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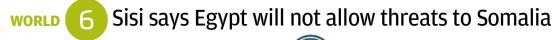
**220 FILS** 

JANUARY, 2024

**ISSUE NO.9814** 

**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





Kristen Stewart threatens to quit Hollywood

**BUSINESS** 

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

 $\mathbf{I}$ sraeli 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

Astrike 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.

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## HM King ratifies affordable-housing law for citizens

TDT | Manama

The text of Article (1) of De-housing unit." cree Law No. (10) of 1976 regard-

with the following text:

"The Ministry of Housing His Majesty King Hamad bin is responsible for providing Isa Al Khalifa ratified and housing for citizens with limpromulgated Law (1) of 2024, ited income by providing the amending Article (1) of De-following services: Obtaining a cree-Law (10) of 1976 regarding residence through ownership housing, following the approval or rent; financing the purchase, of the Shura and Representative construction or renovation of a residence; and obtaining a

This shall be through any of ing housing shall be replaced 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 at providing housing for citizens effect the day following the date with limited income."

The Prime Minister and the Gazette.

ministers - each in their capacity - shall implement the provisions include any other services aimed of this law, and it will come into of its publication in the Official

## Shovels of solidarity

Kuwaiti citizens repair street after Bahraini father loses life

TDT | Manama

heart-wrenching accident on Abdulali Street 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 toll booth. Within a mere three a wave of determined hands. minutes, not only was the cul-



had become the grim reaper's mended, its scars fading under

This wasn't just about asprit pothole closed, but the en- phalt; it was about empathy. way for a future where tragedy tire street was smoothed and The Kuwaitis, touched by the doesn't have the final say.

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



Kuwaiti citizens patch up the potholes to avoid another accident

## **DeSantis backs Trump to** be Republican nominee

**AFP** | Washington

Florida Governor Ron Desupport behind frontrunner the coronavirus pandemic. Donald Trump.

unteer their time and donate their resources if we don't have ry in Iowa last Tuesday, with 51 a clear path to victory. Accord- percent of Republican voters ingly, I am today suspending choosing the twice-impeached my campaign."

race comes less than two days cent, and Haley at 19 percent. before the New Hampshire sador Nikki Halev.

"It's clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Santis suspended his cam- Trump another chance," Depaign for the Republican pres- Santis said in the video, noting idential nomination yesterday, he has had differences with the saying he would throw his former president, notably over

"He has my endorsement In a video posted to X, De-because we can't go back to the Santis said that after his sec- old Republican guard of vesond place finish last week in tervear or a repackaged form the Iowa caucuses he could of warmed-over corporatism not "ask our supporters to vol- that Nikki Haley represents."

Trump, 77, stormed to victoformer president over DeSan-His withdrawal from the tis, who gained only 21 per-

No candidate has ever lost primary, where polls showed the race after claiming the first him far behind ex-president two states, and Trump would Trump and former UN ambas- almost certainly declare the Republican nomination.

#### commitment

## Bahrain vows to cooperate for world's peaceful future

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, coexistence, and dialogue against fanaticism and terrorism.

This was emphasised by Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin impacts, promote clean, sus-Rashid Al Zayani, as he particitainable energy, protect vulnerpated in the G77 + China Sum- able groups, and ensure a prosmit 2024, chaired by Uganda perous future for all, to achieve President Yoweri Museveni.

Dr. Al Zayani affirmed that and ensure a safer future for all. Bahrain is ready to contribute He highlighted the impor- and healthcare.



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

sustainable development goals

to mitigating climate change tance 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,

(Continued on Page 2)

## news of bahrair

## 'Let's act together'

(Continuation from Page 1) TDT | Manama

oreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, emphasised the need for multilateral 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.

launching a political process ference in their internal affairs. that leads to a two-state solu-

tional efforts to ensure free nav- dispute resolution. igation and international trade all countries and peoples.

promoting equality, national capital.

sovereignty, integrity, political Dr. Al Zayani called for independence, and non-inter-

The document underscored tion, by establishing an inde- the necessity of peace for suspendent Palestinian state on the tainable development, empha-1967 borders with East Jerusa-sising the significance of fosterlem as its capital, as per intering a culture of peace, through national legitimacy resolutions. promoting pluralism, which He also emphasised the im- is based on international law, portance of concerted interna- friendly relations, and peaceful

The summit confirmed the in the Red Sea, to ensure securi-support of group member ty, stability, and the interests for states for the Palestinian people's self-determination, jus-The summit's final document tice, and national aspirations, affirmed the group's countries' in addition to the establishment respect for the United Nations of an independent Palestinian Charter and international law, state with East Jerusalem as its

#### **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 Zavani commended the advanced level of cooperation between the two countries in various sectors.

## Bahrain keen to expand UN cooperation

TDT| Manama

 ${f B}$  ahrain 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 For-Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al the United Nations agencies, eo communication technology. Khalifa, and the directives of chaired by the Political Affairs the government, led by His Roy- Undersecretary. Prince and Prime Minister.



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

rain, and representatives from work for sustainable develop-

eign Affairs for Political Affairs, ing of the Joint Steering Com- and 21 specialised organisations trafficking mechanisms, early adding that it was in light of mittee between the Government attended the meeting, held at the education projects, and planting the diplomatic approach of His of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Ministry's headquarters via vid- mangrove trees. The Kingdom

tential cooperation between ation framework for 2025-2029, al Highness Prince Salman bin Khalid Al Meqwad, the UN Bahrain and the UN to activate aiming to achieve carbon neu-Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Resident Coordinator in Bah- the strategic cooperation frame- trality by 2060. Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed made relevant ministries, government ment (2021-2024). It focused the statement during the meet- agencies, national institutions, on strengthening anti-human Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmed com- strengthening its historical and the economy.

also discussed new visions and The meeting reviewed po- projects for the strategic cooper-

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 ment, energy, food security, 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, environ-

## Students to benefit from F1 promotion in schools



HE Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfigi with Andrew Denford

TDT | Manama

ed the significance of Formula youth. 1 in schools in raising awareregionally and internationally. schools.

This came as Tawfiqi re-Founder and Chairman of Fortry and F1 in schools.

mula 1 in Schools.

The minister emphasised inister of Youth Affairs, Bahrain International Circuit's His Excellency Rawan commitment to promoting bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, highlight- Formula 1 racing among the

She affirmed the ministry's ness about many technical and keenness to develop nationengineering sciences among al talents in Formula 1 engistudents and spreading them neering design through F1 in

Tawfiqi pushed for more coceived Andrew Denford, operation between the minis-

## Oil Minister hails BAB key role



HE Dr. Bin Daina with BAB officials

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Mo- The meeting highlighted the role of the banking and finance the status of Bahrain in the ment goals (SDGs). banking and finance sector Mr. Yousif commended the

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

Bin Daina, Minister of Oil and sector in supporting nation-Environment and Special En- al efforts in reaching carbon voy for Climate Affairs, com- neutrality, as well as the immended the role of the Bahrain plementation of programmes, Association of Banks (BAB) in initiatives, and projects to raise launching initiatives and strat- environmental awareness and egies that seek to consolidate achieve sustainable develop-

regionally and internationally. kingdom's efforts to protect Dr. Bin Daina was speaking the environment and mitigate as he met with Adnan Ahmed 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 Tario 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

munity of the call for nomina- 30 May 2024. tions by the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) for for download at www.presithe 2024 Presidential Awards dentialawards.cfo.gov.ph.

for Filipino Individuals and The Philippine Embassy Organizations Overseas ▲ informs the Filipino com- (PAFIOO), which is open until

Requirements are available

## **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

According to lawyer Taqi Hussain Tagi, 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 pen-

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

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 proemotional burden of reliving trauma, stands as a testament to the Public Prosecution's sensitivity and focus on healing.



the importance of international active measures. Simplifying cooperation in tackling trans- This human-centric approach procedures for child victims of border crimes like money laune extends to alternative penalties, sexual assault, minimizing the dering and human trafficking.

