

Kuldeep, Pandya lead India to 50-run rout of Bangladesh

Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya shine as India inch closer to T20 World Cup semi-finals | P12

WORLD **6** UK hard-right leader says West provoked Ukraine war

Isle of Jura Storms to Royal Ascot Glory **10** SPORTS

BUSINESS **5** Boeing may avoid criminal charges over violations: report

Bahrain welcomes Armenia's move to recognise Palestine
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the Republic of Armenia's official recognition of the State of Palestine.



In a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom of Bahrain emphasised that it is a positive step in supporting the international recognition of the Palestinian people's right to freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and supporting efforts aimed at achieving peace in the region.

Parliament resets talks with Flour Mills Company
TDT | Manama

The Parliament has announced the postponement of a scheduled meeting with the Bahrain Flour Mills Company (BFMC), originally set for today.

In a press statement, the Parliament cited its commitment to fostering effective cooperation between the legislative and executive branches as the reason for the postponement.

Delay

The statement further explained that the delay aims to allow for the development of appropriate solutions and perspectives regarding the recent increase in flour and other product prices.

This aligns with the Parliament's pursuit of supporting food security and safeguarding the interests of the nation and its citizens, the statement stressed.

March for 'urgent' climate action

AFFP | London

Thousands of protestors from across the UK marched through central London yesterday to call for "urgent political action" on nature.

Loaves Stay Put!

Flour price hike targets restaurants, not homes

● No price increase for controlled, subsidized flour

● No price increase for traditional bakeries, food outlets

● Price hike only for restaurants, hotels, and commercial food establishments

● BFMC's prices are lower than regional markets

P Unnikrishnan
TDT | Manama

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Mr. Basim Mohamed Al Saie, Chairman of Bahrain Flour Mills Company, addressed the recent controversy surrounding the increase in flour prices. As parliamentarians prepare for a special session to discuss the matter, Mr. Al Saie provided insights into the reasons behind the price adjustments and clarified issues of misinformation.

Misrepresentation and Sensationalism

Mr. Al Saie refuted allegations circulating on social media and some news outlets that the prices of all flour types have increased. "These allegations are untrue and unfortunately misrepresented. They have been made without a clear understanding of the matter," he stated. Mr. Al Saie emphasized the importance of accurate reporting, urging those who publish news and stories, especially on social media to present all facts comprehensively rather than creating sensationalism.

No Increase for Controlled Markets

Mr. Al Saie highlighted that there has been no price increase for subsidized controlled markets, which include traditional bakeries and food outlets. The recent price adjustment only



Bahrain Flour Mills Company (BFMC)

affects subsidized uncontrolled markets such as restaurants, hotels, and other commercial food establishments. "These establishments are selling their products at a premium rate, so this price change will have a minimal impact on their costs," he explained. "For instance, the cost of flour in croissants, cakes, and other premium baked goods is less than 5% of the total cost, so the price change will not be significant for this segment of the market."

Operational Challenges and Modernization Efforts

Located near the port in Mina Salman, Bahrain Flour Mills faces logistical challenges due to the port's shallow waters, which restrict large vessels from docking. Established over 50 years ago, the mill has undergone a few modernization over the years to meet demands. "For the current and latest expansion decisions to modernize and expand were made in 2019, but the arrival and installation of new equipment were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Mr. Al Saie explained. Despite these challenges, the company ensured a seamless transition without disrupting the market supply. The capacity expansion was completed in March this



Mr. Basim Mohamed Al Saie

year, and this additional capacity will allow the company to meet the market need and growth of the market and demand for flour

Financial Sustainability and Local Employee Welfare

The modernization efforts, costing around six million dinars, have financial implications, including depreciation costs that affect the company's bottom line. Mr. Al Saie stressed the importance of economic sustainability: "The company cannot operate at a loss and put itself in a distressed situation. We have commitments to the government, stakeholders, and the entire country." He also noted that 83% of the company's workforce are Bahrainis, and the company invests in upskilling and training to groom the next generation of leaders, ensuring good salaries and career devel-

opment opportunities. Succession planning is a major target and responsibility for us in the board.

Subsidies and Market Dynamics

The government subsidizes a significant portion of the flour prices, which remains unaffected for traditional bakeries. However, for uncontrolled markets which are still subsidized, the price increase aligns with regional standards. "Our prices are still lower than other regional markets," Mr. Al Saie noted. "We use Kuwait as a benchmark since it has the lowest subsidized price in the region, and the wheat used in Bahrain and Kuwait is identical, making it a fair comparison."

Preventing Abuse and Ensuring Transparency

Mr. Al Saie addressed issues of misuse where subsidized flour is repackaged and sold at higher prices, or some people who are profiteering by selling subsidized flour products in the black market. He mentioned that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has been informed of such abuses. To prevent this, Bahrain Flour Mills has implemented a new system requiring users to log in and purchase flour online,



BFMC was established in 1970 and has grown five times its original size. Its mill at Mina Salman now has a capacity of 520 tonnes per day.

ensuring better tracking and reducing misuse. "This system is vital for us to know our customers and monitor trends in use and consumption," he added.

Future Investments and New Mill Plans

The company plans to build a new mill, requiring an estimated investment of 50 million dinars. The new facility will enhance capacity, allowing for better storage and product diversification. The technology will enable the production of various flour types and support local industries, including poultry farms.

Quality and Expertise

Mr. Al Saie dispelled misconceptions about the quality of their wheat: "We purchase some of the finest wheat with the highest protein content from Australia." He emphasized the importance of improving baking processes to maximize product quality especially among traditional bakeries and highlighted ongoing efforts to work with customers, especially traditional bakeries, to enhance their baking techniques.

He assured that the price increase would not significantly impact consumers, as controlled market prices would remain unchanged. He reiterated the company's commitment to quality, financial sustainability, and the well-being of its employees and customers, while continuing to serve the Kingdom's food security needs.

Government cuts spending on foreign salaries

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has announced a reduction in government spending on foreign salaries, cutting over BD20 million

in recent years.

This reduction is expected to continue in future budgets as the government focuses on training and employing Bahraini citizens.

This strategic policy adjustment is borne out of a concord

between the government and parliamentary members, aimed at bolstering the budget for the Bahrain Teachers College.

The tangible result of this enhanced funding has been a remarkable tripling in the number

of Bahraini graduates emerging from the institution, poised to serve their nation in the educational sector.

Under His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Finance and National Economy

Minister, the Ministry has cast a spotlight on ongoing initiatives designed to train and replace foreign workers with Bahrainis across various governmental domains, with particular emphasis on nursing.



