose any time".

"We have activated the procedure that could lead to special administration in a few weeks," he said. "On the other hand, if ArcelorMittal makes proposals that are in line with what the government considers absolutely necessary, for the protection of the plant and the relaunch of production, the shareholders can obviously discuss it," he said.

Special administration would involve appointing commissioners to manage the company and draw up a rescue plan, pending the arrival of a new investor.

Classifieds

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Lillard's 45 points spark Bucks to win, Embiid's 33 lift 76ers



Milwaukee's Damian Lillard looks on during the game

AFP | Los Angeles

Damian Lillard scored a season-high 45 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 31 to lead the Milwaukee Bucks over NBA doormat Detroit 141-135 on Saturday.

Lillard, who arrived from Portland in a pre-season trade, had 11 assists and made 12-of-22 shots from the floor, 5-of-11 from 3-point range, and hit all 16 of his free throw attempts.

"When the game started, I felt like I had a good warm-up, a good rhythm to the game," Lillard said. "Saw a couple shots go in and I just felt good."

Lillard became the first player in Bucks history with 40 or more points, 10 or more assists and five 3-pointers in a single game and did so three nights after Milwaukee was thumped 135-95 at Cleveland.

"I knew it was an important game. I picked my spots. I moved the ball when I needed to attack," Lillard said.

"I knew it was an important game. I picked my spots. I moved the ball when I needed to move it. I attacked when I needed to attack. I've been slowly getting back to how I play more naturally and tonight was one of those nights"

DIAMIAN LILLARD

said.

"I've been slowly getting back to how I play more naturally and tonight was one of those nights."

Greek star Antetokounmpo added 10 rebounds, nine assists, two steals and a blocked shot for visiting Milwaukee, which improved to 29-13, three games behind Boston for the Eastern Conference lead.

Pakistan skipper relieved after beating New Zealand in fifth T20

AFP | Christchurch

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi said it was "very important" his team avoided a whitewash series loss to New Zealand after winning the fifth and final Twenty20 International by 42 runs yesterday.

The Black Caps capitulated for 92 in the face of some quality Pakistan spin bowling, having been favoured to chase down the tourists' 134-8.

Pakistan lost the five-match series 4-1 but Shaheen was pleased his first stint as captain had ended on a winning note, after being outplayed through the first four games.

He said the series was primarily seen as a chance to build towards the T20 World Cup in June but it would have been a setback to lose five from five.

"Today's game was very important for us. We needed that as a unit to step forward," Shaheen said.

"In the first four games, there were a lot of collapses, as a fielding unit, as a batting unit, but I think today we played as a team and we needed that win.

"It's not easy for any team to come here. And I think our mind is on the World Cup. We're just checking out every spot for every player and giving chances to youngsters."



Pakistan's Mohammad Nawaz (L) celebrates with Shaheen Shah Afridi (2nd L) after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Will Young

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Only opener Finn Allen (22) and Glenn Phillips (26) passed 20 as Pakistan claimed the last eight wickets for 39 runs

Part-time off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed was handed the ball for the first time in the series and

produced career-best figures of 3-24 against a weakened New Zealand batting lineup, who scored their second-lowest T20 total on home soil.

Only opener Finn Allen (22) and Glenn Phillips (26) passed 20 as Pakistan claimed the last eight wickets for 39 runs.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz (2-18) was effective with the new ball, while Shaheen claimed 2-20.

New Zealand were missing three of their first-choice batters: Kane Williamson (knee injury), Devon Conway (Covid-19) and Daryl Mitchell (rested).

Captain Mitchell Santner said their poor chase exposed some

Scorecard

Pakistan 134 for 8 (Rizwan 38, Fakhar 33, Southee 2-19, Sodhi 2-22) beat New Zealand 92 (Phillips 26, Allen 22, Iftikhar 3-24, Nawaz 2-18) by 42 runs

chinks.

"We've looked pretty good batting first and defending but, looking at today, we may need a bit of work chasing," he said.

"In a chase like that, we talk about taking it as deep as we can and we didn't do that.

"But all in all a pretty good series. There were good signs, different guys stepping up at different times and that's what you want."