#### Beacon of hope

launched with a compassionate progress. The Anti-Drug Unit and empathy.

"International cooperation is important

in tackling transborder crimes like money

laundering and human trafficking."

- DR ALI BIN FADL AL BUAINAIN, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

storative paths to reintegration. While challenges remain, the The "Care Initiative", statistics whisper a narrative of proach that prioritizes reform

line to 347 individuals in 2023.

with 1,575 individuals finding re-

eye, stands as a beacon of hope receiving 1,152 reports signifies for vulnerable individuals. Iden- vigilance in combating addic-Recognizing the intercon- tifying and addressing urgent tion, while the rising number nectedness of the modern needs in education, health, and of requests for e-government world, Al Buainain highlighted employment, it offered a life- services (9,002) reflects a growing embrace of technology for improved access to

> The 7% decrease in domestic violence reports is a testament to the power of a holistic ap-

### **Bahrain calls for** joint GCC plans and strategies to boost healthcare

TDT | Manama

 $\mathbf{H}$ is Excellency Lieuten-ant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), has stressed the important role played by the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Gulf CDC) in coordinating with the health sectors in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to implement joint plans and strategies that keep pace with developments related to the spread of chronic diseases and strengthening ways to prevent it.

This came during a meeting with HE Dr. Jaleela bint Al-Sayed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health, Dr. Pasi Penttinen, the Executive Director of Gulf CDC, and Waleed Al Nadabi, the Planning and Project Manager at the Gulf CDC.

The meeting reviewed topics of common interests.

## 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 Eilaal 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

Before voting on the law, the committee's rapporteur, Hala Ramzy Fayez, 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 FAYEZ, SHURA COUNCIL **COMMITTEE'S RAPPORTEUR** 

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 mind, ingling and a day off for Frichange the weekend shift has day prayers. She questioned ignited a wave of dissatisfaction among the populace.

The proposition suggests redays 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.

lim community, who find the off solely on Sundays. proposed changes inconven-

surrounding the contentious would be rejected. proposal, with many individ-

Ghina, an online user, em- designated as a holiday.

phasised the significance of Friday as a holy day for Musrecent proposal made by lims, highlighting the necessithe rationale behind following the weekend patterns of other countries, emphasising placing the current weekend 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 ex-The move has drawn critipressed doubt that employers cism from various segments of would willingly grant their society, particularly the Mus- employees two and a half days

While larger businesses and ient and a departure from the entrepreneurs might find the nation's cultural and religious change convenient, Ludmila argued that Bahrain's true Online platforms like Ins- beauty lies in preserving its tagram and X have become a heritage and culture. She exbattleground for discussions pressed hope that the proposal

Rahma Alaai added her uals expressing their discon- voice to the dissent, stating that Sundays should not be

## Visit to work visa conversion under Parliament scrutiny

Tourism Ministry expresses concerns

**TDT** | Manama

sion of visit visas into work visas during tomorrow's session.

The proponents of the pro- issues. posal argue that it is necessary nationals.

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 The Parliament is preparing out that different countries to discuss a proposed law have successfully regulated that aims to prohibit the conver- visas through administrative measures, allowing for adaptability in addressing relevant

In its response to the Parliato ensure job opportunities for ment, the ministry emphasised Bahraini citizens, reduce unem- that administrative decisions ployment rates, strengthen the provide the appropriate flexinational workforce, and prior-bility in handling visa matters. itize the employment of Bahraini It also allows the executive authority to objectively assess the However, the Ministry of changing circumstances and ad-line with the kingdom's overall Tourism has expressed reser- just regulations accordingly, in interests and plans.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

study of the proposal, taking into not converted into work visas, ment opportunities.

to stimulate various economic

#### **Tightening controls**

all visas and residence permits, explained. including tourist visas and work permits.

enforced for obtaining and con- convert their visas into work verting visas, including requir- permits without restrictions ing sponsors to commit not to could increase unemployment convert visitor visas into work rates among Bahraini citizens permits, the ministry pointed and undermine the national out. The ministry also ensured workforce plan, which aims to The ministry called for further that requests for visit visas are prioritise Bahrainis for employ-

account the Kingdom's plans among other measures.

The ministry clarified that the role of the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence primarily focuses on Furthermore, the Ministry of security aspects. The processing Interior affirmed that the Gen- of each visa or residence permit eral Directorate of Nationality, is determined based on its spe-Passports, and Residence Affairs cific type and the fulfillment of (NPRA) is tightening controls on corresponding requirements, it

Meanwhile, the National Institution for Human Rights cau-Stricter regulations are being tioned that allowing visitors to

## news of bahrain

# **UoB** hailed for efforts to embrace global changes

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

TDT | Manama

ducation 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 bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Success Prime Minister.

(HEC) Board of Trustees Chair- uation ceremony. man, HE Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, HE Bahrain under the leadership Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al of His Majesty King Hamad bin Asfoor, Minister of Social De- Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up velopment, HE Dr. Ramzan bin of HRH the Crown Prince and Abdullah Al Noaimi, Minister Prime Minister. of Information, and HE Rawan



The Education Minister with other special guests

Youth Affairs.

Also present at the event The Education Minister exheld at the UoB Sakhir Campus pressed gratitude to HRH Prince lated the graduates and wished and private, stressing commitwere Higher Education Council Salman for sponsoring the grad- them success in their future life, ment to integrating their roles to

He noted the achievement of

The minister also congratu-UoB management, as well as academic and administrative staff.

Dr. Juma highlighted the HEC's role in modernising policies, regulations, and proce-sari, UoB President, expressed trepreneurship, and providing dures to improve the quality of pride in the graduation of over value-added consultations to the education in Bahrain.

He affirmed the council's support for all higher education institutions, both governmental commending the efforts of the enhance the quality of academic programmes and outputs.

92,000 students from the UoB community.

investing in people, and caring for them to achieve national

#### 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,

HE Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma

since its founding in 1986 and

the achievements of its current students in various fields. He

This includes expanding postgraduate programmes, Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al An- stimulating innovation and en-

## Course on competency in climate services

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 ser-

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

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation dis-**I** missed 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 Image used for illustrative purposes only of his children.

Ghunaim, representing the hus-sessed a sale contract for the er. He passed away after a pro- the properties, she demanded due to their nature as posthu- returned to the estate.



death, without the knowledge the two properties in the estate. to a bank.

The second wife based her Lawyer Abdulrahman refusal on the fact that she pos-

that was carried out by the hus- longed illness, and during the their eviction, and they were of a will. However, the court band to one of his heirs while estate distribution process, his surprised to find out that she of first instance rejected the retaining possession until his second wife refused to include had mortgaged the properties claim, prompting the children

### **Posthumous transactions**

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 to appeal the decision before the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals ruled Ghunaim stated that they in favour of the children, canceband's children, explained that properties issued by their father filed a lawsuit before the court ling the previous judgment and his clients' father had remarried before his death. Despite the of first instance, requesting the invalidating the sale contract. after the death of their moth- fact that the children resided in invalidation of the sale contracts. It ordered the properties to be

## Decisive oath resolves dowry payment dispute

TDT | Manama

Adecisive 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 Image used for illustrative purposes insisted on delivering it to her. only The wife requested her hus- proceeded with the lawsuit. band to take a decisive oath, The wife requested her husand he did so. Consequently, band to take a decisive oath, the court ruled in favor of the declaring that he had delivered

ed that his client's wife filed confirming that he had indeed a lawsuit demanding the pay- given her the dowry. ment of the dowry, which she had not received. On the oth- that according to Islamic law, er hand, his client denied the the wife is entitled to receive claim and insisted on fulfilling the full dowry upon entering the dowry payment.