Aviation history in the making

Bahrain to host prestigious 29th edition of Routes World 2024 at Exhibition World Bahrain in October

● **BTEA and BAC sign deal to bolster tourism industry**

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain will host the twenty-ninth edition of Routes World 2024, the foremost global event in the aviation industry, marking its debut in the region.

This esteemed event is scheduled to take place at Exhibition World Bahrain in October 2024.

Following an agreement signed by Her Excellency Sarah Buhijji, CEO of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), and Mr. Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the Kingdom will host the Routes World 2024 exhibition and conference from October 6 to 8.

The event will gather over 2,500 industry experts and decision-makers in air transport, including representatives from airports, airlines, air services, tourism authorities, and leaders from the air navigation develop-



H.E. Sarah Buhijji and Mr. Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah at the agreement-signing ceremony

ment community.

Buhijji emphasised that the signing of this agreement underscores the robust support and keen interest Bahrain affords to its aviation sector.

Pivotal contributor

This sector is recognised as a pivotal contributor to advancing transportation competitiveness, air navigation services, and various economic domains, thereby bolstering the national economy.

These advancements are a testament to the sector's continuous growth and progress under the auspices of His Majesty King

“This internationally acclaimed convention and exhibition will significantly showcase Bahrain’s exceptional tourist attractions and further instill the Kingdom’s foothold in the global tourism and travel map.”

- H.E. SARAH BUHIJJI, CEO OF BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY (BTEA)

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and with the unwavering support and oversight of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

“The Kingdom of Bahrain’s debut as host of the world’s largest event in air transport signifies a notable milestone, underscoring its leadership as a premier logistics hub in the region. This achievement solidifies Bahrain’s position as a foremost regional center for business tourism, showcasing its excellence in hosting major international events. This internationally renowned event will

support Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030 by fostering the Kingdom’s stand as a global competitive and sustainable economic centre,” Buhijji stated.

“Routed World 2024 at Exhibition World Bahrain aligns with Bahrain’s Tourism Strategy 2022-2026 objectives to enhance the Kingdom’s position as a leading regional tourism destination, attracting more business tourists from across the world, increasing targeted tourist markets, diversifying tourist products, and promoting EWB, the Middle East’s newest exhibition and convention centre, as the ideal venue for hosting major international

niche events. This internationally acclaimed convention and exhibition will significantly showcase Bahrain’s exceptional tourist attractions and further instill the Kingdom’s foothold in the global tourism and travel map.”

Binfalah stated: “We are proud to host Routes World 2024 at Exhibition World Bahrain for the first time ever across the Middle East. This prime international event will cement Bahrain’s mark on the world stage in air transport by bringing together the largest airports, airlines, travel agencies and DMCS in the world.

“We are confident that this edition of Routes World will be a resounding success with a direct effect on developing air transport services and logistics solutions, and promoting Bahrain International Airport’s advanced services, achievements, and global awards to become one of the world’s top ultramodern airports, which serves the national goal of attracting more tourists worldwide to the Kingdom.”

The event will feature a diverse array of panel discussions, workshops, and intensive meetings.

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Court rejects lawyer appeal to reverse suspension of license decision



TDT | Manama

The High Administrative Court has rejected a lawsuit filed by a lawyer against the Disciplinary Board of Lawyers, challenging the suspension of his license for practicing law in an unlicensed office.

The court ruled that decisions of the Disciplinary Board of Lawyers are final and not subject to appeal, and that they are not considered administrative decisions that can be challenged by annulment.

The court explained that disciplinary disputes are, by nature, a form of punishment and not a civil dispute. This is because the power to impose disciplinary action is vested solely in the body authorised by the legislature to do so, and the decisions issued by disciplinary boards are not considered administrative decisions that can be appealed.

Judgments

This is because the decisions they issue are considered judgments that must meet the essential elements and fundamental guarantees in their issuance.

It's worth noting that the lawyer had filed a lawsuit claiming that he had been practicing law for over 10 years and had always been careful to join licensed law firms in Bahrain. However, he was recently surprised to find that he was unable to renew his license online.

Upon inquiring about the reason, he was informed that his license had been suspended for practicing law without a licensed office.

'Rise' and shine

Embracing diversity in fitness, new program launched for all ages with disabilities

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Train Fitness gym in Hala Plaza has launched a new program called "Rise," aimed at creating an inclusive and empowering fitness environment for adults with disabilities, including those with autism and ADHD, as well as older individuals, females, and children.

The program, developed in partnership with Dr. Noor Ahmed, an Autism exercise specialist and advanced certified autism specialist, is a testament to the gym's commitment to embracing diversity and fostering inclusivity.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dr. Noor said, "Neurodiversity is an essential form of human diversity. Just as there is no single type of skin color, height, build, or eye color, there is no one type of brain. It is about time we embraced neurodiversity in the world of exercise and fitness."

"Fitness for all ages is important and essential. Like many



things in life, it is a habit. Learning a habit at a young age only strengthens the chances of it becoming a long-standing, integral part of any individual's daily activities and lifestyle."

Integral

Dr. Noor further stated, "Fitness for all children is integral. It not only promotes physical wellness, cardiovascular strength, and stamina but also greatly enhances a child's self-esteem, confidence, and body image."

"Children also engage in communication, social interactions,

"Fitness for all ages is important and essential. Like many things in life, it is a habit. Learning a habit at a young age only strengthens the chances of it becoming a long-standing, integral part of any individual's daily activities and lifestyle."

- DR. NOOR AHMED, AUTISM EXERCISE SPECIALIST AND ADVANCED CERTIFIED AUTISM SPECIALIST

and turn-taking during physical fitness activities, especially in group sports. This strengthens their use of language, both receptive and expressive, and their social skills, as well as their ability to deal with emotions if they lose or cannot achieve a specific goal during exercise."

"These exact skills are also es-

sential for neurodivergent children in society, to allow them equal opportunities to exercise and develop physically in a safe space that allows them to flourish and reach their maximum potential within a community that embraces their differences," she added.

Skills

She lastly explained, "The program breaks down exercises into smaller, more manageable steps using visual aids, video modeling, and prompting. This allows participants to master simpler skills and build up to the main skill."

"The program also customizes the environment to the individual's preferences, adjusting factors like lighting, temperature, and music. Initially, this may be in a private space rather than the general gym."

"Once the individual becomes more comfortable and accommodated, the program then works on generalizing the skill and transferring the person to the full gym space."

