

**King Hamad Trophy set for tee-off**

Prestigious 54-hole strokeplay tournament to feature 100 professional and amateur golfers from around the world | P12

WORLD **6** 'First good news'

THE DAILY **tribune**



Dua Lipa's goal is to 'change pop culture'

**8** CELEBS

BUSINESS **5**

LuLu expands further; opens 11th Hypermarket In Manama

**Bahrain welcomes peace agreement in Gaza Strip**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has welcomed the deal on a four-day humanitarian pause in the Gaza Strip, subject to extension, allowing the exchange of a number of hostages and detained women and children, as well as the delivery of humanitarian, relief and medical aid, including fuel to Gaza.

In a statement, the Foreign Affairs Ministry commended the joint mediation efforts made by Qatar, Egypt and the US.

**BD200 Million 'Bahrain Marina' project launched**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain on Wednesday celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of the launch of the 'Bahrain Marina' project. The event, attended by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, unveiled the ambitious mixed-use development featuring 192 retail units, 33 stores, and a marina clubhouse on a 256,000 square meter area. With an investment of BD200 million, the project underscores Bahrain's commitment to private-public partnerships, shaping the Eastern coast into a tourism hotspot aligning with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

**Ukraine 'downed' Russian drones**

AFP | Kyiv

Russia attacked Ukraine with more than a dozen attack drones and a cruise missile, the Ukrainian air force said yesterday, claiming to have downed all the drones.

220 fils (includes VAT)



**HM King appoints ambassadors at Foreign Ministry**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Decree (98) of 2023, appointing ambassadors at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, based on a proposal by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and following the Cabinet's approval.

The royal decree stipulates

the appointment of the following ambassadors at the Foreign Affairs Ministry: Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Bassam Ahmed Marzouk, Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Eid, Ali Jassim Ahmed Al Aradi, Osama Abdulla Al Absi, Dr. Waleed Khalifa Al Manea and Essam Abdulaziz Al Jassim



HM the King

**Ambassadors : Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Bassam Ahmed Marzouk, Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Eid, Ali Jassim Ahmed Al Aradi, Osama Abdulla Al Absi, Dr. Waleed Khalifa Al Manea and Essam Abdulaziz Al Jassim.**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs shall implement the provisions of this royal decree, which takes effect upon its issuance.

**Truce-for-hostage deal**

Israel and Hamas agree on four-day humanitarian pause starting today, aid to flow into Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel and Hamas said yesterday they had agreed on a four-day truce in the Gaza war during which the Palestinian fighters would free at least 50 of the hostages taken in their deadly October 7 attack.

In turn, Israel would release at least 150 Palestinian prisoners and allow more humanitarian aid into the coastal territory after more than six weeks of bombardment, heavy fighting and a crippling siege.

The hostages to be freed are women and children, and the Palestinian prisoners are women and detainees aged 18 and younger. The process could begin today at 10:00 am (0800 GMT, 11am, Bahrain time), according to regional media reports.

The deal - negotiated with Qatar, the United States and Egypt - is the first major breakthrough in Gaza's bloodiest ever war that has killed thousands and left



Palestinians bury bodies in a mass grave in Khan Yunis cemetery, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. (AFP)

much of the territory in ruins. Although it promises a truce that could be extended if more captives are freed, Israel has vowed to stick to its war aim of

destroying Hamas and rescuing all 240 hostages held in the war zone. "We are very happy that a partial release is pending," Israel's

Hostages and Missing Families Forum group said in a statement. "As of now, we don't know exactly who will be released when."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose cabinet approved the truce after a marathon overnight session, told his ministers it was a "difficult decision but it's a right decision".

The cabinet's sign-off was one of the last hurdles after what one US official described as five "extremely excruciating" weeks of talks.

Hamas welcomed the "humanitarian truce" and an official of the Islamist group told AFP that "the resistance is committed to the truce as long as the occupation honours it".

The war started after Hamas on October 7 launched the worst attack in Israel's history that left around 1,200 people dead, most of them civilians, according to the Israeli government.

Israel launched a major bombing campaign and then a ground offensive in Gaza which, according to the Hamas government, has killed 14,100 people, thousands of them children.

**Lulu opens 11th Hypermarket in Manama**



Middle East retail giant LULU Group, which is on a vast expansion mode, opened its 11th Hypermarket yesterday in the popular central Manama retail space near the Sacred Heart Church. The store was formally inaugurated by LuLu Group Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. Yusuffali M.A. in the presence of Dr. Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed bin Futtais Al Hajeri, Sunni Endowments Council Chairman, along with, H.E. Ms. Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri Undersecretary Ministry of Industry and Commerce, H.E Mr. Vinod K. Jacob Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom, diplomats, business leaders and VIP guests. (Full report on Business Page)

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# HM King graces Mara'ee '23

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the opening ceremony of the sixth edition of the Bahrain Animal Production Show (Mara'ee 2023) was held at the Bahrain International Endurance Village.

HM the King was welcomed on arrival by Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Organising Committee of the Agricultural and Animal Production Exhibition "Mara'ee 2023" and senior officials.

HM the King expressed the kingdom's keenness on supporting and developing the livestock and agricultural sector, as it is



HM the King watches a traditional Arabic dance show



crucial for achieving comprehensive development, increasing national food security, and ensuring sustainability.

His Majesty commended the government's programmes, plans, and projects led by HRH

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister that focus on agricultural, animal resources, and marine development to further enhance food security and the food industry.

His Majesty said it was im-

portant to continue efforts to boost Bahrain's status as a destination that attracts investment through creating opportunities and a conducive environment for growth.

His Majesty thanked the

Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture for its efforts in organising the event, as part of its initiatives to support innovation and advancement in agricultural and animal production.

His Majesty also noted the ef-

forts of the Royal Guard in supporting the success of the event.

His Majesty said that the participation of local companies in this edition demonstrated the support for local producers, commending the cultural, educational, and entertainment activities at the exhibition.

The minister delivered a speech in which he thanked HM the King for his patronage of the sixth edition of the Bahrain Animal Production Show (Mara'ee 2023) and for ongoing support for the event.

The directives of HM the King on holding the exhibition reflect the extent of its success and popularity, and Bahrain's leading position in international exhibitions specialised in agricultural and animal production, he added.