The Family Reconciliation Office attempted to mediate the plaintiff requested her and reconcile the parties, but dowry and claimed that she it reported that there was no had not received it, while the agreement or settlement be- defendant denied this and stat-

Consequently, the court her.



the dowry to her. The decisive Lawyer Ibrahim Khalil stat- oath was administered to her,

> In its ruling, the court stated into a valid marriage contract.

> The court mentioned that ed that he had delivered it to



#### 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 Ambasssador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Vinod K Jacob H.E Mr. Yosuf 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

**TDT**| Manama

orget 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 toptier 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. Sat- Dr. Hanan Naser with faculty and classmates in a your home office. vibrant classroom setting. Tues-



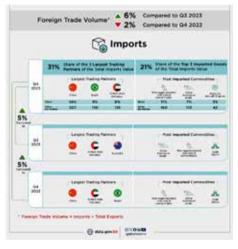
urdays are for face-to-face in- top, and conquer those modules ing a brand-new Master of Arts Whether you're a marketing teraction, building connections from the comfort (or chaos) of in Multimedia Management maestro or a web design wiz- our students to chart their own

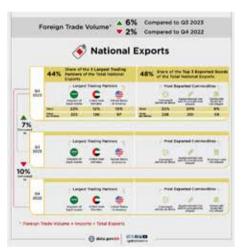
"This is about empowering program, designed to equip you ard, this program can skyrocket educational journey," says Dr. Multimedia Management - and But the good news doesn't with the skills to dominate the your career in advertising, me- Hanan Naser, AUBH Interim experience the future of learndays? Kick back, grab your lap- stop there. AUBH is also launch- ever-evolving digital landscape. dia, public relations, and beyond. Associate Provost. "The dual ing, your way.

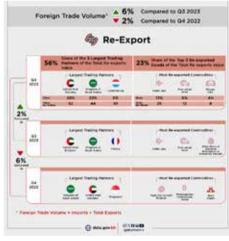
modality approach offers unparalleled flexibility, while the Multimedia Management program equips you for the digital revolution. It's innovation, it's accessibility, and it's your future, on your terms."

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

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







TDT | Manama

The Information &eGovernment Authority (iGA) has published its Foreign Trade re-

5%, reaching to BD1.476 billion with BD42m. during Q4 2023 in comparison

million, followed by the Brazil a third with BD119m.

Imports, Exports of products Bahrain with a total value of third with BD97m.

with BD1.410 billion for the of Exports of Products with Na- with a value of BD201m and Unsame quarter in 2022. The top tional Origin marked a decrease wrought Aluminum Not Alloyed which represents the difference 10 countries for imports marked by 10% with a value of BD1.013 third with BD59m. with 69% of the total value of billion during Q4 2023, com-According to the report, Chi- same quarter in 2022. The top during Q4 2023, compared to to a deficit of 88m dinars in Q4 na ranked first for imports to 10 countries accounted for 69% BD200m for the same quarter 2022, which led to an increase Bahrain, with a total of BD207 of the total export value.

being the second with BD136m, ranked first among countries for 81% of the re-exported valand The United Arab Emirate as the exports of Products with ue. The United Arab Emirate National Origin with BD225m. ranked first with BD52million, Agglomerated Iron Ores and The United Arab Emirate was followed by Kingdom of Saudi port of Q4 2023, which encom- Concentrates Alloyed marked second with BD126m and the Arabia as second with BD44m, passes data on Trade Balance, as the top product imported to United States of America was and Luxembourg third with

with national origin, and Re-ex- BD160m, while Other Alumi- Unwrought Aluminum Alnum Oxide was second with loys marked as the top products was the top product re-exported As per the report, the value BD110m, followed by Parts for exported during Q4 2023 with from Bahrain with a value of of imports has increased by Aircraft Engines being the third BD226m, followed by Agglom-BD25m, followed by Four Wheel erated Iron Ores and Concen- Drive BD12m, and Private Cars On the other hand, the value trates Alloyed being the second came third with BD8m.

in 2022. The top 10 countries in the deficit by 212%.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Re-exports accounted for

As per the report, Turbo-Jets

As for the Trade Balance, between exports and imports, The total value of Re-exports the deficit amounted to BD276m pared to BD1.121 billion for the decrease by 6% to reach BD188m dinars in Q4 2023, Compared

## **Bahrain Chamber launches** "Jadara" Award for SMEs

TDT | Manama

Industry under the patronage production. of Samee Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber. Local Vice-Treasurer and head of businesses and manufacturers the steering group for the comare encouraged to enrol online mittees. emphasized that the through

t h e Chamber's

غرضة البحريل **BAHRAIN CHAMBER** 

ity and trust, encompassing years. practices that bolster trust and reliability in the delivery nies have the option to submit of services and products. The entries in multiple categofourth category is dedicated to ries, and the award features digital transformation, cover- financial incentives for the ing practices related to digital deserving winners. Interested and electronic transformation, companies may complete the as well as the integration of registration form on https:// artificial intelligence to en- www.bahrainchamber.bh behance services and operational fore the deadline of February 1.

mechanisms. The fifth category acknowledges innovation  ${
m R}^{
m egistration}$  for the inauguand the quality of food products, recognizing practices open, announced the Bahrain that have achieved excellence Chamber of Commerce and and quality in the realm of food

Waleed Kanoo, the

designed to moti-

website, a process open from raini companies to elevate January 17, 2024, to February their performance, competitiveness, and overall growth. The "Jadara Award" inau- Additionally, it aims to foster gural edition comprises five the enhancement of producdistinct categories. The first tion and service quality. Kanoo category delves into customer clarified that registration is loyalty, exploring the strate- open to all small and medigies employed by businesses to um-sized companies across acquire and sustain customer various local commercial and loyalty. The second catego- industrial sectors. General ry centres around capacity qualification criteria include building, highlighting business possessing an active Comstrategies aimed at developing mercial Registration (C.R), a and enhancing the capabili- market presence exceeding ties of its members. The third three years, and positive financategory focuses on reliabil- cial results over the past three

It is noteworthy that compa-

## ArcelorMittal wants 'amicable' deal on Italy steelworks

Rome, Italy

rcelorMittal has offered to Asell 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 taken the first step towards puthow to keep production going the chief executive wrote, in is no longer able to pay many of Europe's largest steelworks.



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

The letter was dated Thurs- vision. Talks with ArcelorMit- the plant in the southern city of day, the day Meloni's hard right tal, which owns a 62-percent Taranto. In the letter, initially refused, this offer remains on the gas shut off. Italian Enterprise draw up a rescue plan, pending government announced it had stake, had broken down over ported by the ANSA news agency table should the government Minister Adolfo Urso earlier told the arrival of a new investor.

ting the plant under state super- and secure thousands of jobs at English and Italian.

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

He says the government apworld'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 concerns. The operating com- of production, the shareholders fraction of our cash investment", pany, named Acciaierie d'Italia, can obviously discuss it," he said.

Alternatively, "we are prepared to remain as a minority strategic partner... as the Italian dure that could lead to special pears to want to end its joint government decides on a per- administration in a few weeks," venture with ArcelorMittal, the manent solution", Mittal wrote. he said. "On the other hand, if

Debt problems

works a strategic asset, but it has government considers absolutelong been plagued by financial ly necessary, for the protection problems and environmental of the plant and the relaunch its suppliers or utility bills, and involve appointing commission-"Although Invitalia has re- the plant is at risk of having its ers to manage the company and

reporters that "we cannot lose any time".