Five face trial for shrimping ban violations

TDT | Manama

The Chief Prosecutor of Ministries and Public Entities announced that the Public Prosecution has completed its investigations into the illegal shrimp fishing incident involving the use of bottom trawl nets during the ban period.

Five defendants have been referred to the Sixth Minor Criminal Court, with a hearing scheduled for tomorrow.

The case originated from a report by the Coast Guard leadership, detailing the arrest of four Indian nationals in the Khor Fasht area.

The individuals were apprehended on a pleasure boat while fishing for shrimp using bottom trawl nets.

Upon sighting the security patrol, they attempted to flee but were subsequently captured.

Approximately 60 kilograms of fresh shrimp were seized from their possession.

The Public Prosecution initiated investigations immediately after being informed of the incident.

RERA develops new initiatives and regulations

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Real Estate Regulation Authority (RERA) is making significant strides in regulating and enhancing the Kingdom's real estate sector.

RERA has registered 547 owners' unions across various regions in Bahrain, highlighting the increasing awareness and significance of owners' associations in the management and maintenance of residential properties.

RERA is developing a specialised guidance volume for joint real estate developers.

This publication will cover essential aspects related to the



Image used for illustrative purposes only

design phase and required approvals during project development, providing clearer guidelines and improving efficiency for developers.

RERA is launching a tender for the enhancement of the "Aqari 2" real estate portal. Initially launched in December 2023, this platform will undergo substantial improvements to better meet the needs of the real estate sector.

The upgrades will include the following: integrating additional data sources; adding both non-geospatial and geospatial dashboards; incorporating new maps; maintaining and supporting AWS infrastructure; and adopting emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Transparency and accuracy

The Aqari 2 platform aims to deliver information with greater transparency and accuracy, enhancing decision-making and project success rates.

This will benefit all stakeholders by providing a clearer understanding of financial returns and risk levels associated with real estate projects.

RERA has issued 41 real estate development project licenses and 15 advertising licenses to developers.

These licenses are granted after developers obtain a sale project license, ensuring compliance with regulations and protecting consumer interests.

Motorcycles seized for safety violations



The General Directorate of Traffic seized 28 motorcycles in two weeks and 156 motorcycles this year for not having registration plates for various violations, including not having registration plates. Some were confiscated because of motorcyclists' traffic violations, such as driving without licences and not wearing helmets. The Directorate warned of the risks of such violations and called upon motorcyclists to follow traffic rules to promote road safety and protect road users. It highlighted the importance of parents protecting their children by ensuring they aren't committing wrong traffic practices.

Company to pay employee BD2,808 for unfair dismissal

● Equivalent to the remaining period of the contract

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation, Bahrain's highest court, has upheld a lower court ruling ordering a company to pay a Bahraini employee BD2,808 in compensation for wrongful dismissal, according to lawyer Fatima Khalaf.

Khalaf stated that her client was hired under a fixed-term contract as a sales promoter with a monthly salary of BD300. The employment relationship ended after four months and nine days when the company terminated the contract without a valid reason or prior notice.

The company also failed to pay the remaining dues owed to the employee under the employment contract, prompting



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The court found that the company had not complied with the provisions of Article 109 of the Labour Law, rendering the employee's dismissal unlawful.

him to file a lawsuit.

Shortcomings

The court, in its ruling, noted that the company had notified the employee of his performance shortcomings, with the

last notification being the first warning letter regarding his low efficiency.

However, the court found that the company should have granted the employee a reasonable period of at least 60 days

to improve, which was not done in this case. The company terminated the contract after only six days.

Furthermore, the court found that the company had not complied with the provisions of Article 109 of the Labour Law, rendering the employee's dismissal unlawful. As a result, the employee was entitled to compensation equivalent to the remaining period of the contract, amounting to BD2,400.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Driving our taxis into 21st century



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The world of tourism is changing rapidly. What was once seen as a straightforward way to attract investment, generate employment and boost the economy is being examined today for hidden catches.

Recently, in Mallorca, a scenic Mediterranean island which is part of Spain, residents protested that their island had been taken over by Instagram-happy tourists who came with changes of clothes to pose and take multiple shots for their social media, leading to long queues which made the beach inaccessible to the islanders. The result was that the local way of life had been turned topsy turvy.

In France, hotel owners are gearing up for the Paris Olympics next month and have sued Air BnB, the network of private holiday residences, that are much cheaper than hotels, saying the arrangement is destroying the hotel business.

This got me thinking - in Bahrain, we have not yet gotten on the grid for Air BnB but there are taxi services which are the equivalent of Uber, which are certainly cutting into the incomes of regular licensed taxi operators.

Time and again, Bahraini taxi drivers have been protesting about these services which use expat drivers and all the modern conveniences to woo passengers: a full-fledged app that is accessible on mobile phones and a 24-hour hotline to call a cab.

In addition, they are also undercut by 'freelance drivers': expat drivers who offer their services at much lesser cost to anybody who needs to go from point to point and who does not have a taxi rank in their vicinity. These people just dial these freelance drivers and get a ride at their doorstep.

Now we have often heard our MPs raise questions about Bahrainisation in Parliament. Often, when it comes to taxi drivers, the argument targets the expat drivers without looking at the whole picture.

What if we were to equip Bahraini taxi drivers with the mod-cons which the dial-a-taxi companies use? Our taxis are already very well supervised by the traffic authorities for safety, cleanliness and fare control.

We should empower our taxi drivers by making them the face of Bahrain's tourism - just like the famed London cabbie - and also create a government-approved public service app with which passengers can dial up a taxi whenever they want.

This will go a long way towards making our Bahraini taxi drivers more productive and able to meet the challenges of their trade as it has evolved today.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

The restaurant trend has galloped around the globe and Bahrain too has seen an explosion of eateries and dining-out options of all kinds: from global franchises to home-grown food trucks and cloud kitchens and talented home-based caterers.



Support sought

● Fire-affected Old Manama Souq shops seek financial aid and fee relief

TDT | Manama

Many shop owners, who suffered due to a recent fire incident at the Old Manama Souq earlier this month, have sought financial assistance to aid in the restoration of their businesses.

They also voiced concerns about the monthly governmental fees imposed on their businesses, proposing a temporary suspension until they can fully recover.

This follows a meeting held yesterday by 25 shop owners, according to sources.

Present at the meeting were members of the Manama Souq



Scene at the Old Manama Souq fire

Development Committee.

Sources, who requested anonymity, revealed that the meeting focused on charting a path

forward for the souq and deliberated various solutions to facilitate the reopening of the damaged shops.

The meeting concluded with a list detailing more than 60 shops that were damaged in the incident.