## Stage set for 2024 Flower & Vegetable Show Competition

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Garden Club, renowned for its historical Annual Flower & Vegetable Show, has announced the upcoming competition for the year 2024.

A press conference was held yesterday to unveil the details of the event, which is scheduled to take place from February 14th to 16th.

Eng. Zahra Abdulmalik, Chairperson of the Bahrain Garden Club, expressed gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his unwavering support and Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa for her immense contribution. The support from these distinguished figures has encouraged club members to actively participate in the show voluntarily.

"We will be celebrating our

diamond jubilee in 2025, and as an affiliated club to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in the United Kingdom, there are numerous opportunities for collaboration," said Eng. Zahra. "Over the past 15 years, our show has made our lives easier. However, next year's event poses a unique challenge as it will be a solo show."

The theme for the 2024 competition is "Bahrain Heritage,"



From left, Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa and Eng. Zahra Abdulmalik at yesterday's press conference

reflecting the rich cultural legacy of the country. This theme has been incorporated into various aspects of the competitions.

She further noted that for children aged three to six years, an activity has been introduced where they are required to plant date palm seeds in Bahraini clay pots. This activity aims to familiarise the children with local resources and promote sustainable gardening practices

by encouraging the use of locally sourced materials.

### Close connection

"Additionally, students between the ages of thirteen and eighteen will participate in a floral arrangement competition. We have informed the teachers that January and February are the months when the main date palm trees release pollen, allowing the students to collect and arrange them. Our goal is

to foster a close connection between the students and nature," she noted.

Children aged eight to 12 years will be challenged to design rock gardens. Given Bahrain's desert climate, the focus has shifted to cacti as desert plants for this age group.

The competition not only involves designing the garden but also introduces the concept of artistic eggshell recycling. Videos and workshops have been provided to assist the participants in their creative endeavors.

"Our emphasis this year is on teaching recycling practices and connecting with the local environment, all of which are encompassed in our competition," said Eng. Zahra. "We have compiled a show booklet containing all the competition details, criteria, and rules for entry. Additionally, booklets for home garden and school garden competitions are available on our website."

**The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF)**  
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## Embracing circular economy model



Mr. Al-Sulaiti



Mr. Calugi



Mr. Polychronopoulos



Ms. O'Brien

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

In a recent gathering of prominent figures from various sectors, the call for a transition to a circular economy resonated strongly. The circular economy model, which emphasizes reducing waste, reusing materials, and minimizing resource extraction, was hailed as a pathway to economic sustainability.

Mr. Athanassios Polychronopoulos, President & CEO of PolyGreen (Greece), stressed the importance of abandoning the concept of landfills and embracing a culture of using, reusing, and recycling.

He highlighted the surprising fact that older generations, particularly those aged 80 and above, demonstrated

the highest rates of recycling. Their upbringing, free from the throwaway culture prevalent today, serves as a reminder that adopting a more sustainable lifestyle means reverting to the practices of previous centuries.

Mr. Pietro Calugi, General Manager of Intesa Sanpaolo Bank (UAE), emphasized the need to redesign the industrial system to promote economic growth while ensuring resource efficiency.

He argued that the first industrial revolution brought us to our current state of economic development, and now, we must embrace alternative models to drive progress.

As an advocate of sustainable entrepreneurship, Mr. Ghanim Al-Sulaiti, CEO of Enbat Holdings (Qatar), highlighted the power of education and community engagement. Enbat Holdings has actively visited schools and universities to provide knowledge-based sustainable information. By initiating conversations within the community, they have witnessed significant shifts in people's behaviors and habits.

Ms. Janka O'Brien, Director of Sustainability at Emerson (UAE), shared an inspiring story from her personal life. Her twelve-year-old son, motivated by a project endorsed by the Ministry of Carbon Change in the UAE, embarked on a mission to collect and segregate plastic waste using smart boxes scattered across the country. These smart boxes, coupled with a mobile application, incentivise individuals by offering discounts at various stores.



# Pioneering project for child protection

## 11-year-old girl donates hair to cancer charity

Bahrain launches 'Single Interview in Child Sexual Assault Cases' project

TDT | Manama

Bahrain took a significant step forward in child protection with the unveiling of the groundbreaking 'Single Interview in Child Sexual Assault Cases' project.

Dr. Ali bin Fadhl Al Buainain, the Attorney-General, proudly introduced the first-of-its-kind initiative in the region. The project aims to revolutionise the investigation process, prioritising the psychological well-being of children by standardising criminal procedures during questioning.

The launch ceremony, attended by UK Ambassador Alastair Long, marked a collaborative effort to address the critical issue of child sexual assault. Dr. Al Buainain emphasised the project's positive impact on children's mental health, as it unifies criminal procedures for both victims and defendants in such cases.

Aligned with national standards, the project establishes a legal and social framework focused on safeguarding children's



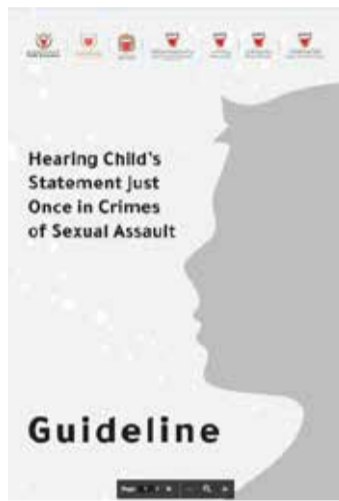
The project aims to revolutionise the investigation process, prioritising the psychological well-being of children by standardising criminal procedures during questioning.

rights, preserving their dignity, and upholding their psychological and moral integrity.

### Optimism

Dr. Al Buainain commended the dedicated efforts of the project team and expressed optimism about the positive outcomes expected from its implementation in judicial proceedings.

The British Ambassador laud-



The project's guidelines

ed the project's significance in protecting children's rights, praising the visionary leadership of the Attorney General and the continuous efforts of the Public Prosecution in this vital area. The collaboration between the Public Prosecution and the British Embassy played a crucial role in transferring the UK's experience to Bahrain.

Development of the project involved a committee, includ-

ing members from the Public Prosecution, judiciary, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission, and the Child Protection Centre at the Ministry of Social Development. The committee worked closely with criminal justice expert Paula Jack from the UK-based NICO Foundation.