We have activated the proce-ArcelorMittal makes proposals Rome considers the steel- that are in line with what the

Special administration would

WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOTHER OPENS; BUT WE OFTEN LOOK SO LONG AND SO REGRETFULLY **UPON THE CLOSED DOOR THAT WE DO NOT SEE** THE ONE THAT HAS OPENED FOR US ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

**TODAY** HISTORY

Prince William of Orange (future King William III of Britain), summons Convention Parliament to discuss ruling jointly with his

wife Mary (daughter of exiled King James II)



Battle of Rorke's Drift: British garrison of

150 holds off 3,000-4,000 Zulu warriors. Elev-

en Victoria Crosses and a number of other

decorations were awarded to the defenders.

In St Petersburg, Russia, a large demonstration of workers led by Father Gapon, march to the Winter Palace with a petition to the Tsar; troops fire on protesters in what becomes known as 'Bloody Sunday'

#### **News in brief**

♦ The Russian army said Sunday it had captured a small village in the Kharkiv region of eastern Ukraine. "The village of Krakhmalnoye in the Kharkiv region was liberated," the Russian defence ministry said in its daily bulletin on operations in Ukraine, citing "successful active operations". Some 45 people lived in the village **Russia claims** before Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in capture of village in February 2022. It is some 30 (nearly 20 miles) kilometres southeast of the regional eastern Ukraine

hub of Kupiansk -- an important railway junction that had a pre-war population of around 30,000 people -- which Russian forces have been pushing to take over. A spokesperson for Ukrainian land forces, Volodymyr Fitio, interviewed Sunday on Ukrainian television, said the capture of the village had "no strategic importance". "These are five houses", he said, adding that Ukrainian forces were still holding the frontline

◆ Authorities in central China's Henan Province were on Sunday looking into the cause of a night-time fire that killed 13 schoolchildren as they slept in a dormitory. The inferno, which took place at the Yingcai School in Yanshanpu

China school fire kills 13



students died in the accident while one other person suffered injuries. Dozens of police were in and around a cordoned-off area near the school on Sunday, AFP journalists saw

◆ **The UK is taking** threats of foreign interference elections expected

later this year "very seriously", the defence minister said Sunday, after a warning from a counter-terrorism official. "Obviously, that's something that we take very seriously," Shapps told the Sky News channel. Counter-terrorism bodies and other institutions would "be looking very carefully at interference that", he said. UK counter-terrorism chief Matt Jukes threats "very said Friday that the espionage threat from foreign **Seriously**" states -- such as China, Russia and Iran -- is greater now than it has been "since the days of the cold war".

He said the police had set up a new unit to counter the threats of interference ahead of the election. which is expected to be called later this year. The unit would use powers granted by the National Security Act passed in July to make it harder for countries to spy and interfere in the political process, he said. "We are

talking about parts of the state apparatus of Iran, China and Russia," Jukes said. A report by US software company Microsoft in November last year said Russia, Iran and China were likely to engage in sophisticated influence and interference efforts ahead of the 2024 US presidential election and in other pivotal elections worldwide

### CURIOSER & CURIOSER

## India plans to fence off Myanmar frontier



would be built, said the gov-

ernment would also end a free

Parts of Myanmar near the

Laborers cross a India-Myanmar border bridge in 2012: (file)

AFP | New Delhi, India

movement agreement. India plans to erect a fence The deal allows those living Lalong its vast and porous in border zones to venture a frontier with Myanmar and short distance into each othwill scrap a free movement er's territory without a visa. border zone agreement, Indi- Many in the border zones an media reported yesterday.. share close cultural and reli-

The announcement by gious ties. Home Minister Amit Shah "We are going to end this comes after hundreds of facility," Shah said, according troops from Myanmar who to a video posted by the Times were fleeing insurgent attacks of India. India has already fenced

crossed into India. The government had "de- more than 2,000 kilometres cided to fence the entire open of its border with Pakistan, and India-Myanmar border", Shah at least 3,100 kilometres with said Saturday during a visit Bangladesh, according to govto the northeastern state of ernment statistics from 2021.

The frontier stretches for Indian border have seen fremore than 1,200 kilometres quent clashes since Arakan (750 miles), ranging from re- Army (AA) fighters attacked mote jungle to soaring snow- security forces in November,

Shah, who gave no details of largely held since a 2021 mil-

capped Himalayan peaks. ending a ceasefire that had a timeframe or how the fence itary coup.

crashes in Afghan mountains AFP | Moscow, Russia

ed for after a Russian plane crashed in mountainous northeastern Afghanistan, the air transport agency

The Falcon 10 business

"Of the six people on board the aircraft, tentatively, four are alive. They have various injuries. The fate of two people is being clarified," Rosaviatsia said, citing the Russian embassy in Afghanistan.

agency said two passengers were Russians, one who was seriously ill, and the other her husband who had paid for the flight.

was built by France's Dassault in 1978 and owned by a company called Athletic Group and a private indi-

A provincial government official in Afghanistan told AFP the aircraft came down in Badakhshan province, which borders China, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The area of the crash is eight hours by road from the provincial capital Faizabad, said Zabihullah Amiri, head of the provincial information department.

Russian investigators announced the opening of a probe into the cause of the

Kush mountain range cuts through the province, which is home to Afghanistan's highest peak, Mount Noshaq, at 7,492 metres (24,580 feet) tall.

## North Korea FM says 'ready to greet'

**AFP** | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea's top diplomat said her country is "ready to greet" Russian President Vladimir Putin, state media reported vesterday, in the latest sign of deepening ties between the two authoritarian states.

minister Choe Son Hui was in Moscow last week for meetings with Putin and her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. The North Korean "government warmly welcomes President Putin to visit Pyongyang and is ready to greet the Korean people's closest friend with the greatest sincerity," Choe told Putin, according to a statement from the foreign minister's assistant office, carried by the Korean Central News Agency. Putin expressed "his willingness to visit the DPRK at an early date", the statement said.

## 'Four survivors' after Russian jet

Four people survived and two are unaccount-Rosaviatsia said yesterday.

jet was believed to be carrying six people on a hospital flight from India to Uzbekistan and Russia before communication was lost on Saturday evening.

The RIA Novosti news

The two-engine plane

The mighty Hindu

## Putin

North Korean foreign

killed in mass anti-government demonstrations more than a TV footage of the assault Dina Boluarte crowd of people as she throws in Ayacucho. the president.

the woman, with Boluarte ouster and arrest.

ioining the event.

showed Boluarte in tradition- death of her husband during al clothing surrounded by a the December 2022 protests out candy, when a shouting Boluarte, 61, came to power

woman approaches and grabs that month after former leftist president Pedro Castillo tried A chaotic scene ensues as to dissolve Congress and rule police intervene to separate by decree, leading to his quick

seemingly uninjured and re- Violent protests demanding Boluarte step down and fresh The woman said she held elections be held followed Boluarte responsible for the across the country.

## Sisi says Egypt will not allow threats to Somalia

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi warned yesterday that "Egypt will not allow anyone to threaten Somalia," after a controversial maritime deal between rival Ethiopia and the breakaway region of Somaliland. During a joint press conference

with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in Cairo, Sisi reiterated Egypt's rejection of the deal for sea access as a violation of Somalia's sovereignty

In a "message to Ethiopians", Sisi warned against "anyone try

pro-Russian authority

strike in Donetsk

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian-controlledregion.

and 13 injured".

in recent months.

at public event

↑ protester violently

Agrabbed Peruvian Pres-

ident Dina Boluarte on Sat-

urday during an event in

the southern Ayacucho re-

gion, where 10 people were

AFP | Lima, Peru

**Ukrainian strike on Donetsk kills 18:** 

A man stands next to a body of his mother killed as a result of a missile

A Ukrainian strike on a marbeing received about the dead ket in Donetsk in eastern and injured.