29 benefited from 'Fael Khair' service during Eid

TDT | Manama

The "Fael Khair" initiative, part of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism, has provided substantial support to individuals with unpaid loans.

Since its inception, 1,169 individuals have benefited, resolving 1,211 cases with financial aid amounting to more than BD2,800,000.

During Eid Al Adha alone, 29 individuals across 33 cases received support totaling



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Rashid Al Khalifa

BD101,984, according to Shaikh Khalid bin Rashid Al Khalifa,

Director-General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing.

This humanitarian initiative aims to promote social solidarity and goodwill within the community.

Shaikh Khalid emphasised the initiative's alignment with the directives and support of His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The minister's backing has been pivotal in achieving the initiative's goals of reinforcing social solidarity values.

School assignment details for academic year 2024-2025 set

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has announced that students who successfully completed the first round of assignments will be able to check their designated schools for the upcoming academic year 2024-2025 through the "distributing students to schools" service available on the Ministry's website.

The service will go live at 8am today.

Parents are advised to utilise this online service to ascertain their child's school placement before proceeding to collect textbooks, as announced earlier this week.

Public schools will commence textbook distribution starting tomorrow.

All schools will be in direct communication with parents starting today, facilitating a seamless transition into the new academic year.

Truck fire causes traffic jam



Shaikh Isa bin Salman Street near the Umm Al Hassam Tunnel yesterday experienced significant traffic congestion towards King Fahd Bridge due to a truck fire. Fortunately, no casualties were reported. Authorities managed to implement necessary measures to facilitate traffic flow in the affected area.

East Sitra sewage project on track

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The construction of the main sewer line and treated wastewater line for East Sitra is progressing smoothly, in line with the planned schedule.

Leading this major project is Engineer Fathi Abdulla Al Farea, the Assistant Undersecretary for Sewage Projects at the Works Ministry.

He has announced that the project is now 60% complete.

This effort is part of the ministry's initiative to support new housing developments by enhancing infrastructure services

to keep up with Bahrain's rapid urban growth.

The project aims to provide sanitation services and treated water for irrigation and landscaping in the expanding East Sitra area.

To date, 3,308 metres of the 4,359-metre treated water line have been installed, while 823.2 metres of the 1,661-metre wastewater conveyance line have been completed.

Pumping stations

Construction has also started on two pumping stations for treated sewage and one for wastewater to serve the East

Sitra Housing Project.

This includes building a 15-metre-deep pumping station, 230-metre-long pressure lines, and a 1.43-kilometre pipeline with diameters ranging from 200 mm to 900 mm.

The Works Ministry is urging citizens and residents to cooperate during the project by adhering to directional signs and following any necessary traffic diversions to ensure public safety.

The sewage infrastructure project was awarded by the Tender Board to Saturn Construction Company at a cost of BD3,680,941.

Filipiniana Rondalla takes center stage

● Showcase of unique Filipino music, rich culture and tradition

TDT | Manama

The Philippines Embassy has organised the visit of the cultural group, Filipiniana Rondalla, to Bahrain to perform as part of the 126th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. The Filipiniana Rondalla is composed of seven musicians, namely, Michael John Samaniego (group leader), June

Christian Vivar, Dustin Cinco, Jezreel Lastra, Matthew Dominic Romulo, Arbie Dale Castro, and Robert Andrew Punzalan.

Highlights of the Filipiniana Rondalla's visit to Bahrain include its performances during the Independence Day reception hosted by Her Excellency Anne Jalando-on Louis, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Al Rifaa Ballroom of the Inter-Continental Hotel in Manama, Bahrain, on 12 June, and its concert held at the Cultural Hall, one of the premier concert venues in Bahrain, on 14 June 2024.

The Embassy extends its ap-

preciation to the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) for providing the said venue for the concert.

More than 400 guests attended the concert, including the Asean Ambassadors in Bahrain and other diplomats, officials from the Capital Governorate, representatives from the private sector, partners and friends of the Embassy, other foreign guests, members of the Filipino community, and the Embassy's personnel and their dependents.

The local and foreign audiences hailed the Filipiniana Rondalla for their amazing skills and talent.

Boeing may avoid criminal charges over violations: report

● Victims' families have called for the criminal prosecution of Boeing and its executives, and are seeking a nearly \$25 billion fine.

AFP | New York, United States

The US Department of Justice is considering a deal with Boeing that would avoid criminal prosecution of the aerospace giant but may appoint a federal supervisor to oversee company progress on safety improvements, The New York Times reported Friday.

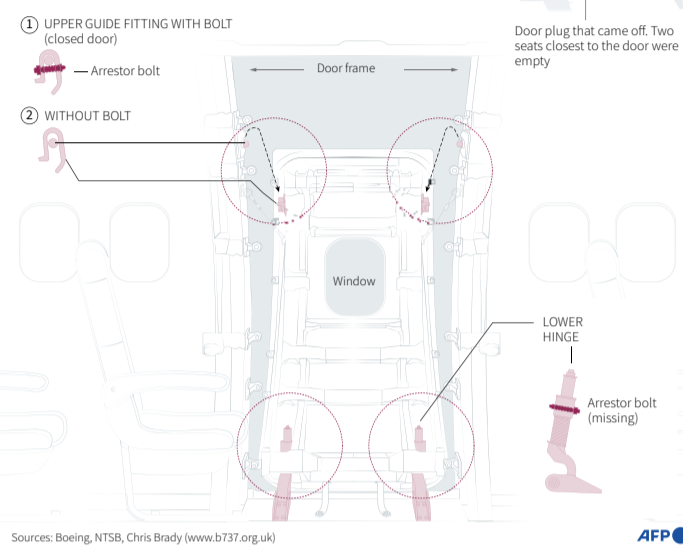
People familiar with the discussions told the daily that the terms of the possible alternative settlement, known as a deferred prosecution agreement, or DPA, are still subject to change.

A DOJ official involved in the case, Glenn Leon, chief of the fraud section criminal division, said in an email to a civil party lawyer seen by AFP that the department "has not made a decision" on the path it will take with respect to Boeing.

The DOJ is determining its next steps after concluding in May that Boeing could be pros-

737 MAX accident: 4 bolts were missing on Boeing's door plug

The cover panel was used to fill an unneeded emergency exit, before it came off during an Alaska Airlines flight on January 5



Sources: Boeing, NTSB, Chris Brady (www.b737.org.uk)

AFP

ecuted for violating a criminal settlement following two fatal 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 which claimed 346 lives.

But the Times, citing sources familiar with the discussions, reported that after substantial internal debate, Justice officials "appear to have concluded that prosecuting Boeing would be too legally risky."