Earlier, it appeared the home side had done enough to push for a clean sweep through another disciplined bowling display.

Seamers Tim Southee, Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson all claimed two scalps, along with spinner Ish Sodhi.

Veteran Southee (2-19) dismissed debutant Haseebullah Khan in an opening maiden over and returned in the 13th over to remove the dangerous Fakhar Zaman, who had raced to 33 off 16 balls.

Top-scorer Mohammad Rizwan departed soon afterwards for 38 off 38.

England batsman Brook leaving tour of India for personal reasons

AFP | London

Middle-order batsman Harry Brook is to leave England's tour of India and return home "with immediate effect for personal reasons", the Eng-

land and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement yesterday.

"The Brook family respectfully requests privacy during this time," the ECB said.

"In light of this, the ECB and the family kindly request the media and the public to respect their wish for privacy and refrain from intruding on their private space."



Harry Brook

Muharraq edge past Al Ahli

Tyler Wilkerson pours in 37 points to spearhead victors in Top Six opener of 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League

● **Bader Abdulla Malabes, Ra'shad James each finish with 17 for victors**

● **Muharraq overturn deficit with game-changing 8-0 run in fourth quarter**

TDT | Manama

Muharraq made a winning start to the Top Six round last night in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League after defeating Al Ahli 92-88 at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam. Free-throws from Bader Abdulla Malabes and Tyler Wilkerson, on either end of a Maitham Jameel three-pointer, helped the victors secure the come-from-behind result.

Muharraq fought back from as many as 11 points down late in the third quarter. They came alive in the final period, sparked



Muharraq's Tyler Wilkerson challenges the shot of Al Ahli's Unique McLean during their game last night

by a game-changing 8-0 run, to

Wilkerson poured in a game-high 37 points, including five



Muharraq and Al Ahli are in the Top Six along with defending league champions Manama, Al Ettihad, Al Hala and Al Najma, who are all in action today and tomorrow in their opening games of this stage

triples, while taking down nine rebounds to spearhead the winners, while Malabes and Ra'shad James each finished with 17. Mohammed Juma'a contributed 13 off the bench.

Muharraq eked into this stage as the fifth seeds on the final day of the regular season, while Ahli finished as third seeds. Also in the Top Six are defending league champions and top seeds Ma-

nama, second seeds Al Ettihad, fourth seeds Al Hala and sixth seeds Al Najma.

Muharraq were the early aggressors and they took a slim 25-22 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Both teams continued to trade jabs as the game remained close in the second. A James three-pointer then gave Muharraq a 41-34 advantage, but Ahli cut the deficit before half-time and an Ahmed Alderazi triple on their final possession prior to the break made it 45-48.

Control

After the restart, Ahli took control with a 14-2 run, capped by a Jameel jump shot that put them ahead 63-54. After a Malabes basket for Muharraq, Jameel was again on target, this time from beyond the arc to make it 72-63 at the end of the third.

In the final stanza, Ahli stayed in front early on but an 8-0 run, capped by a Juma'a three-pointer, gave Muharraq an 82-81 lead with under four minutes to play. Baskets from Malabes and Wilkerson then gave them

an 86-83 edge, and then a Juma'a fastbreak stretched their lead to five with 57.6 seconds remaining.

Ahli were able to get back to within three on a pair of Adrian Uter free-throws, but Malabes sank a pair from the charity stripe that made it 90-85 with 13.9 seconds on the clock.

Ahli did not give up and Jameel buried a triple to make it 88-90 with 9.7 seconds remaining, but Wilkerson pegged the final score from the free-throw line on their concluding possession.

Uter was Ahli's top scorer with 22 points and 12 rebounds, while Jameel and Unique McLean chipped in with 17 each. Hesham Sarhan added 16 in the losing effort.

Action in the Top Six continues tonight and tomorrow. This evening, Manama face off with Najma in both teams' first game of this stage. Tomorrow, Hala and Ettihad lock horns in their Top Six opener. Both fixtures are scheduled for 7.30pm tip-offs at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Djokovic, Sabalenka in ruthless form to reach Australian Open quarter-finals

● **Djokovic crushes Mannarino to tie Federer's Grand Slam quarter-final record**

● **Sabalenka dominates Anisimova, Gauff dispatches Frech in blistering performance**

● **Fritz upsets Tsitsipas, Sinner breezes past Khachanov to set up quarters clash**

AFP | Melbourne

Novak Djokovic was at his dominant best in a straight-sets demolition job to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals yesterday, with Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff in equally ruthless touch.