### Recommendations

Following its formation, the committee submitted recommendations to the Attorney General, shaping the framework of the "Single Interview in Child Sexual Assault Cases" project.

In preparation for the project's implementation, the Public Prosecution conducted a comprehensive training program on child questioning mechanisms. The program reached 869 participants from various authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and the Child Protection Centre.



Thamanna hands over her hair to a Bahrain Cancer Society official

TDT | Manama

In a heartwarming gesture, Thamanna Manesh Kumar, a fifth-grade student at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB), exhibited compassion by donating her 29-centimeter-long hair to cancer patients in Bahrain.

Eleven-year-old Thamanna, an avid reader, had refrained from a significant haircut since 2021. Her father, Manesh Kumar, employed as an engineer at AISCO, and her mother, Thushara, along with her younger sister Tamesha, who is studying in UKG, comprise the family originally from Kottayam, Kerala, now residing in Juffair.

The benevolent act of donating hair holds particular significance for cancer patients undergoing mental and physical challenges due to their illness. Thamanna's donated hair will be utilised to craft wigs for individuals undergoing chemotherapy. The hair

was formally handed over to officials at the Bahrain Cancer Society in Adliya.

Expressing pride in their daughter's understanding of such acts of kindness at a young age, Thamanna's parents mentioned being inspired by other ISB students regularly engaging in similar noble endeavors.

ISB's Honorary Chairman, Prince S. Natarajan, Honorary Secretary Saji Antony, and Principal VR Palaniswamy extended their congratulations to Thamanna for her remarkable act of kindness.

This altruistic deed not only reflects Thamanna's empathy but also highlights the positive influence of the ISB community in fostering a spirit of benevolence among its students.

Thamanna's selfless contribution serves as a shining example of the impact a young individual can make in the lives of others through a simple yet profound act of kindness.

## StartUp Bahrain elevates entrepreneurship with eighth Pitch Series



Amal Dokhan with key industry stakeholders and attendees at the event

TDT | Manama

StartUp Bahrain, the prominent platform championing startups in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently played host to the eighth edition of the highly anticipated StartUp Bahrain Pitch series.

In collaboration with key industry stakeholders, including the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), the Bahrain Economic Development Board, and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB), this event unfolded as a special

edition in partnership with the Supreme Council for Women at Riyadat Mall.

The event was graced by a keynote speech from Amal Dokhan, the General Partner of 500 Global. Dokhan shared her personal entrepreneurial journey, delving into the challenges faced, risks encountered, and opportunities seized during her path to growth in the field.

This edition showcased five innovative Bahraini startups, presenting their compelling business ideas to a distinguished

panel of judges, featuring local and regional experts such as Fajer Alpachachi, General Manager at Hope Ventures; Vijay Tirathrai, Managing Director of Riyadh Techstars; Eman Shaikoor, Founder & CEO of Blossom Accelerator, and Amal Dokhan, General Partner at 500 Global.

Ahead of the event, the participating startups underwent an intensive 'Raise: Art of Fundraising' bootcamp, led by industry experts. Among the startups were Arsedh, providing a smart, contactless digital alternative for

paper receipts; Imprint Production (Ba9ma), a Bahraini production company focused on local filmmaking and art; Sellou, a location-centric social media app connecting consumers to places, products, and people; IBuildNow, an online local multi-vendor marketplace aiming to digitize the construction industry, and Siin, a B2C marketplace revolutionising e-commerce through live video.

After a series of engaging pitches, the panel of judges meticulously evaluated each start-

up's potential and ideas. The coveted first-place winner was announced as Siin, founded by Hesham Al Saati.

Al Saati expressed gratitude, stating, "StartUp Bahrain Pitch was a pivotal stage for spotlighting our startup, and we couldn't be more grateful to all the stakeholders that poured their resources and tools into providing us with such support. Our heartfelt appreciation extends to the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Tamkeen, the Bahrain Economic Development Board,

Bahrain Development Bank, the esteemed judging panel, and, of course, StartUp Bahrain, for granting us an incredible opportunity."

Siin is pioneering the Gulf's premier live shopping marketplace, fusing the excitement of live video with the convenience of online shopping. With plans to launch in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in January 2024, Siin aims to redefine the e-commerce landscape, making live shopping easy, safe, and fun for buyers and sellers alike.

## Telecommunications Regulatory Authority takes active role in WRC-23 opening

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has marked its presence at the commencement of the four-week-long World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) hosted in the United Arab Emirates.

Organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) every four years, the WRC stands among the most crucial industry events, drawing around 4,000 participants, including representatives of member states, international organisations, and manufacturers.



TRA officials with event organisers and participants

Viewing its participation as a strategic opportunity to bolster global cooperation and advance radiocommunications in Bah-

rain, the TRA is actively engaged in discussions, workshops, and sessions that delve into the latest technologies and advancements.

The Bahraini delegation is playing a pivotal role, representing the Arab Spectrum Group in the fourth and fifth work com-

mittees of the ITU's Radiocommunications Assembly (RA-23). Additionally, they contribute significantly to overseeing the elec-

tion process, revealed officials.

A highlight of the conference will be the signing of an international treaty governing the use of the radiofrequency spectrum. The TRA, with its dedicated efforts, has aimed to optimise frequency spectrum usage, aligning it with the Kingdom's requirements, and fostering sustainable advancements in the radiocommunications sector.

The authority's proactive involvement underlines its commitment to shaping the future landscape of radiocommunications on both national and global fronts, officials said.



# Al Noor International School triumphs in Quran contest

● Students awarded prizes, certificates in ceremony

TDI | Manama

Al Noor International School marked a momentous occasion yesterday as it hosted a ceremony to recognise the outstanding achievements of students in the 'Quran Recitation and Memorizing' competition.

His Excellency Issa Sami Al Mannai, Undersecretary of Justice and Islamic Affairs, graced the event as the chief guest and, alongside Mr. Ali Hasan, the school Chairman, awarded prizes and certificates to students spanning grades one through twelve.

In attendance were esteemed guests, including the school Director, Dr. Muhammad Masood, Principal Mr. Abdul Hakim Al-Shaer, officials from the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments,



HE Issa Sami Al Mannai and Mr. Ali Hasan with winning students

the Ministry of Education, as well as other dignitaries, members of the QA Department, Head Teachers, staff, and proud parents.