Ukraine left at least 18 people Donetsk mayor Alexei

dead and 13 more wounded Kulemzin had reported shell-

yesterday, said the head of the ing on the northeast of the city.

Denis Pushilin, the Mos- annexed Ukraine's eastern

cow-installed Donetsk region Donetsk region in 2022, de-

"at present, there are 18 dead over the territory.

"The market was attacked forces.

leader, said on Telegram that spite not having full control

The toll marks one of the trolled by Russian forces or deadliest reported in Donetsk their proxies since 2014.

Pushilin had said earlier that metres (12 miles) from the

13 people had died in a "terri-frontline, and has been regu-

ble bombing on a market". larly bombarded by Ukrainian

**Peru president grabbed by protester** 

on Sunday, when it is busiest,"

He said information was still

Moscow claimed to have

It has been partially con-

The city is around 20 kilo-



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (2-R), (L to R) Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, US Department of State Counselor Derek Chollet and US Ambassador to Egypt Herro Mustafa Garg, attend a meeting with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (R) during Blinken's week-long trip aimed at calming tensions across the Middle East, in Cairo

ing Egypt, and trying to threat- brothers ask us to stand by them." been at loggerheads for years, Ethiopia's mega-dam project on eignty and territorial integrity of declared independence in 1993 en its brothers, especially if our Cairo and Addis Ababa have trading incendiary words over the Blue Nile, which Egypt says Somalia."

threatens its fragile water secu- Somaliland, a former British

week called Addis Ababa "a claim recognised by the internasource of instability in its region". tional community.

Mogadishu has branded the forces and currency. maritime pact an act of "aggres- Ethiopia, the second most popsion" and on Thursday said there ulous country in Africa and one was "no space for mediation un- of the biggest landlocked nations less Ethiopia retracts its illegal in the world, was cut off from the MoU and reaffirms the sover- coast after Eritrea seceded and

protectorate of 4.5 million peo-Egypt's foreign minister last ple, has not had its independence

Regional tensions have esca- Mogadishu vehemently opposated since landlocked Ethiopia es Somaliland's quest for statestruck a memorandum of under- hood but the fragile central govstanding (MoU) with Somaliland ernment exercises little authority on January 1 that gives it much over the northern region, which sought-after access to the sea. has its own government, security

following a three-decade war.



Caddened and con-Scerned by reports of obstetric violence in Sremska Mitrovica, #Seroia. My heartfelt condolences to the parents who lost their baby recently. Violence has no place anywhere, let alone in hospitals. Patient safety must be of the utmost priority everywhere in every



the Ram Setu.

Every American cought to be able to access affordable, highspeed internet. And by the end of the decade, my agenda will get that done – reaching every last home, school, and business across the U.S. that doesn't have access

@POTUS

by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

## LEGAL VIEWPOINT

## Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) CONTRACTS



DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA

AWARSAMA@WARSAMALC.COM

**T**t is now increasingly recognized that the private sector, in all the world, can play a dynamic role in accelerating growth and L development. In this respect, many countries are encouraging the direct involvement of the private sector and are making strong efforts to attract new money from them through certain new project financing techniques.

It has, also, been recognized that the private sector involvement can bring with it the ability to implement projects in a shorter time, expectation of more efficient operation, better management and higher technical ability or capability and, in some cases, the introduction of an element of fair competition into monopolistic

The search for new way to finance and promote infrastructure projects led to the introduction of new techniques. This financing technique, technically known as "project finance" was originally perfected for major private sector projects mainly in the area of oil and gas exploration and extraction plus many mega utility projects including power stations, pipelines, waste-disposal plants, waste-to-energy plants, bridges, tunnels, telecommunications, roads, railway networks, hospitals and schools, tourist facilities..... etc.

Investment banks and the financial markets have become increasingly sophisticated in "engineering" the financing packages to finance almost any type of reasonably predictable revenue stream. Over last years, it has been noticed that, certain major international contracting firms, private individual entrepreneurs and a number of countries have begun to promote infrastructure projects under what is known as "BOOT contracts". Under this type of contracts projects are financed in a limited-resource basis, built and operated under a concession from the state or a similar public body as a private venture. At the end of the concession the project is to be transferred back to the state or the public body according to the terms of the contract.

BOOT contract is basically a method wherein the private sector is involved in large scale infrastructure investments by granting a concession from the state to build, finance, own and operate a facil ity and after the time specified in the concession period is obliged to hand it back to the state according to the terms of the contract.

Drafting BOOT contracts requires certain skills and know-how, at this juncture; we need to highlight some of the major components

The letter (B) in BOOT stands for the word 'build", this is because at the concession it will grant the promoter the right to design, construct, build and finance the project. Here a construction contract will be required between the promoter and a contractor. This contract is often among the most difficult to negotiate in a BOOT project because of the conflict that increasingly arises between the promoter, the contractor responsible for building the facility and those financing its construction.

Banks and other providers of funds will want to be sure that the commercial terms of the construction contract are reasonable and that the construction risk is placed as far as possible on the contractors. The contractor undertakes responsibility for constructing the asset and is expected to build the project on time, within budget and according to a clear specification and to warrant that the asset will perform its design function. Typically, this work is done by way of a lump-sum turnkey contract.

The letter (O) in BOOT stands for the word "own", normally in this case the concession from the state provides for the concessionaire to own, or at least possess, the assets that are to be built and to operate them for a period of time. The concession agreement between the state and the concessionaire will define the extent to which ownership, and its associated attributes of possession and control, of the assets lies with the concessionaire.

The second letter (O) in BOOT stands for the word "operate", here the operator is to assume full responsibility for maintaining the facility's assets and operating them on a basis that maximizes profit or minimizes cost on behalf of the concessionaire and, like the contractor undertaking construction of the project, the operator may provide funds to finance construction and to be a shareholder in the project.

The operator is often an independent company appointed under an arms-length agreement. However, in some cases the promoter operates the facility directly through the promoter company.

The letter (T) in BOOT stands for the word "transfer", this transfer refers to a change in ownership of the assets which occurs at the end of the concession period, when the concession assets revert to the government grantor. Transfer may be at book value or no value and may occur earlier in the event of failure of the concessionaire.

BOOT contracts are widely used as a new way to find suitable project financing through the involvement of the private sector. This new venture, no doubt, opens the door for the private sector to shoulder an active and more responsibility towards development in their countries.