Officials also reportedly believe that the appointment of a watchdog would be "a quicker, more efficient way" to ensure safety and quality control improvements are made, the newspaper said.

Last month, the DOJ told the judge in the case it would give its decision no later than July 7. The DOJ's Leon emailed Paul

Cassell, a lawyer for families in the criminal case against Boeing, saying the Times reporting "was simply not correct."

Boeing did not respond to AFP requests for reaction.

No decision

The troubled planemaker had contested the department's conclusions in mid-June, but has recognized the gravity of the safety crisis and CEO Dave Calhoun told Congress that Boeing is "taking action and making progress."

In January 2021, Justice announced an initial DPA in which Boeing agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to settle fraud charges over certification of the 737 MAX.

But since early 2023, the manufacturer has experienced multiple production and quality control problems on its commercial aircraft, as well as mid-flight incidents including in January when a door plug panel flew off an Alaska Airlines 737 Max 9.

The DOJ says Boeing's violation of several provisions of the initial agreement, including measures requiring it to bolster its internal controls to detect and deter fraud, opened the company to prosecution.

Victims' families have called for the criminal prosecution of

Boeing and its executives, and are seeking a nearly \$25 billion fine.

A new DPA would allow the US government to resolve Boeing's violations without a trial.

That could serve as a victory of sorts for Boeing, a company seen as critical to the US aviation industry as well as national security.

Cassell, the families' lawyer, warned against sealing an agreement avoiding trial.

"We hope that the Department is not using its claim to have not yet made a 'final decision' as a ploy to gain additional time to hammer out a DPA deal with Boeing," Cassell said in a statement.

"The first DPA deal failed. There is no reason to think a second one would be any better," he said, adding it's time for "moving forward with a trial and obtaining a guilty verdict against Boeing."

Such lawsuits in the past have forced companies into filing for bankruptcy, the Times reported, and a conviction could potentially prevent Boeing from receiving government contracts.

Boeing's defense, space and security segment generated \$25 billion in 2023, nearly a third of the company's sales.

Denmark's men footballers refuse salary rise to secure equal pay for women

Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark's male footballers have refused a salary increase for the national side to gain their female counterparts equal basic pay, the players' union said on Friday.

"The men's team chose not to ask for a salary increase ... to improve the conditions of the women's team," union spokesperson Magnus Hviid told AFP.

He welcomed "an extraordinary measure to help take this small step in the right direction", but acknowledged there were "still more glass ceilings to break to ensure equal opportunities and conditions within national teams".

Hviid said the action "obtained the same basic salary for the women's national team and the men's national team, as well as better insurance coverage for the women's team".

The agreement, signed at the end of May, provides for identical match bonuses for women and men during away matches.

However for the moment due to no bonus for home matches there remains a disparity in the overall pay between the women's and men's national teams.



Representative picture

US lawsuit against TikTok to focus on children's privacy

TDI | agencies

The US Department of Justice plans to focus an upcoming lawsuit against TikTok on allegations that the popular social media platform violated the privacy rights of children, rather than claims it misled adult users about its data privacy practices, according to a source familiar

with the matter.

The US Federal Trade Commission investigated the potential violations by TikTok and its parent company ByteDance and referred the case to the Justice Department on Tuesday.

"The investigation uncovered reason to believe named defendants are violating or are about to violate the law and that a pro-

ceeding is in the public interest," the FTC said in a statement at the time.

Reuters in 2020 first reported the FTC and the US Justice Department were looking into allegations the popular social media app failed to live up to a 2019 agreement aimed at protecting children's privacy.

TikTok has said it strongly

disagrees with the FTC's allegations and is disappointed the agency decided to pursue a lawsuit.

The probe is separate from ongoing concerns in Congress about the potential that the data of TikTok's 170 million US users could be improperly accessed by the Chinese government.

TikTok denies the allegation.

TikTok is challenging a law passed in April that requires its Chinese-parent ByteDance to divest TikTok's US assets by Jan. 19 or face a ban.

ByteDance said in the case on Thursday that a ban would be inevitable without court intervention, and that a divestiture is "not possible technologically, commercially, or legally."

China, France launch satellite to better understand the universe

AFP | Xichang, China

A French-Chinese satellite blasted off yesterday on a hunt for the mightiest explosions in the universe, in a notable example of cooperation between a Western power and the Asian giant.

Developed by engineers from both countries, the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) is carrying four instruments -- two French, two Chinese -- that will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach Earth.

The 930-kilogram (2,050-pound) satellite "successfully" took off around 3:00 pm (0700 GMT) aboard a Chinese Long March 2-C rocket from a space base in Xichang, in southwestern Sichuan province, China's National Space Administration said.

Gamma-ray bursts generally occur after the explosion of huge stars -- those more than 20 times as big as the sun -- or the fusion of compact stars.

The extremely bright cosmic beams can give off a blast of energy equivalent to more than a



A Long March 2-C rocket carrying a satellite jointly developed by China and France dubbed the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM), lifts off from a space base in Xichang, in China's southwestern Sichuan province

billion billion suns.

Observing them is like "looking back in time, as the light from these objects takes a long time to reach us", Ore Gottlieb, an astrophysicist at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Astrophysics in New York, told AFP.

'Several mysteries'

The rays carry traces of the gas clouds and galaxies they pass through on their journey

through space -- valuable data for better understanding the history and evolution of the universe.

"SVOM has the potential to unravel several mysteries in the field of (gamma-ray bursts), including detecting the most distant GRBs in the universe, which correspond to the earliest GRBs," Gottlieb said.

The most distant bursts identified to date were produced just

630 million years after the Big Bang -- when the universe was in its infancy.

"We are... interested in gamma-ray bursts for their own sake because they are very extreme cosmic explosions which allow us to better understand the death of certain stars," said Frederic Daigne, an astrophysicist at the Paris Institute of Astrophysics.

"All of this data makes it pos-

sible to test the laws of physics with phenomena that are impossible to reproduce in the laboratory on Earth."

Once analysed, the data could help to improve understanding of the composition of space, and the dynamics of gas clouds or other galaxies.

The project stems from a partnership between the French and Chinese space agencies as well as other scientific and technical groups from both nations.

"It's a great success. We've managed to work well with our Chinese colleagues," Philippe Baptiste, CEO of France's CNES space agency, told AFP after the launch.

Space cooperation at this level between the West and China is fairly uncommon, especially since the United States banned all collaboration between NASA and Beijing in 2011.

Once in orbit 625 kilometres (388 miles) above the Earth, the satellite will send its data back to observatories.