The welcome address was eloquently delivered by Ali Muhammad Hassan and Omar Mohammad Ateeq of grade 10.

The ceremony showcased the remarkable talents of students

through the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, featuring Ziad Al-Azam Muhammad Saif of Grade 11, Muhammad Ibrahim Ahmed of Grade 12, Mahmoud Ibrahim Ahmed of Grade 12, Ibrahim Muhammad Imran of Grade 11, Muhammad Mustafa Khaled of Grade 8, Gibran Mahmoud Jan of Grade 10, Rahha Sultana An-

war of Grade 10, Hassan Munir Ahmed of Grade 5, Hassan Issa Abu Khamas of Grade 5, Muhammad Rajab Abdul Karim of Grade 6, and Ali Rajab Abdul Karim of Grade 5. Their soulful renditions captivated the audience.

The chief guest, His Excellency Issa Sami Al Mannai, accompanied by Mr. Ali Hasan,

then honored and distributed prizes to 150 students who demonstrated exceptional Quran memorization skills and excelled in the recitation competition.

Mr. Abdullah Abdul Aziz Qatthan Al-Omari, Director of the Holy Quran Affairs Department, along with Dr. Muhammad Masood, the school Director, also

recognized and awarded prizes to 100 students who exhibited commendable Quran memorization.

Around 5,000 students participated in the competition, with 800 finalists and 250 winners across various categories, including surah memorisation, recitation excellence, best voice, and tajweed.



NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY (B.S.C)



## Invitation to Attend The Ordinary Annual General Meeting

The chairman of the Board of Directors of National Hotels Company B.S.C (CR No: 1665-1) is pleased to invite its shareholders to attend the Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 14th December 2023 at the "Majlis Hall" - Ground Floor of Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa. If the quorum of the meeting is not met, the second meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 21st December 2023 at the same venue. If the quorum of the second meeting is not met, the third meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday 28th December 2023 at the same venue.

### Ordinary Annual General Meeting Agenda:

1. Ratify the minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th March 2023.
2. Approve the Board of Directors' recommendation to borrow up to BD 25 million to support the Company's strategic & operational endeavors, mortgaging the Company's property as collateral and to authorize the Board of Directors to undertake the necessary steps to proceed and finalize the loan procedures.
3. Discuss any other matters in accordance with article 207 of the Commercial Companies' Law.

### Notes:

To participate in the meeting, we direct our valued shareholders to follow the below instructions:

- Shareholders should send their request to attend the meeting along with a copy of their identity card or a clear copy of their passport or their representative's, as well as the proxy card to [info@nhcbahrain.com](mailto:info@nhcbahrain.com) at least 24 hours before the date of the meeting in order to verify the identity of the attendee.
- Any shareholder whose name is registered in the Company's Shareholders' Register on the date of the meeting is entitled to attend in person or to authorize (in writing) any person to attend and vote on his behalf, provided that the authorized person is an individual other than the Chairman, member of the Board of Directors, or company employee.
- In case the shareholder is an institutional shareholder, the representative attending the meeting must submit a letter of authorization from the institutional shareholder, signed by an authorized signatory of the company. The proxy must be sealed by the institutional shareholder's stamp.
- The proxy card must be deposited at least 24 hrs prior to the date of the scheduled meeting at KFin Technology W.L.L.(Bahrain) Address (Office 74 - 7th Floor - Zamil Tower) P.O. Box 514 Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain. The proxy card may be delivered by hand, mail, fax - 17212055, or email - [Bahrain.helpdesk@Kfintech.com](mailto:Bahrain.helpdesk@Kfintech.com), and must be delivered before the end of the specified time.
- It is worth noting that the proxy card presented after the deadline is considered invalid for the purpose of the meeting.
- You can get the proxy card through the company website at [www.nhcbahrain.com](http://www.nhcbahrain.com) or the Bahrain Bourse website at [www.bahrainbourse.com](http://www.bahrainbourse.com).
- For any inquiries, please contact the department of Public & Investor Relations at 17530838 - 17530839.

Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani  
Chairman

## AUBH students shine at MISK Global Forum for second consecutive year



AUBH students taking part in the event

TDI | Manama

Students from the American University of Bahrain (AUBH) showcased their prowess at the esteemed MISK Global Forum, the largest youth forum in the region, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This marks the second consecutive year of active participation by AUBH students at this prestigious event.

The forum, renowned for fostering dialogue on global challenges and opportunities, featured a delegation of talented AUBH students engaging in insightful sessions.

Themed 'The Big Now', the forum aimed to inspire ambitious thinking and prompt action among young individuals. AUBH's sponsorship of its engineering students aligns with the university's vision of cultivating global leaders and innovators capable of inspiring positive societal changes, officials said.

The MISK conference also provided an unparalleled

platform for AUBH students to interact with international thought leaders and contribute to discussions shaping the future. This shows the university's commitment to fostering a dynamic learning environment where engineering students are encouraged to lead and innovate on a global scale, the officials added.

### Proud

Expressing his enthusiasm, AUBH President Dr. Bradley J. Cook stated, "We are proud to have our students represent AUBH at the MISK Global Forum. This experience aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing a global perspective and empowering our students to contribute meaningfully to the world."

The dynamic platform of the MISK Forum allowed students to participate in vibrant discussions and sessions such as 'AI for Good by ITU', 'Perseverance through Panic', 'Al-Diiri-

The MISK Global Forum is the largest youth forum in the region, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

yah Code', and 'Empowering Innovation'.

The forum provided students with opportunities to connect with prominent companies in their respective fields, fostering idea exchanges, networking opportunities, and acting as a catalyst for nurturing the potential of young leaders, encouraging collaboration, and inspiring positive global change, stated the officials.





# LuLu expands further; opens 11th Hypermarket In Manama

TDT | Manama

Middle East retail giant LuLu Group which is on a vast expansion mode underscored its commitment to Bahrain by opening its 11th Hypermarket yesterday in the popular central Manama retail space near the Sacred Heart Church.