The private sector and particularly banks & other big companies are urged to take the advantage of benefiting from BOOT contracts particularly in performing and financing new development projects designed by Governments and public authorities for the welfare of the society, related bodies and concerned entities.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

## "Chabahar port, a oint project with

of connectivity"

Jaishankar

**TDT** | agencies

xternal Affairs Minister S LJaishankar on Monday emphasized the crucial role played by the Chabahar port in strengthening connectivity and deepening the bilateral ties between India and Iran. Jaishankar, during a joint press conference with Iranian counterpart H Amir-Abdollahian, highlighted India's commitment to the joint vision of connectivity for the Chabahar port project

"In particular, we discussed India's involvement in the development and operation of the Chabahar port, a joint project with a joint vision of connectivity,"stated Jaishankar, emphasizing the strategic significance of the port as a key element in enhancing regional trade and cooperation. Jaishankar emphasised India's commitment

to this project, and discussed, "How we can establish a firm, sustainable and long-term roadmap, for India's continued involvement over the coming years. Given the importance of this project for both nations, I emphasised the need to monitor its progress under the direct supervision of the political leadership. In discussions held during his

two-day visit to Tehran, the External Affairs Minister underscored the centrality of regional connectivity in India-Iran relations. He reiterated India's keen interest in utilizing Iran's unique geographical position for access to markets in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Eurasia. "Regional connectivity has been

a critical pillar of India Iran relations and was naturally prominent in the agenda of today's discusgeographical position to access North-South Transport Corridor he said. istan and Eurasia," said the EAM. cilitate smoother trade routes. friends, who have always viewed Russia.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar The INSTC envisages the movement of goods from Mumbai (India) to Shahid Beheshti Port - Chabahar (Iran) by sea, from Chabahar to Bandar-e- Anzali (an Iranian port

on the Caspian Sea) by road, and then from Bandar-e- Anzali to Astrakhan (a Caspian port in the Russian Federation) by ship across the Caspian Sea, and after that from Astrakhan to other regions of the Russian Federation and further into Europe by Russian railways. INSTC International North-South Transport

Corridor) is India's vision and initiative to reduce the time taken for EXIM shipments to reach Russia, Europe and enter the central Asian markets. Successful activation of the corridor will help connect India to Russia and Central Asian countries. The Chabahar Port, located in Iran, is the commercial transit centre for the region, especially Central Asia.



that India strongly supported. hub

YOU

Recognising the project's critical importance for both nations, he stressed the need for close monitoring of its progress under faction with the comprehensive India's vision is to make Chaba-

India's vision is to make Chabahar Port a transit hub under the International

North-South Transport Cor-

ridor (INSTC) to reach out to

CIS countries. the direct supervision of political each other's growth and prosperleadership. "Given the importance ity as contributing to their own. of this project for both nations, I The External Affairs Minister emphasise the need to monitor its said that India-Iran partnership progress under the direct super- and regular consultations have vision of the political leadership," a particular value in the volatile said the EAM. In a broader con- and uncertain world that "we curtext, Jaishankar expressed satis- rently see".

nature of the bilateral discussions. har Port a transit hub under the "Here we were able to review International North-South Transall aspects of our bilateral en- port Corridor (INSTC) to reach out gagement quite comprehensively to CIS countries. Prime Minister and exchange thoughts on some Narendra Modi in August last year pressing global and regional is- last held talks with Iranian Pressues," he added, highlighting the ident Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and depth of the diplomatic exchange the two leaders reiterated their between the two countries. This commitment to further strengthvisit marks Jaishankar's first visit en bilateral cooperation, includto Tehran after Iran's membership ing to realise the full potential of approval in BRICS, a development Chabahar Port as a connectivity

The collaboration in multilater- The Chabahar port, located in al forums, including the SCO, re- Iran, is a key component of India's flects the strength of the bilateral connectivity initiatives, holds imties between India and Iran. "I am mense significance as it provides a confident that today's exchanges viable and shorter route for trade will give momentum to our bilat- between India, Iran, Afghanistan, eral cooperation, and also further and Central Asia. INSTC is a mulenhance our understanding of ti-modal transportation route sions. I reiterated India's interest He further discussed the potential each other's positions on impor- linking the Indian Ocean and the in benefiting from Iran's unique revitalization of the International tant regional and global issues," Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea markets in Central Asia, Afghan- (INSTC), a project designed to fa- India and Iran are two old ern Europe via St Petersburg in

via Iran and onward to north-



The global financial

system has failed to provide a global safety net for developing countries in distress. It must be reformed so that it is truly universal, reflects the realities of today & is much more responsive to the needs of developing





special significance in Prabhu Shri Ram's life. It is the starting point of

@narendramodi

Disclaimer: (Views expressed

## Sofia Vergara looking for love in New York

Celebretainment | Los **Angeles** 

Sofia Vergara is going to be looking for love in New York following her split from Joe Manganiello.

The 'Modern Family' actress, 51, has been single since her eight-year marriage to Joe broke down last summer and she's now ready to start the search for a new man - and Sofia thinks the Big Apple will be a good place to find Mr Right because there are "more men" and they don't all work in show business.

During an appearance on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' - which is filmed in Manhattan - Sofia explained: "I think that you have more options with men ... I'm single now ..

"So in New York there's more people, there's not only like actors, [writers] or directors. I think there's like a bigger ... I'm going to spend more time in New

It comes after Sofia - who was married to Joe between 2015 and 2023 - recently declared she doesn't need a man in her life in order to feel happy.

She told HELLO! magazine: "I don't feel as though I need a man. I want one, but I don't need one.'

The former couple announced their split last July via a joint statement in which they confirmed they were moving forward with

plans to divorce. They said: "We have made the difficult decision to divorce. As two people that love and care for one another very much, we politely a s k f o r respect for o u r privacy at this t i m e as we navigate this new phase of our lives." Sofia Vergara

## Kristen Stewart threatens to quit Hollywood

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

risten Stewart has threat-Kened to quit Hollywood if she fails to secure funding to get her directorial debut off

The 'Twilight' star is hopto make her first movie as a director but she has yet to secure a deal to bring 'The Chronology of Water' to the big screen - and Kristen has now declared she's not going work in the business again until she finds support for the

the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, she explained: "I'm going to make this movie before e v e r work for someone else. Yeah, I will quit t h e business. I won't make [another]

Speaking to Va-

riety ahead of

movie until I make this movie. I will tell you that, for sure. I think that will get things going."

Kristen went on to reveal she broke down in tears while working on her plans for the film, and she's really hoping her ing to step behind the camera plan comes together during her time at Sundance.

> She added: "I feel like I could walk through a wall right now because I'm going to tip my hand, because that's what I do - I just scouted this movie, and I saw places, and people, and faces, and locations that opened

> > them, a n d was just b a w 1 time.

"I can't wait to go to ... Sundance. I can't wait to make my movie."

Kristen Stewart



I'm going to make this movie before I ever work for someone else. Yeah. I will quit the ... business. I won't make [another] movie until I make this movie. I will tell you that, for sure. I think that will get things going

KRISTEN STEWART

Kristen was honoured with themselves the Visionary Award during up to me the film festival's opening and didn't night gala on Thursday night have big while director Christopher Nono's on lan was handed the Inaugural Sundance Institute Trailblazer

She opened up about the honour to Variety, saying: "When ing the I saw that I was being given entire the visionary award I was like, 'What a word!'

> "As an actor, you're not often glorified for your vision. You fit into other people's visions and service their efforts and their endeavours and the messages they want to get across.

## Britney Spears: Food is my weakness

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

 ${f B}$ ritney Spears considers food to be her "weakness". The 43-year-old pop star has spoken about her passion for food in a new Instagram post. She wrote: "Food is my weakness I will admit it !!!

The blonde beauty reflected on her relationship with food, admitting that she's always been a "passionate eat-

er". Britney shared: "When I was younger and would go to restaurants with my mom, she would either say

"sit still" or 'vou are eating way too fast ... please slow down.' I do remember at lunch though everybody's meal was still there when mine was gone

in 2 seconds (sic)" Despite this, Britney's weight doesn't tend to fluctuate much at all.

> S h e e x -**Britney Spears**

plained: "I'm usually 135 on scale ... that's my normal weight !!! Well that's good for me. I want to be 125 - 128 but I'm probably gonna do 140 now that this damn BLAZE coffee place has opened !!! DAMN !!! (sic)"

Britney split from Sam Asghari last year, and she acknowledged that the personal trainer knew the secrets to healthy living.