The Serbian superstar recaptured his top form to surge into the last 16 after dropping sets in his opening two matches while ill, and he stepped up another level against Adrian Mannarino.

The French 20th seed, who at 35 is just a year younger than Djokovic, has been enjoying a late career resurgence.

But he was taught a lesson by the world number one, who won the first 13 games in powering through to the last eight of a Grand Slam for the 58th time, equalling Roger Federer's men's record.

"I played great, from the first to the last point," said the defending champion, who is red-hot favourite to collect an 11th Melbourne title and a record 25th Grand Slam crown.

"It's going in a positive direction, health-wise, tennis-wise so



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return against France's Adrian Mannarino

"I played great, from the first to the last point. It's going in a positive direction, health-wise, tennis-wise so I'm really pleased with where I am at the moment"

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

I'm really pleased with where I am at the moment."

He will face 12th-seed Taylor Fritz next after the American beat last year's runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

"The times I have played him I haven't brought my best level and you need to if you are going to complete with someone like Djokovic," said Fritz of the Serb.

Djokovic almost always plays the night session on Rod Laver Arena, but was bumped to the afternoon this time.

That's because home hope Alex de Minaur, seeded 10, is bidding to make the last eight

for the first time, with Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev standing in his way.

The winner will face in-form fourth seed Jannik Sinner, who blasted past last year's semi-finalist Karen Khachanov 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 and is yet to drop a set.

'An honour'

Defending women's champion Sabalenka has also been in imperious form and was in complete charge against unseeded Amanda Anisimova on Margaret Court Arena, sweeping past the American 6-3, 6-2.

Fourth seed Coco Gauff, attempting to become the first woman to back up a US Open title with a Grand Slam win in Australia since Naomi Osaka in 2020-2021, has been almost as impressive.

She swatted aside Poland's unseeded Magdalena Frech 6-1, 6-2 in just 63 minutes on Rod Laver Arena, with the 85-year-tennis legend watching from the stands.

"It was an honour to play in front of you, so thank you for coming to my match," said

19-year-old Gauff, who had never progressed beyond the fourth round at Melbourne Park in four previous attempts.

"First Aussie quarter-final. Super happy to be in this position and be here.... It's cool to get over that hump."

She will now meet Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk, who beat Russian qualifier Maria Timofeeva 6-2, 6-1.

With seven of the women's top 10 seeds knocked out in the first week, including world number one Iga Swiatek, both Gauff and Sabalenka have a glorious chance to win their second major title.

They are on the same side of the draw and will not meet in the final, with a potential last-four clash looming instead.

Sabalenka has conceded just 11 games in four matches and is favoured to win another title to go with her breakthrough Grand Slam crown last year.

Should she go all the way, the 25-year-old will be the first woman to retain the title since compatriot Victoria Azarenka completed the feat in 2013.

Goal-shy China 'depend on ourselves' to stay alive at Asian Cup



Lebanon's defender #12 Robert Melki and China's forward #07 Wu Lei after a challenge

AFP | Doha

China coach Aleksandar Jankovic told his players "we depend on ourselves" to stay alive at the Asian Cup when they face hosts and defending champions Qatar on Monday.

Against the backdrop of a football corruption scandal back home, and after years of underachievement, China have failed to score a goal in their opening two games in Qatar.

After two 0-0 draws, a win against already qualified Qatar at the Khalifa International Stadium would see them through to the knockout rounds along with the hosts.

A draw or even a loss could also be enough, should the re-

sult go their way in Lebanon's match with Tajikistan.

But Jankovic said his team must focus only on themselves, with their destiny still in their own hands.

"Don't look around, don't follow other results, don't look at the other groups, don't look at the other game," he said yesterday.

Qatar midfielder Ahmed Fathy warned his team would not be taking their foot off the gas in the final game in Group A, despite already reaching the last 16 with two wins from two.