The store was formally inaugurated by LuLu Group Chairman and Managing Director, Yusuffali M.A. in the presence of Dr Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed bin Futtais Al Hajeri, Sunni Endowments Council Chairman, along with, Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri Undersecretary Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Vinod K. Jacob Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom, diplomats, business leaders and guests.

“This store represents our confidence in Bahrain as a strong retail market and the LuLu Group’s alignment of vision.

“Our growth in Bahrain is powered by the inclusive and progressive vision of the leadership, the business-friendly economic environment and the ability of our Bahraini employees to absorb and fit into the Lulu service model which puts customers above all,” said Yusuffali.

“Within just 6 months, we shall have put in place an investment cycle of over BD200 million in Bahrain’s economy and creating over 1000 job opportunities for valued Bahraini nationals.”

The compact hypermarket comes packed with all the well-loved LuLu shopping touch-



In pictures, the inauguration of 11th Hypermarket in Bahrain by LuLu Group

points such as grocery, fresh fruit and vegetables and department store specials such as fashion, home goods and electronics, making shopping a bountiful

experience for shoppers. There will also be an in-house bakery to serve up fresh-baked breads and cakes, as well as shopping options that tap into

new award-winning trends. The store offers a convenient walk-in location in the heart of a thriving residential and commercial area.

## Mohd Hassan Al-Saeed October winner of NBB’s Al Watani Savings Scheme

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced Mohd Hassan Al-Saeed as the winner of USD 100,000 in the October Al Watani Savings Scheme prize draw.

NBB customers have an opportunity to win Al Watani Savings Scheme prizes with every deposit of BHD 50 they make into their SaveWave, Express Saver or Al Mumayaz accounts. Deposits can be

made through the Bank’s Digital Banking App or at any NBB branch.

NBB has increased the number of the Al Watani Savings Scheme monthly draws, providing more opportunities for the Bank’s customers to win large cash prizes from USD 10,000 up to USD 1,000,000. The Al Watani Savings Scheme draw in December will see two winners receive a grand prize of USD 1,000,000 each.

## Alba @ ARABAL



Ali Al Baqali, Chief Executive Officer at Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), led the company’s delegation at the Arab International Aluminium Conference (ARABAL), hosted by Ma’aden from November 21-23. Al Baqali was a speaker at the Arab CEO Smelter Panel ‘Current Challenges and Future Opportunities’, while the CPO Amin Sultan was part of the panel discussion on ‘Getting on Track with the Net Zero Scenario - Decarbonising the Aluminium Industry’ and CMO Khalid Abdullatif was one of the panelists at the discussion on ‘Aluminium Competitive Analysis - Landscape, Driving Factors, Technology and Challenges’. ARABAL has served as a platform for industry leaders to collaborate and drive innovation since its founding in 1983.

## Bahrain All Share Index marks 1,947.74 points

TDT | Manama

Bahrain All Share Index closed at 1,947.74 points marking an increase of



2.04 points above the previous closing. This increase was due to the rise in the financial sector, industrial sector and material sector.

Bahrain Islamic Index closed at 746.97 points, mark-

ing a decrease of 0.18 points below the previous closing.

Results indicated that 56 equity transactions took place with a volume of 851,056 worth BD 221,470.

Investors traded mainly in the financial sector representing 72.78 % of the total value of securities traded.

# Bank ABC hosts earnings call for Q3 2023

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC held its quarterly Earnings Investor Call for the nine months ended September 2023 on Tuesday. Hosted by the Group Chief Executive Officer, Sael Al Waary and the Group Chief Financial Officer, Brendon Hopkins, the virtual session was attended by the Bank’s investors and stakeholders.

The Call provided insights into Bank ABC’s financial performance and refreshed Group strategy to become MENA’s International Bank of the Future. Milestones achieved in recent times were highlighted, includ-



Brendon Hopkins

ing digital banking investments, acquisition of BLOM Bank Egypt, growth across the Group’s in-



Sael Al Waary

ternational banking franchise and refreshed Group strategy recently approved by the Board.

Group CEO, Sael Al Waary, commented: “I am pleased to see the strong participation in today’s call from shareholders and investors, which reflects keen interest in ABC’s strategy and performance, and is a show of confidence from the market.”

Group CFO, Brendon Hopkins, elaborated on the Bank’s strong financial performance for the nine months ending September 2023, focusing on: revenue growth reaching US\$943 million, representing a 19% year-on-year growth as well as a surge in Net Profit by 61%, reaching US\$183 million among others.

## CBB Treasury Bills oversubscribed by 113%

TDT | Manama

Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) announces that the BD 35 million monthly issue of Government Treasury Bills has been oversubscribed by 113%.

The bills, carrying a maturity of 182 days, are issued by the CBB, on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The issue date of the bills is November 26 and the maturity date is May 26 2024.

The weighted average rate of interest 6.38% compared to 6.39% of the previous issue on November 5.

The approximate average price for the issue was 96.875%, with the lowest accepted price being 96.851%.

This is issue No. 1992 (ISIN BH00037UVS60) of Government Treasury Bills. With this, the total outstanding value of Government Treasury Bills is BD 2.110 billion.

# Oil slumps as OPEC+ delays summit, stocks rise

London, United Kingdom

Oil prices slumped Wednesday after OPEC+ pushed back a summit meeting, while European and US stocks rose on hopes of an end to the US Federal Reserve’s interest rate-hiking cycle.

Sentiment also won a partial boost after Israel and Hamas announced a deal allowing at least 50 hostages and scores of Palestinian prisoners to be freed while offering besieged Gaza residents a four-day truce after

### Key figures around 1430 GMT

Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 4.6% at \$78.68 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 4.6% at \$74.18 per barrel
New York - DOW:	▲ 0.3% at 35,186.03 points
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.1% at 7,472.66
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.5% at 7,267.94
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.6% at 15,994.77
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.6% at 4,356.29
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3% at 33,451.83 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index:	▲ at 17,734.60 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.8% at 3,043.61 (close)

weeks of all-out war.

A statement announcing a delay to Thursday of a planned summit of the 13-member OPEC group led by Saudi Arabia and their 10 partners led by Russia did not provide any explanation.

The oil exporters are due to decide on their output policy amid slumping crude prices and weak crude demand e United States battle inflation.