The main challenge is that gamma-ray bursts are extremely brief, leaving scientists in a

race against time to gather information. Once it detects a burst, SVOM will send an alert to a team on duty around the clock.

Within five minutes, they will have to rev up a network of telescopes on the ground that will align precisely with the axis of the burst's source to make more detailed observations.



In 2018, China and France jointly launched CFOSAT, an oceanographic satellite mainly used in marine meteorology. Several European countries have also taken part in China's Chang'e lunar exploration programme.

Isle of Jura Storms to Royal Ascot Glory

Shepherd sheds emotional tears after Hardwicke Stakes win



Isle of Jura, owned by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, was the hero at Hardwicke Stakes at the Royal Ascot, Britain on Saturday, when it used a late surge to come away victorious, leaving its owner, rider Callum Shepherd, trainer George Scott, and spectators in ecstasy.

TDT | Manama

Isle of Jura defied heartbreak and delivered a sensational victory at Royal Ascot, leaving jockey Callum Shepherd overcome with emotion.

Shepherd, who lost a high-profile Derby mount just weeks ago, piloted Isle of Jura to a dominant win in the Hardwicke Stakes (G2), capping off a dream day for both horse and rider. The

win marked Isle of Jura's fifth consecutive victory this year, adding a prestigious Group 2 title to his already impressive resume.

The race was a rollercoaster of emotions for Shepherd. Having endured the disappointment of losing the ride on Ambiente Friendly, who finished a close second in the Derby, his jubilant celebration upon crossing the finish line with Isle of Jura was a

sight to behold. Tears welled up in his post-race interview as he confessed to the mental struggle of the past six weeks.

"It's hard to put it into words," said an emotional Shepherd. "This win feels extra special after everything that's happened. Isle of Jura is a phenomenal horse, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to ride him."

Trainer George Scott also broke a personal Ascot hoodoo,

finally securing his first win at the prestigious meet after a string of 41 losing rides. The victory was a team effort, with Isle of Jura proving to be a horse of exceptional talent.

Bred for greatness, the four-year-old son of New Approach has taken his connections on a thrilling ride. Unbeaten in five starts this year, Isle of Jura looks poised for even bigger triumphs in the future.

France and Netherlands draw as Mbappe benched

Goalless encounter leaves both teams on track for Euro 2024 knockout stages

● Mbappe sits out entire match due to broken nose

● Simons' goal for Netherlands controversially disallowed

● Griezmann misses two clear chances for France

AFP | Leipzig

France and the Netherlands edged towards the last 16 of Euro 2024 after a 0-0 draw in Leipzig that failed to catch fire in the absence of Kylian Mbappe.

The French captain sat out the whole match from the bench after breaking his nose in France's opening 1-0 win over Austria just four days ago.

Xavi Simons had a goal controversially ruled out for the Dutch, while Antoine Griezmann wasted two glorious chances for France.

A share of the spoils leaves the sides level on four

points at the top of Group D, one ahead of Austria who beat Poland 3-1 earlier on Friday.

France take on the Poles, while the Netherlands face Austria in the final games of the section on Tuesday.

Les Bleus had won both meetings when these sides met in qualifying but Mbappe scored four of France's six goals in those games.

"We are talking about one of the best players in the world, so course that is different for both teams," said Netherlands boss Ronald Koeman on not having to face the Real Madrid forward.

France coach Didier Deschamps hinted that his decision to leave Mbappe out may have been different for a knockout game, but it was not worth the risk with his side almost certain to reach the next round.

"With each day he's getting better and if it had been a decisive game this evening, I would have thought twice about him playing or not," said Deschamps.

"We are getting to a point that is better for him. After what happened, I thought the wiser decision was to keep him on the bench."

Roared on by an orange wall around two-thirds of the Leipzig Stadium, the Dutch nearly pounced on any French uncertainty within a minute.

Kylian Mbappe sits on the pitch with a protective mask during warm up



Netherlands' midfielder #08 Georginio Wijnaldum (C) and France's defender #05 Jules Kounde (3rd R) jump for the ball

The explosive pace of Jeremie Frimpong took him clear on goal but the Bayer Leverkusen man could not produce a clean finish and Mike Maignan turned his shot behind.

Griezmann wasteful

Without their captain and talisman, the 2022 World Cup finalists turned to Griezmann for inspiration.

The stand-in skipper stung the palms of Bart Verbruggen from distance.

But the Atletico Madrid forward had a mo-

ment to forget with the biggest chance to open the scoring before half-time.

An intricate move played in Adrien Rabiot but when he decided to pass rather than shoot, Griezmann failed to connect on his weaker right foot.

Griezmann was also guilty of another big miss after the break when his weak effort was turned behind by Verbruggen with the goal gaping.



The match featured the first goalless draw of the tournament, with a controversial VAR decision denying the Netherlands a potential winner, highlighting the impact of technology in modern football

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pushpa Kishin, W/O Kishin Versimal, holding **Indian Passport No. K8086833** dated 24/08/2014 issued at Bahrain, having permanent address B501, Twin Apartments, Marve Road, Malad (W), Mumbai 400064 presently residing at Flat 21, Bldg 184, Road 3605, Manama Al-Adliyah, Block 336, Bahrain will henceforth be known as **Pushpa Kishin Bhatia**. Objection, if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P O Box 26106 Al-Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

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Norris shrugs off McLaren fire to nab Spanish pole after 'best ever lap'

McLaren driver's perfect lap edges out Verstappen by 0.02 seconds in Spanish GP qualifying

● **Norris overcomes pre-qualifying fire in McLaren hospitality unit**

● **Hamilton secures second row start alongside teammate Russell**

AFP | Barcelona

Lando Norris brushed aside the drama of his McLaren team's hospitality unit catching fire to produce "the best lap of my life" and deprive Max Verstappen of pole for the Spanish Grand Prix in qualifying yesterday.

Lewis Hamilton will start on the second row alongside his Mercedes teammate George Russell.

Verstappen looked sure to set off for Sunday's 10th round of the season from the front of the grid.

But in the last throw of the top-10 shoot-out Norris denied



the Red Bull ace by a mere two hundredths of a second.

"Today was the perfect lap," said Norris after only his second career pole.

"My best lap by a long way, I knew I had to do something perfect, it was probably my best lap ever."

Norris produced his one minute 11.383 seconds of magic after a "stressful" day when the McLaren hospitality unit caught fire before third practice.

McLaren team boss Zak Brown told Sky Sports one staff member had to go to hospital

but had been discharged, adding: "Happy to report everyone is fine".