> singer - who married Sam in 2022 - said: "Mv ex husband was a trainer so he knew a lot of different ways and easy tricks to stay healthy !!! With food I think it's weird though !!! Timing is important I think !!! (sic)"

> The award-winning

Britney and Sam split in 2023, and the pop star subsequently took to social media to admit that she was "a little shocked" about their break-up.

## Selena Gomez: 'I'm the girl who's playing Ariana Grande all the time'

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

 $\mathbf{S}$  elena Gomez listens to Ariana Grande non-stop.

The two pop stars have often been pitted against each other, but the 'Only Murders in the Building' star, 31, is making it known that she is a huge fan of the 30-year-old singer as she makes her return with the new single 'Yes, And?'.

Speaking to SiriusXM Hits time." 1, Selena gushed: "I cannot do anything fun without solved a cryplistening to Ariana. I feel tic code in so empowered and I a teaser for think she is incredi- her music ble and I just have so video for much fun. I'm the girl the track, it

amazing." House-infused dance tune called 'Eter-'Yes, And?' has only been nal Sunshine' out for less than 24 hours in tribute to and is already a hit.

While the sound is fun boyfriend, rapper and playful, fiery Airana Mac Miller, whom lays into her critics in the she dated from

She sings: "Don't comment on my body, do not reply / Your business is yours and mine is mine / Why do you care so much whose! I ride."

The 'Thank U, Next' hitmaker also sings about protecting her privacy: "My tongue is sacred, I speak upon what I like / Protected, sexy, discerning with my

After fans who's playing Ariana all appears her the time... I think she's upcoming album could be her late former 2016 to 2018.

Selena Gomez

## 'Oppenheimer' star Robert Downey Jr. admits he was beyond 'jealous' of pal Rob Lowe in high school

Fox | Los Angeles

any decades ago, two Many uccases and young men with the same first name were classmates at a California high school. Both were destined for stardom, only their trajectories were starkly different.

Fresh off his win at the Golden Globes for his film "Oppenheimer," Robert Downey Jr. recently reflected on the days when he longed for friend Rob Lowe's success.

Appearing on his podcast, "Literally, with Monica High School.

"I want to say I was stand it." jealous, but that's not deep



Rob Lowe," Downey Rob Lowe and Robert Downey Jr.

ously was too mild of attendance in [school]. It just bered sometimes walking past a categorization of his seemed like there was some- the bulletin board and seeing feelings for Lowe when thing so high functioning going a message from his agent to they both attended Santa on, that there was no point for phone him. me to even attempt to under-

enough," Downey told Lowe self as a "little snob b----" at Downey asked his friend. The of his professional prowess the time, joked "he couldn't "Iron Man" star quipped that in high school. "I want to say possibly be bothered with high the only message he was getthat I didn't understand how school theater," like Downey, ting at the time was a notice of anyone could get where since he was a working actor suspension.

explained that jeal- you were. Let alone, still have at the time. Lowe remem-

"Can you imagine what it was like for the rest of us... to Lowe, who referred to him- see that notification for you?"

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#### CROSSWORD



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1- School orgs.; 2- Weapons; 3- Bridle part; 4- Piece of cloth, tabloid newspaper; 5- Cloth; 6-Hero; 7- History book chapter; 8- Keep at a distance; 9- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 10-once; 11- Profundity; 12- Smooth sailing; 14- So far; 22- Boxer Laila; 24- "The Time Machine" race; 25- Windows predecessor; 26- Shootout; 27- Voucher; 28- Bang-up; 29- Bear in the sky; 32- Campaigned; 33- Willow; 34- Dangerous weapon; 35- Mass utterance; 36- Australasian parrot; 38- Form of baseball; 39- Small fry; 42- Andean country; 43- Cheerful; 45- Mantra; 46- Ballet step; 47- Puppeteer Lewis; 48- Mortise insert; 49- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 51- Extended family unit; 52- Musical epilogue; 53- Fully aware of; 54- Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9; 55- Falls off; 58- How about that!; 60- Linguistic suffix;

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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

amian 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 back to how I play more 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." said.

Lillard became the first playand five 3-pointers in a single those nights." game and did so three nights after Milwaukee was thumped 135-95 at Cleveland.

I needed to attack," Lillard lead.



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 naturally and tonight was one of those nights

DAMIAN LILLARD

"I've been slowly getting er in Bucks history with 40 or back to how I play more natmore points, 10 or more assists urally and tonight was one of

Greek star Antetokounmpo added 10 rebounds, nine assists, two steals and a blocked "I knew it was an impor- shot for visiting Milwaukee, tant game. I picked my spots. I which improved to 29-13, moved the ball when I needed three games behind Boston to move it. I attacked when for the Eastern Conference

## 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

"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



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 their poor chase exposed some for 38 off 38.

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 eight wickets for 39 runs.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz (2-18) was effective with claimed 2-20.

jury), Devon Conway (Covid-19) and Daryl Mitchell (rested).

Captain Mitchell Santner said

**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

"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 vou want."

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

Seamers Tim Southee, Matt 20 as Pakistan claimed the last Henry and Lockie Ferguson all claimed two scalps, along with spinner Ish Sodhi.

Veteran Southee (2-19) disthe new ball, while Shaheen missed debutant Haseebullah Khan in an opening maiden over New Zealand were missing and returned in the 13th over to three of their first-choice bat- remove the dangerous Fakhar ters: Kane Williamson (knee in- Zaman, who had raced to 33 off 16 balls.

> Top-scorer Mohammad Rizwan departed soon afterwards

## England batsman Brook leaving tour of India for personal reasons

AFP | London

Middle-order batsman Har- (ECB) : ry Brook is to leave Eng- terday. land's tour of India and return for personal reasons", the Eng- time," the ECB said.

land and Wales Cricket Board

"In light of this, the ECB and (ECB) said in a statement yes- the family kindly request the media and the public to respect "The Brook family respectful- their wish for privacy and rehome "with immediate effect ly requests privacy during this frain 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

Muharrag overturn deficit with gamechanging 8-0 run in fourth quarter

TDT | Manama

'uharraq 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-frombehind result.

Muharraq fought back from during their game last night as many as 11 points down late in the third quarter. They came by a game-changing 8-0 run, to



Muharraq's Tyler Wilkerson challenges the shot of Al Ahli's Unique McLean

alive in the final period, sparked outscore Ahli by 13, 29-16.

high 37 points, including five champions and top seeds Ma- and Wilkerson then gave them Hassam.



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 hammed Juma'a contributed 13 off the bench.

of the regular season, while Ahli

nama, second seeds Al Ettihad, an 86-83 edge, and then a Jufourth seeds Al Hala and sixth ma'a fastbreak stretched their seeds Al Naima.

Muharraq were the early ag- remaining. gressors and they took a slim 25raq a 41-34 advantage, but Ahli clock. 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 Jameel was again on target, this time from beyond the arc to

Muharraq eked into this stage in front early on but an 8-0 run, of this stage. Tomorrow, Hala as the fifth seeds on the final day capped by a Juma'a three-point- and Ettihad lock horns in their er, gave Muharrag an 82-81 Top Six opener. Both fixtures are finished as third seeds. Also in lead with under four minutes scheduled for 7.30pm tip-offs at Wilkerson poured in a game- the Top Six are defending league to play. Baskets from Malabes Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al

lead to five with 57.6 seconds

Ahli were able to get back 22 lead at the end of the opening to within three on a pair of quarter. Both teams continued to Adrian Uter free-throws, but trade jabs as the game remained Malabes sank a pair from the close in the second. A James charity stripe that made it 90three-pointer then gave Muhar- 85 with 13.9 seconds on the

> 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 by a Jameel jump shot that Jameel and Unique McLean put them ahead 63-54. After a chipped in with 17 each. Hesh-Malabes basket for Muharrag, am Sarhan added 16 in the losing

Action in the Top Six contin-James each finished with 17. Mo- make it 72-63 at the end of the ues tonight and tomorrow. This evening, Manama face off with In the final stanza, Ahli stayed Najma in both teams' first game

## 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 straightsets demolition job to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals yesterday, with Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff in equally ruth-

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 I'm really pleased with where I 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 6-3, 6-3. through to the last eight of a Grand Slam for the 58th time, equalling Roger Federer's men's

"I played great, from the first to the last point," said the de-Melbourne title and a record afternoon this time.