The current output strategy by OPEC+ that saw nine members led by Riyadh to cut production

in recent months to boost prices has failed to bring about lasting recovery. Oil prices, which had been trading modestly lower, slumped to losses of around 4.6%, with the main international crude contract, Brent, falling back under \$80 per barrel. Some analysts have pointed to possible discord between top oil exporter Saudi Arabia -- which has lobbied for production cuts to support prices -- and Russia.

Wall Street’s three main indices rose at the start of trad-

ing, with data showing continued strength in the US labour market. In Europe, Frankfurt and Paris stocks pushed higher but London slid despite the announcement of measures by the UK government to boost the nation’s ailing economy.

Asian equity indices diverged as traders tracked a tepid lead from Wall Street following meeting minutes showing Fed officials were inclined to keep interest rates elevated for “some time” in order to tame inflation.





News in brief

The United States said Tuesday it was considering designating Yemen's Houthi rebels a terrorist organization after their seizure of an Israel-linked cargo vessel in the Red Sea.



US mulls designating Yemen's Houthis a terrorist organization

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters that "in light of... the piracy of a ship in international waters, we have begun a review of potential terrorist designations and we'll be considering other options together with our allies and partners as well."

France's Macron to host Arab foreign ministers



French President Emmanuel Macron will discuss "the situation in the Middle East" with foreign ministers from major Arab and majority-Muslim countries, his office said.

Six Palestinians shot dead in West Bank: Palestinian Authority



Six Palestinians were shot dead in an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, the Palestinian Authority's health ministry said.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Indian rescuers drill two-thirds of way towards 41 trapped workers: official

AFP | Silkyara Tunnel, India



Indian rescuers have drilled two-thirds of the way through the debris towards 41 workers trapped in a collapsed road tunnel for 11 days, officials said yesterday.

"I am very happy to share that 39 metres (128 feet) of drilling has been completed," said Mahmood Ahmad, a road and highways ministry official involved in the operations.

Engineers were working to drive a steel pipe through at least 57 metres of earth and rock dividing the trapped men from freedom.

Excavators have been removing tonnes of earth, concrete and rubble from the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand since November 12, when a portion of the tunnel collapsed.

Looking into the tunnel entrance on Wednesday, an AFP journalist could see sparks flying as workers welded metal tube sections together, with the site busy with excavators and heavy trucks.

"If there is no blockage, we hope there could be happy news late tonight or tomorrow," Ahmad told reporters at the site.

"This is very happy news for us, that we are moving forward at a fast pace," he added.

However, he warned that

the remaining section yet to be drilled was critical.

Rescue efforts have been slow, complicated by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of crucial heavy-drilling machines.

The giant earth-boring machine last week ran into boulders, and drilling was put on hold for more than three days after a cracking sound in the roof.

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday spoke of the "positive progress made in the last 24 hours", without further details.

But a government statement also noted that "timelines provided are subject to change due to technical glitches, the challenging Himalayan terrain, and unforeseen emergencies".

In case the route through the main tunnel entrance does not work, blasting and drilling have also begun from the far end of the unfinished tunnel, nearly half a kilometre (over a quarter of a mile) long.

Preparations have also been made for a risky vertical shaft directly above.

'First good news'

World welcomes Gaza hostage deal

There are at least 35 children among the hostages, 18 of them aged 10 and under

Under the terms of the deal, Palestinian militants will release 50 hostages, all women and children in exchange for the freeing of 150 Palestinian prisoners, made up of women and teenagers

The most prominent Palestinian prisoner on the Israeli list is Israa Jaabis, 38, who was convicted of blowing up a gas cylinder in her car at a checkpoint in 2015

AFP | Paris, France

Nations around the globe welcomed yesterday the announcement that Israel and Hamas reached a deal to free hostages and pause ferocious fighting and bombardment in Gaza.

Some 240 people -- ranging from infants to the elderly -- were taken captive during the Hamas-led October 7 attack that killed about 1,200 in Israel, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

Israel retaliated with a bombing

BETTER YOU KNOW Israel and Hamas announced a deal on Wednesday allowing hostages and scores of Palestinian prisoners to be freed while offering besieged Gaza residents a four-day truce after weeks of all-out war.

Teenage boys, 59-year-old woman: the Palestinian prisoners listed for release

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The vast majority of Palestinians slated for release under an Israel-Hamas swap deal to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza, are teenage boys, an official Israeli list shows.

Israel released the names on Wednesday of 300 Palestinian detainees who could be set free under the agreement.

Under the terms of the deal, the first phase will see 50 Israeli hostages released over the course of four days, with 150 security detainees to be freed in response.

More detainees could subsequently be released at the same ratio of three to one, it said.

An AFP examination of the names found that 33 were women, 123 were boys under 18, and 144 were 18-year-old men.

The youngest was 14-year-old Adam Abuda Hassan Gheit from annexed east Jerusalem, who was arrested in May for "hostile sabotage activity, attacking a police officer and throwing stones".

The oldest was a 59-year-old woman called Hanan Salah Abdallah Barghuti, who was arrested in September for "Hamas activity including money transfers", it said. It identified 49 as Hamas members, 60 as belonging to Fatah, the party which leads the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank, and 17 as being affiliated with the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation

campaign and ground offensive in Gaza, which, according to the Hamas government in the territory, has killed 14,100 people, mainly civilians that included thousands of children.

Here are some key reactions to the agreement:

'Extraordinarily gratified' US President Joe Biden thanked the leaders of Qatar and Egypt for their "critical leadership" in reaching the deal.

"I am extraordinarily gratified



A Palestinian man receives treatment after an Israeli strike near the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip

of Palestine (PFLP).

The others had no affiliation specified.

The most prominent individual on the list is Israa Jaabis, 38, who was convicted of detonating a gas cylinder in her car at a checkpoint in 2015, wounding a police officer. She was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Israeli rights group HaMoked welcomed the deal.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the "breakthrough" agreement "must be used to bring vital aid to people in Gaza."

'De-escalate conflict' Beijing hoped "that it will help ease the plight of the humanitarian crisis, de-escalate the conflict and ease tensions", said foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning.

'First good news' The Kremlin called the deal

and Iraq. Helsinki has accused Moscow of pushing them there deliberately, which Russia denies.