"I lost my shoes. It's all been a bit messy," said Norris.

"I like to listen to my music loud beforehand, but didn't have that this time. But it's not the end of the world. I'm not going to complain about it."

Turning back to a vintage qualifying session, Norris, whose only other pole came in Russia in 2021, reflected: "It's been a while since Sochi!"

"Max seemed a bit stronger today, but we made some changes," added the Briton who won his maiden Grand Prix in May in Miami.

"I'm super happy to be on pole, it's going to be tough but we're here to win!"

Verstappen, targeting a fourth straight world title, leads the championship by 56 points from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who starts Sunday's race in fifth, with Norris seven points back in third.

"I think the whole of qualifying was bet-

ter than practice for me," said Verstappen, who won his maiden Grand Prix in Barcelona in 2016 and is on a hat-trick after wins in Catalonia in 2022 and 2023.

"It all clicked much better. The other teams are catching up, we need to bring more performance to the car."

Ferrari-bound Hamilton was happy to be towards the front of the grid as he out-qualified his teammate Russell for only the second time this year.

"It's good to be back up here, great to see we are progressing," he said.

"We are slowly climbing closer to the guys in front, it's really on a knife edge.

"I'm really happy to be in P3 with the other Alpine

Today was the perfect lap. My best lap by a long way, I knew I had to do something perfect, it was probably my best lap ever

LANDO NORRIS

long straight to turn one."

Joining Leclerc on the third row will be his Ferrari teammate and home favourite Carlos Sainz. Next came the Alpine of Pierre Gasly, the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez, who has a three-place grid penalty from Canada, Esteban Ocon in the other Alpine

and Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren.

After only a tenth of a second had covered the top four in final practice earlier the stage was set for an intriguing pole battle.

Complicating matters was a sizeable drop in temperature, with morning sunshine giving way to heavy cloud cover with the wind picking up.

The action on track though was anything but cool, as drivers scrambled to eke out every last ounce of performance for a Grand Prix won from pole in 24 of 33 races run at the circuit.



McLaren's Lando Norris celebrates pole in Spain

Lewandowski was fit in Austria defeat, says Poland coach

AFP | Berlin

Poland coach Michal Probiez insisted Robert Lewandowski was fully fit to play despite the veteran striker only managing an ineffective appearance as substitute in their 3-1 loss to Austria at Euro 2024 on Friday.

Lewandowski had been struggling with a thigh injury he suffered last week in a friendly against Turkey and missed Poland's opening 2-1 defeat by the Netherlands.

He came on in the 60th minute with the game level at 1-1 but could not inspire his team as Austria ran out convincing winners.

"He was fully fit and he has practised with the team," said Probiez.

Poland conceded to fall behind just six minutes after Lewandowski was introduced, then became stretched in their efforts to get back into the match

and were ultimately fortunate to not lose by more goals.

"We knew that this would be a highly intensive match and we decided with the medical team and Robert Lewandowski himself that he wouldn't start from the first minute," said Probiez.

"We wanted to get through that Austrian defence in the second half and it's a pity we couldn't score that second goal before them."

Poland will be the first team eliminated from the tournament if the Netherlands fail to beat France in Friday's other Group D match.

Lewandowski came on in the 60th minute with the game level at 1-1 but could not inspire his team as Austria ran out convincing winners

Hope blasts West Indies to crucial win over USA

AFP | Bridgetown

Shai Hope struck a magnificent unbeaten 82 from 39 balls as West Indies crushed the USA on Friday, winning their T20 World Cup Super Eights encounter by nine wickets and with 9.1 overs to spare.

The Caribbean side bowled out the USA for 128 in the clash of the tournament co-hosts at Kensington Oval and then rattled off the target in 10.5 overs with local boy Hope smashing eight sixes as West Indies finished on 130-1.

The win keeps West Indies in the hunt for a place in the semi-finals and leaves the USA, with defeats in both their Super Eights games so far, on the brink of elimination.

Spinner Roston Chase did the main damage with the ball for West Indies with 3-19 in his four



West Indies' Alzarri Joseph (L) and Shai Hope (C) celebrate after the dismissal of USA's Andries Gous

overs while Andre Russell also chipped in with three wickets.

But, aware of the need for a strong run-rate in the qualification scenarios, Hope went

on the attack from the outset, reaching his half century in just 26 balls.

West Indies, beaten by England in their opening Super

Scorecard

West Indies 130 for 1 (82*) beat United States of America 128 (Gous 29, Chase 3-19, Russell 3-31) by nine wickets

Eights game, now have their destiny in their own hands -- if they beat South Africa in their final Group 1 game on Sunday they will make it to the last four.

West Indies have a better net run rate than South Africa meaning they would advance with a win over the Proteas regardless of the outcome of England's final game against the USA.

Hope's aggressive strokeplay helped the home side reach 58-0 in the six over powerplay with the opener, who was not in the side in the early group stage games, scoring 42 of them.

De Kock glad of Caribbean experience as South Africa squeeze past England

AFP | Gros-Islet

South Africa star Quinton de Kock said knowledge of Caribbean conditions helped him propel the Proteas to a competitive total as they edged defending champions England by seven runs in a dramatic Super Eights clash to remain unbeaten at the T20 World Cup.

The opener's typically dashing 65 was the cornerstone of South Africa's seemingly modest 163-6 after they lost the toss in a daytime game in St. Lucia on Friday.

Fine bowling and fielding then reduced England to 61-4 before a stand of 78 between Harry Brook (53) and Liam Livingstone (33) took the title-holders close.



Quinton de Kock in action

But Anrich Nortje denied England the 14 runs they needed off the last over as they finished on 156-6 and the Proteas edged

closer to the semi-finals after a second win in two Super Eights games.

Afterwards, England captain

I've played a lot of day T20s in the West Indies (in the Caribbean Premier League) and generally that is the most important time to score runs. The wicket looks beautiful at night, plays much differently, but 160-170 are winning scores here in the day

QUINTON DE KOCK

Jos Buttler said the powerplay had been decisive, with South Africa 63-0 off the first six overs compared to their opponents' 41-1.

Khaled Al Najjar shows impressive speed in FIA Karting Academy Trophy qualifying

● **Bahrain's young racing sensation makes strong impression in Slovakia**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's rising motorsport talent, Khaled Al Najjar

Najjar, demonstrated his potential on the opening day of the FIA Karting Academy Trophy at the Slovak Karting Centre in Orechova Poton, Slovakia. The event is part of the European Championship series.