The hosts want to maintain "this winning mentality", he said.

"We want to finish the group stage with nine points. We will be playing for the win, regardless of who is against us," he said.

Leverkusen's Palacios ruled out with injury, Frimpong cleared

AFP | Berlin

Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen announced the loss of injured midfielder Exequiel Palacios "for the time being" on Saturday, while wing-back Jeremie Frimpong was cleared.

Leverkusen did not specify how long the World Cup-win-

ning Palacios would spend on the sidelines, saying that an MRI yesterday confirmed a thigh injury sustained in Saturday's 3-2 win at RB Leipzig.

"The diagnosis will force the 25-year-old to watch from the sidelines for the time being."

The news comes at a bad time for coach Xabi Alonso's undermanned league leaders.

Bahrain barge into semis!

Kingdom's national handball team oust South Korea to claim final four berth in 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship

● **Mohammed Abdulhussain named Best Player of the Game in win against South Korea**

● **Bahrain finish in first place on Group Two standings, advance with Kuwait**

● **Title holders Qatar top Group One, finish ahead of Japan on goal difference**

● **All four semi-finalists book berths in 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain booked their berth last night in the semi-finals of the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship, currently being hosted by the Kingdom.

The nationals claimed their place with a sensational 33-29 victory over South Korea in their concluding assignment of Group Two in the tournament's main round. Star goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain was named Best Player of the Game.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, and Bahrain Handball Association president and BOC member Ali Issa were present along with other high-ranking officials at the contest, which was played



Mohammed Habib Nasser looks to make a play as he is challenged in the air by South Korean players

Standings
(*advanced to semi-finals)

GROUP ONE						
	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
*Qatar	3	2	1	0	8	5
*Japan	3	2	1	0	5	5
Iran	3	1	0	2	-3	2
UAE	3	0	0	3	-10	0

GROUP TWO						
	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
*Bahrain	3	2	1	0	9	5
*Kuwait	3	1	2	0	12	4
South Korea	3	0	2	1	-4	2
Iraq	3	0	1	2	-17	1

at a packed and rocking Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Bahrain will now face Japan in the final four, while five-time defending champions Qatar will take on Kuwait.

All four semi-finalists have also secured their places in the 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship, to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway.

The round of four is set to take place tomorrow, with Qatar and Kuwait battling at 4pm in an all-Gulf clash, to be followed by Bahrain playing Japan at 6.30pm.

The Kuwaitis booked their place in the semis after defeating Iraq 32-20 in yesterday's other divisional fixture.

Meanwhile, in Group One, the Qataris were held to a 28-all draw by the Japanese. The pair had already secured their places in the final four heading into the match, and the result earned the Qataris first place on their group table.

In Bahrain's win over the nine-time title winners, they led early but South Korea stayed close. A Mohammed Habib Ahmed goal gave the hosts a slim 12-10 advantage, and then inspirational skipper Hussain Al Sayyad scored from the nine-metre line, followed by a Qassim Qambar conversion on a fast-break that



stretched their lead to four. The Bahrainis headed into the break up 17-14.

Striking distance

After the interval, Al Sayyad put Bahrain up 20-15 early on, but the South Koreans would not go away, staying within striking distance and getting to within two, 21-23, nearing the second half's midway point.

Goals from Ahmed Al Maqabi, Mohammed Habib Nasser and Mujtaba Al Zaimour helped the Bahrainis stay afloat, and then the South Koreans made their last stand after cutting the

deficit to 29-32 heading into the final two minutes.

But Abdulhussain made a couple of brilliant saves to help the Bahrainis preserve their advantage, and then Al Sayyad pegged the final score with a conversion from the six-metre line.

Al Sayyad finished as Bahrain's leading scorer with an impressive 10 goals, while Nasser contributed four. Qambar, Al Maqabi, Al Zaimour, and Hassan Al Fardan all chipped in with three goals apiece.