Russia warns of a 'crisis' at Arctic border with Finland

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia said Wednesday a humanitarian emergency was unfolding at one of its checkpoints on the Arctic border with Finland, where it said hundreds of migrants were stranded in freezing temperatures.

More than 500 asylum seekers have crossed from Russia to Finland since November, Finnish public broadcaster YLE says, mostly from Somalia, Syria, Yemen

and Iraq. Helsinki has accused Moscow of pushing them there deliberately, which Russia denies.

'Sustainable solutions' Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi welcomed the deal and noted "the continuation of the Egyptian efforts to reach final and sustainable solutions... to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

India resumes e-visas for Canadian nationals: sources

AFP | New Delhi, India

India opened e-visa applications for Canadian nationals yesterday, official sources said, two months after halting the service following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Sikh separatist in Canada.

Official sources, who asked not be named, confirmed the development to AFP without giving details.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa had in late October announced the resumption of visa services for Canadians but this did not include online applications.

The re-opening of e-visa services Wednesday came just hours before a virtual G20 meeting hosted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Trudeau due to take part. This would be the first time the leaders would meet, albeit online, since the row over Nijjar's killing.

India has said it was willing to examine any evidence that Canadian authorities might present and temporarily stopped processing visa applications in Canada.

Canada announced last month it had withdrawn 41 diplomats from India as a result of the row.

Probe says Australian chopper ran dry on crocodile egg hunt

AFP | Sydney, Australia

An Australian crocodile egg hunter was killed after the helicopter he was dangling from ran out of fuel mid-flight, accident investigators said yesterday.

The pilot of the Robinson R44 helicopter took cocaine in the days before the February 2022 accident, and likely failed to refuel as planned during the Northern Territory outing, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in its final report.

The crocodile egg collector, "Outback Wrangler" television series personality Chris Wilson, had been attached to the helicopter from a 100-foot (30-metre) line when disaster struck, it said.

When the fuel ran out and the helicopter fell, "the pilot released the egg collector above a likely-survivable height, fatally injuring him",



Representative picture

the safety authority said.

Soon after, the fatally injured egg collector was found on the ground, still wearing a harness and line, which had been disconnected from the aircraft, it said. The pilot lay beside the helicopter with "serious injuries".

Investigators said the pilot had failed to notice the dropping fuel before the tank ran dry. They found "the pilot's exposure to cocaine within the previous few days increased the likelihood of fatigue, depression and inattention, however there was insufficient evidence to determine whether these effects occurred".

Japan says unconfirmed if North Korea satellite in orbit

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Japan said yesterday it remained unclear if North Korea had successfully managed to put a military spy satellite into orbit as claimed by Pyongyang.

"The (Japanese) government at this point is not confirming whether the satellite had entered into an orbit around the Earth," chief government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno said.

The comment came more than 12 hours after North Korea fired a ballistic missile carrying what it said was the satellite. So far, only North Korea has said it successfully put the reconnaissance satellite into orbit.

Matsuno added that Japan's defence ministry was "currently analysing" the launch.

"We think that since last year, North Korea has conducted repeated launches using ballistic missile technology at the highest-ever frequency, and is rapidly improving its missile-related technology and its operational capability," Matsuno told reporters.

"North Korea's repeated launches using ballistic missile



North Korea's Kim Jong Un

technology cannot be tolerated, and its rapid improvement of missile technology cannot be overlooked," he added.

Immediately after the launch late Tuesday, Japan issued an evacuation order to residents in the southern region of Okinawa before rescinding the call after the missile passed over the Pacific Ocean.

"Even if they call it a satellite, the launch of an item that uses ballistic missile technology is clearly a violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday.

Japan in May ordered its military to be prepared to shoot down any North Korean ballistic missile after Pyongyang announced its failed first attempt to put a satellite in space.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01

Welcome the agreement reached by Israel & Hamas. It's an important step in the right direction, but much more needs to be done.

02

Today's outcome is the result of tireless diplomacy and relentless effort across the United States government.

03

My colleagues and I are devastated: we have lost one of our own in #Gaza today.

04

Welcome the deal to secure the release of hostages taken by Hamas during its brutal assault against Israel on October 7th.

WIDE ANGLE

Construction Waste Poses Environmental Hazard



KOTA SRIRAJ

The rapid pace of economic development has also brought in its wake a wave of construction activity. Bahrain's construction market size is expected to grow from USD 2.92 billion in 2023 to USD 3.58 billion by 2028, at a CAGR of 4.18% during the forecast period (2023-2028).

Bahrain has taken exemplary measures to safeguard the environment against the impact of construction waste and owing to this, the nation has kept its delicate ecology and biodiversity relatively unharmed inspite of the rapid pace of building activity.

But as the challenges grow pertaining to the construction waste generation, there is a need to ramp up the management of the same by adopting effective measures that can absorb more waste efficiently.

Bahrain has taken exemplary measures to safeguard the environment against the impact of construction waste and owing to this, the nation has kept its delicate ecology and biodiversity relatively unharmed inspite of the rapid pace of building activity.

The architect fraternity can also contribute in a major way by adopting designs and strategies that minimise construction waste and maximise the utilisation of recycled materials.

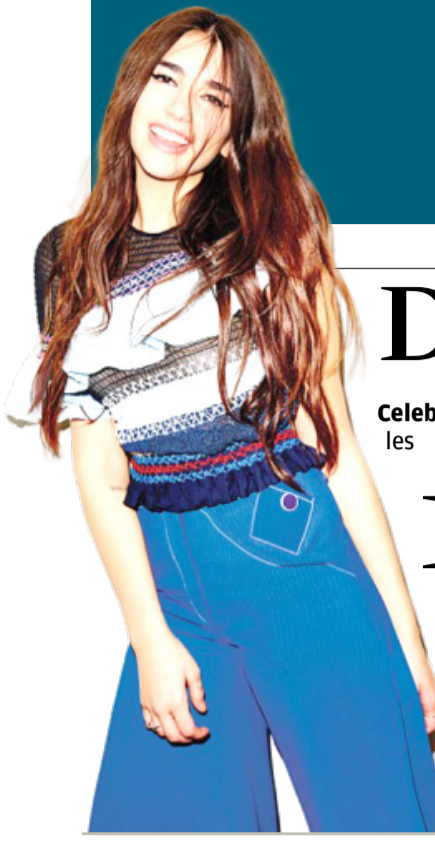
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(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)



# CHEERS celebs



## Dua Lipa's goal is to 'change pop culture'

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

**D**ua Lipa wants to "change pop culture".

The 28-year-old pop star inspired a whole new generation with her seminal 2020 disco-pop LP 'Future Nostalgia', and as her third album campaign gets underway, Dua Lipa

her team says they are aiming to change the pop landscape again. Warner's Alex Burford told Music Week: "A successful Dua campaign is one that lasts a couple of years or more. We want more diamond records. We want streams of two billion plus. We want her to be the most streamed artist in the world."