25th Grand Slam crown.



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, healthwise. tennis-wise so I'm really pleased with where I am at the moment

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

am at the moment."

He will face 12th-seed Taylor American 6-3, 6-2. Fritz next after the American beat last year's runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (7/3), 5-7,

The times I have played him I haven't brought my best level and you need to if you are going impressive. to complete with someone like

Djokovic almost always plays fending champion, who is red- the night session on Rod Laver Rod Laver Arena, with the Slam crown last year. hot favourite to collect an 11th Arena, but was bumped to the 85-year-tennis legend watching

That's because home hope

fifth seed Andrey Rublev stand- er progressed beyond the fourth ing in his way.

The winner will face in-form previous attempts. 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 6-2, 6-1. imperious form and was in complete charge against unseeded Amanda Anisimova on Margaret the first week, including world Court Arena, sweeping past the number one Iga Swiatek, both

Fourth seed Coco Gauff, attempting to become the first major title. woman to back up a US Open 2020-2021, has been almost as

Djokovic," said Fritz of the Serb. unseeded Magdalena Frech favoured to win another title to 6-1, 6-2 in just 63 minutes on go with her breakthrough Grand from the stands.



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 major title

for the first time, with Russian 19-year-old Gauff, who had nevround at Melbourne Park in four

> "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

> With seven of the women's top 10 seeds knocked out in Gauff and Sabalenka have a glorious chance to win their second

They are on the same side of title with a Grand Slam win in the draw and will not meet in Australia since Naomi Osaka in the final, with a potential lastfour clash looming instead.

Sabalenka has conceded just She swatted aside Poland's 11 games in four matches and is

Should she go all the way, the 25-year-old will be the first "It was an honour to play woman to retain the title since "It's going in a positive direc- Alex de Minaur, seeded 10, is in front of you, so thank you compatriot Victoria Azarenka tion, health-wise, tennis-wise so bidding to make the last eight for coming to my match," said 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 fall after a challenge

AFP | Doha

"we depend on ourselves" to own hands. stay alive at the Asian Cup "Don't look around, don't when they face hosts and de- follow other results, don't look fending champions Qatar on at the other groups, don't look Monday.

Against the backdrop of a terday. football corruption scandal back home, and after years Fathy warned his team would of underachievement, China not be taking their foot off the have failed to score a goal in gas in the final game in Group their opening two games in

After two 0-0 draws, a win tar at the Khalifa Internation- said. al Stadium would see them through to the knockout stage with nine points. We will rounds along with the hosts.

also be enough, should the re-said.

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

But Jankovic said his team Thina coach Aleksandar must focus only on themselves, Jankovic told his players with their destiny still in their

at the other game," he said yes-

Qatar midfielder Ahmed A, despite already reaching the last 16 with two wins from two.

The hosts want to maintain against already qualified Qa- "this winning mentality", he

"We want to finish the group be playing for the win, regard-A draw or even a loss could less of who is against us," he

### Leverkusen's Palacios ruled out with injury, Frimpong cleared

the loss of injured midfield- urday's 3-2 win at RB Leipzig. er Exequiel Palacios "for the wing-back Jeremie Frimpong sidelines for the time being." was cleared.

how long the World Cup-win- undermanned league leaders.

ning Palacios would spend on the sidelines, saying that an Bundesliga leaders Bayer MRI yesterday confirmed a Leverkusen announced thigh injury sustained in Sat-

"The diagnosis will force the time being" on Saturday, while 25-year-old to watch from the

The news comes at a bad Leverkusen did not specify time for coach Xabi Alonso's

# 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

ahrain 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 in the final four, while five-time Khalifa Al Khalifa, BOC secretary defending champions Qatar will general Faris Al Kooheji, and Bahrain Handball Association Issa were present along with 2025 IHF World Men's Handthe contest, which was played Croatia, Denmark, and Norway. conversion on a fast-break that



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

#### The round of four is set to take **Standings** place tomorrow, with Qatar and Kuwait battling at 4pm in an (\*advanced to semi-finals) all-Gulf clash, to be followed **GROUP ONE** by Bahrain playing Japan at

0 8 5

0 5 5

1 0 9 5

3 1 0 2 -3 2

3 0 0 3 -10 0

3 0 1 2 -17 1

South Korea 3 0 2 1 -4 2

at a packed and rocking Khalifa

Bahrain will now face Japan

Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

\*Qatar

\*Japan

Iran

UAE

**GROUP TWO** 

\*Bahrain

take on Kuwait.

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 ninetime title winners, they led early but South Korea stayed close. A Mohammed Habib Ahmed goal gave the hosts a slim 12-10 All four semi-finalists have advantage, and then inspirationpresident and BOC member Ali also secured their places in the al skipper Hussain Al Sayyad scored from the nine-metre line, other high-ranking officials at ball Championship, to be held in followed by a Qassim Qambar Handball Championship

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 paced 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

#### **YESTERDAY'S RESULTS**

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

#### **Main Round:**

Iran beat UAE 25-22, Mohammed Siavoshishahenayati (Iran)

Kuwait beat Iraq 32-20, Abdulaziz Althafiri

Japan draw with Qatar 28-28, Shinnosuk Tokuda

Bahrain beat South Korea 33-29, Mohammed Abdulhussain (Bahrain)

#### Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup:

Kazakhstan beat India 25-24

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

Saudi Arabia beat Hong Kong 39-19

China beat Oman 23-22

Chinese Taipei beat New Zealand 36-17

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 Magabi, Al Zaimour, and Has-

san Al Fardan all chipped in with three

apiece. Jeongu Kang 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

with seven goals, while Yeonbin Kim added six.

In Qatar's stalemate against Japan, it was a tight battle through-

out. 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 salved 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 Jap-

## Madan winner 'a split-second decision'

 $\mathbf{B}$ ahrain'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, icate this goal to my family." who was named the Player of the Match, was quoted as saying in his post-game Press confer- well. They have some good

pecially at such a crucial time. This win will surely help us it took a late goal. I want to ded- Jordan."



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

The star midfielder added: "The Malaysian team played players who are quick and "It's spectacular to score, es- they managed to slow us down.

#### **Effort**

Meanwhile, head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi was pleased with his players' effort and called for a similar showing in their cial moments could occur early final group fixture against the or mid-match," Pizzi said. "We We won the game, even though prepare for the game against Jordanians later this week with must produce a similar effort a berth in the round of 16 on against Jordan."

"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 cru-

## Carvajal seals Madrid's wild comeback win over Almeria

AFP | Madrid

 $R^{
m eal\ Madrid\ produced\ a}_{
m controversial\ comeback}$ 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 Mafrid 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 their rhythm and Almeria and Vinicius Junior used his scored a brilliant second beequaliser, before Carvajal's last-gasp winner.

Ramazani stunned Los Blanflip 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 upper arm to divert home an fore half-time when Gonzalez lashed a half-volley into the top corner from long range.

Madrid could not conjure a cos inside the first minute and shot on target in the first half pulled off a spectacular back- and Ancelotti took action at the break.