Jeongu Kang paced South Korea



Bahrain to face Japan, Qatar to take on Kuwait in semi-finals, to be held tomorrow at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town. The Qataris and Kuwaitis lock horns at 4pm, to be followed by the Bahrainis playing the Japanese at 6.30pm



Hussain Al Sayyad pumps his fist after scoring for Bahrain against South Korea

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

(in order of full-time score, Best Player of the Game)

- Main Round:**
- Iran beat UAE 25-22, Mohammed Siavoshshahenayati (Iran)
 - Kuwait beat Iraq 32-20, Abdulaziz Althafiri (Kuwait)
 - Japan draw with Qatar 28-28, Shinnosuk Tokuda (Japan)
 - Bahrain beat South Korea 33-29, Mohammed Abdulhussain (Bahrain)
- Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup:**
- Kazakhstan beat India 25-24
 - Saudi Arabia beat Hong Kong 39-19
 - China beat Oman 23-22
 - Chinese Taipei beat New Zealand 36-17

with seven goals, while Yeonbin Kim added six.

In Qatar's stalemate against Japan, it was a tight battle throughout. The Qataris held a 16-12 advantage at the half, but the Japanese roared back and tied it at 25-all with a Shinnosuk Tokuda conversion and under seven minutes to play.

Ahmed Madadi then converted with three minutes left to give Qatar a 28-27 advantage, but Japan salvaged a share of the points with a Shuichi Yoshida goal with just five seconds to play.

Both teams finished with five points atop the Group One standings, with Qatar boasting the superior goal difference.

Tokuda was named the Best Player of the Game for the Japanese.

Madan winner 'a split-second decision'

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Ali Madan said that it was a quick reaction to the moment that led to his game-winning goal in the national team's dramatic 1-0 triumph against Malaysia in the AFC Asian Cup on Saturday.

Madan fired in the winner in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time, earning the Bahrainis their first three points of the tournament and keeping their hopes of advancing to the knockout stages alive.

"I'm used to taking such shots in a game, so when I saw the ball, I had a choice to pass or take a shot and I had to make a decision in that split second and was fortunate to score," Madan, who was named the Player of the Match, was quoted as saying in his post-game Press conference.

"It's spectacular to score, especially at such a crucial time. We won the game, even though it took a late goal. I want to ded-



Bahrain's Ali Madan battles to keep possession with Malaysia's La'Vere Corbin-Ong during their match on Saturday

icate this goal to my family."

The star midfielder added: "The Malaysian team played well. They have some good players who are quick and they managed to slow us down. This win will surely help us prepare for the game against Jordan."

Effort

Meanwhile, head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi was pleased with his players' effort and called for a similar showing in their final group fixture against the Jordanians later this week with a berth in the round of 16 on

the line.

"We exerted great effort throughout the match and although we tried, we managed to score only in the last minute," Pizzi explained. "Ideally, we should have capitalised on opportunities in the first half

"Winning in the final minutes was well deserved, thanks to our players who created numerous chances."

Bahrain are currently third on the Group E standings with three points from their lone victory so far, which followed a 1-3 loss to continental giants South Korea earlier last week.

The South Koreans and Jordan top the group, with the Jordanians occupying first place on goal difference. Malaysia are bottom of the table following their second straight loss.

"We anticipated a challenging game and understood that crucial moments could occur early or mid-match," Pizzi said. "We must produce a similar effort against Jordan."

Carvajal seals Madrid's wild comeback win over Almeria

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid produced a controversial comeback to beat winless Almeria 3-2 yesterday and moved provisionally top of La Liga.

Dani Carvajal rammed home the winner in the 99th minute to settle a wild and hugely entertaining clash at the Santiago Bernabeu where Madrid had trailed 2-0.

Almeria took a two-goal lead in the first half through Largie Ramazani's 38th minute strike and a screamer from Edgar Gonzalez.

However Madrid battled back to triumph as Jude Bellingham converted a penalty and Vinicius Junior used his upper arm to divert home an equaliser, before Carvajal's last-gasp winner.

Ramazani stunned Los Blancos inside the first minute and pulled off a spectacular backflip celebration in delight.



Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal celebrates scoring

Nacho gave the ball away with a slack pass and Almeria sprang forward, with the Belgian forward beating Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Madrid struggled to find their rhythm and Almeria scored a brilliant second before half-time when Gonzalez lashed a half-volley into the top corner from long range.

Madrid could not conjure a shot on target in the first half and Ancelotti took action at the break.