Competing among 47 talented karters, Khaled, the reigning Junior MAX champion of the Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge, secured 22nd place in the qualifying practice with a best lap time of 54.176 seconds. He was 1.071 seconds behind session leader Victor Alexandru Rad from Romania, who clocked a fastest lap of 53.105

seconds.

Earlier in the day, Khaled participated in three free practice sessions.

He placed 23rd in the first session with a best time of 55.134 seconds, improved to 22nd in the second session with a lap of 54.418 seconds, and finished 24th in the third session with a time of 54.902 seconds. His consistent performance in these sessions set the stage for his best effort in the qualifying practice.

The FIA Karting Academy Trophy, organized by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), is

Khaled Al Najjar in action

a prestigious karting competition featuring young drivers aged 12 to 14 competing in identical karts. This series offers a platform for emerging talents to showcase their skills on an international stage.

Khaled also competed in the season's opening event held in Val d'Argenton, France, last

April, continuing his journey in the highly competitive karting series.

With his strong pace in qualifying, Khaled Al Najjar is positioning himself as a promising young driver to watch in motorsport.



Kuldeep, Pandya lead India to 50-run rout of Bangladesh

Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya shine as India inch closer to T20 World Cup semi-finals

● **Kuldeep takes 3-19, dismantling Bangladesh's top order**

● **Pandya scores unbeaten 50, propelling India to 196**

● **Bumrah's economical spell (2-13) stifles Bangladesh's chase**

North Sound

Leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav took three key wickets while Hardik Pandya blasted an

undefeated half-century as India moved to the brink of the T20 World Cup semi-finals with a 50-run rout of Bangladesh yesterday.

Chasing 197 for victory, Bangladesh lost three of their top five batsmen to Kuldeep who removed Tanzid Hasan (29), Towhid Hridoy (four) and Shakib Al Hasan (11).

Kuldeep finished with an impressive 3-19 from his four overs.

India now have two wins from two Super Eight games and will be guaranteed a semi-final spot if Australia defeat Afghanistan later yesterday and also make the last four from Group 1.

Pandya, who had made 50 when India batted, started the slide when he took the first Bangladesh wicket, tempting opener Liton Das (13) to sky a chance.

Once skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto fell to Jasprit Bumrah for a 32-ball 40, Bangladesh's hopes went



Kuldeep Yadav in action

with him.

Bumrah also ended Rishad Hossain's brief 24-run cameo as the veteran seamer enjoyed figures of 2-13 in four overs before the Tigers finished their 20 overs on 146-8.

Put in to bat, 2007 champions India saw five of their top six batsmen

reach double-figure scores.

All-rounder Pandya top-scored with an undefeated 50 off just 27 balls with four boundaries and three sixes.

India had raced to 71-1 in seven overs with skipper Rohit Sharma making a rapid 23 and Virat Kohli hitting his tournament best 37 off 28 balls with one four and three sixes.

The only blip was Suryakumar Yadav, who had made back-to-back fifties in his last two innings, scoring just six.

Those runs came off the first ball he faced before falling to Tanzim Hasan Sakib who had dismissed Kohli in the same over.

Rishabh Pant cracked 36 off 24 balls with Shivam Dube making 34 -- 18 of those runs coming from three sixes.

India beat Afghanistan by 47 runs in their Super Eight opener in Bridgetown while Bangladesh lost

YOU KNOW WHAT

India have maintained a perfect record against Bangladesh in T20 World Cup encounters, winning all five matches, and boast an overall head-to-head record of 13-1 in T20Is

to Australia by 28 runs in a rain-hit clash in Antigua.

India have now won all five T20 World Cup clashes against Bangladesh and taken their overall head-to-head record to 13-1.

Portugal breeze past Turkey and into Euro 2024 knockout stage

AFP | Dortmund

Portugal swept into the last 16 of Euro 2024 yesterday after comfortably seeing off Turkey 3-0 and guaranteeing first place in Group F.

Bernardo Silva's fine finish in the 21st minute, a comical Samet Akaydin own goal shortly afterwards and Bruno Fernandes's second-half tap-in gave Portugal a straightforward win in front of swathes of passionate Turkish fans in Dortmund.

Portugal looked every inch a team aiming to win their second European Championship after triumphing in 2016, their star-studded line-up easily dealing with Vincenzo Montella's enthusiastic but limited Turkey team.

Cristiano Ronaldo will have at least two more tries to become the oldest goalscorer at a European Championship as Martinez said on Friday that the 39-year-old is in the right shape to play every four days.



Portugal's midfielder #10 Bernardo Silva runs with the ball

It was Ronaldo who unselfishly set up Fernandes for a simple goal in the 56th minute after springing through Turkey's off-side trap, and he then had time to pose for a selfie with a child fan who invaded the pitch midway through the second half.

Martinez's side, on a perfect six points, will face one of the four best third-place finishers

in the next round and go into their final group game against Georgia without any pressure for a result.

The same cannot be said for Turkey who need a draw against the Czech Republic on Wednesday to ensure second place.

Turkey's passionate support again flocked to the Westfalenstadion in huge numbers, with

long tailbacks on the roads leading to the ground several hours before the 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) kick-off.

Some fans sat on the top of cars leading chants among the thousands of supporters who crawled towards their destination.

Once inside what was effectively a home crowd let out a deafening chorus of whistles and jeers when Portugal jogged out for their pre-match warm-up.

However, once the match got underway there was a clear gap in class between the two sides and Portugal went deservedly ahead through Silva as the Manchester City midfielder confidently smashed in Nuno Mendes's deflected low cross.

Soon after, Akaydin gifted Portugal a two-goal lead with his sloppy backpass which turned into an own goal as Zeki Celik and goalkeeper Altay Bayindir tried in vain to prevent the ball crossing the line.

Schick saves Czechs in Euros draw against gutsy Georgia



Czech Republic forward Patrik Schick (R) shoots to score

AFP | Hamburg

Patrik Schick chested home to earn the Czech Republic a 1-1 draw against debutants Georgia yesterday in an entertaining match, but it leaves both teams in a tricky spot in Euro 2024 Group F.

They have a point each ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal facing Turkey later on, as the top two clash having already beaten the Czechs and Georgia respectively.

Georgia coach Willy Sagnol said his players' disappoint-

ment at their opening defeat showed how far his team has come, and they gave everything in Hamburg to earn their first Euros point.

Goalkeeper Giorgi Mammadashvili made a string of superb saves to keep his team in the game and they took the lead just before the break through Georges Mikautadze's penalty.

However Schick reprised his Euro 2020 goalscoring heroics with an improvised finish to leave honours even at the end of a pulsating clash.