He added: "We went into the campaign thinking, 'Judge us in two years' and we want to have huge culturally important mo-

ments in that time, in the same way Future Nostalgia defined a particular time and became a really important album. The goal is not to have success in any one week, the goal is to change pop culture."

So far, Dua has released the lead single 'Houdini' from the LP, which sees the star go from disco-pop to electronic psychedelic pop.

She recruited Kevin Parker of the Psychedelic outfit Tame Impala to co-produce the upcoming re-

cord alongside rave and electronic pioneer Danny L. Harle.

Meanwhile, Dua says she is thrilled to have bought back her publishing rights to her back catalogue, while encouraging young artists to get lawyered up.

Speaking to Audacy, she said: "I think it's just something I've always wanted — to be in control of my own music."

She added: "To be able to have all the rights back to my songs feels really good. It's my life's work, so

it's good to be the person to say what happens with it."

Asked about Taylor Swift re-recording her early albums due a feud over her master rights, she said: "I think what had happened to Taylor obviously was something that completely started getting people to understand that they should have a lawyer, and understand the business of music, for sure! I think owning your publishing was just something that I really wanted to have."

### CINEMA

**NAPOLEON**  
(15+) (DRAMA/HISTORICAL/WAR/BIOGRAPHY) (NEW)  
JOAQUIN PHOENIX, VANESSA KIRBY, BEN MILES

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.15 + 3.30 + 6.45 + 10.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE: (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)  
CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE: (IMAX2D): 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 + 8.45 + 12.00 MN  
CITY CENTRE:(THEATRE):12.00 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL: 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM  
AL LIWAN: (ATMOS):1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM

**WISH**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/MUSICAL) (NEW)  
CHRIS PINE, ARIANA DEBOSE, ALAN TUDYK

OASIS JUFFAIR: (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR: (3D): 3.15 + 8.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE:11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE: (3D): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (II): (3D) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL:12.00 + 2.00 + 6.00 + 10.00 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: (3D) 4.00 + 8.00 PM  
AL LIWAN: (JUNIOR CINEMA): 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
AL LIWAN: (JUNIOR CINEMA): (3D) 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 PM

**THE RETALIATORS**  
(18+) (HORROR/ACTION) (NEW)  
JOSEPH GATT, MARC MENCHACA, MICHAEL LOMBARDI

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.15 + 4.30 + 8.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN  
WADI AL SAIL:10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM  
AL LIWAN: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

**THE GHOST WITHIN**  
(15+) (HORROR) (NEW)  
MICHAELA LONGDEN, REBECCA PHILLIPSON, SIMON DAVIES

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.15 + 6.30 + 10.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM  
SEEF (II): 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL:12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM  
AL LIWAN: 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 PM

**DHRUVA NATCHATHIRAM: CHAPTER**

(PG-13) (TAMIL) (NEW)  
CHIYAAN VIKRAM, RITU VARMA, RADHAKRISHNAN PARTHIBAN  
FROM FRI 24th  
OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.45 AM + 1.45 + 4.45 + 7.45 + 10.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (I): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): (12.30 MN FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL:1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 PM  
AL HAMRA: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN FRI)

**FALIMY**  
(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) (NEW)  
BASIL JOSEPH, JAGADISH, MANJU PILLAI

OASIS JUFFAIR:12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM  
AL HAMRA: ON THURS 23th :12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN

**80'S BUILDUP**  
(PG-13) (TAMIL) (NEW)  
SANTHANAM NEELAMEGAM, ANANDRAJ, MANSOOR ALI KHAN

FROM FRI 24th  
OASIS JUFFAIR: 3.00 + 8.15 PM  
SEEF (I): 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

**AADIKESHAVA**  
(TELUGU) (NEW)  
PANAJ VAISSHAV TEJ, SREELEELA, SRIRAM REDDY POLASANE

FROM FRI 24th  
OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 5.45 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

**PRIYOTOMA**  
(PG-15) (BENGALI/ROMANTIC/ACTION) (NEW)  
SHAKIB KHAN, IDHIKA PAUL, SHAHIDUZZAMAN SELIM

SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 5.00 PM

**PARDESHI-2**  
(PG-13) (NEPALI) (NEW)  
PRAKASH SAPUT, PRASHANT TAMANG, DILIP RAYAMAJI

SEEF (I): 2.15 + 11.00 PM

**SAPTA SAGARADAACHE ELLO-SIDE B (I)**  
(KANNADA) (NEW)  
RAKSHIT SHETTY, RUKMINI VASANTH

SEEF (I): 8.00 PM

**TIGER 3**  
(HINDI/ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER) (PG13)  
SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF

OASIS JUFFAIR:10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 + 8.45 + 12.00 MN  
CITY CENTRE:(THEATRE):12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I):11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM  
AL LIWAN:1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM

**THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF**

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/DRAMA/THRILLER)  
TOM BLYTH, RACHEL ZEGLER, PETER DINKLAGE

CITY CENTRE:10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE:(THEATRE): 1.30 + 8.00 PM  
SEEF (II): 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 7.30 + 10.45 PM  
AL LIWAN: 10.45 AM + 1.45 + 4.45 + 7.45 + 10.45 PM

**THE MARVELS**  
(PG-13)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)  
BRIE LARSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZAWE ASHTON

CITY CENTRE:12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)  
CITY CENTRE:(THEATRE): 5.00 + 12.15 MN  
SEEF (II): 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 5.15 PM  
AL LIWAN: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

**THE SMURFS: TIMELESS ADVENTURE**  
(G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
DAVIS FREEMAN, BÉRANGÈRE MCNEESE, MARK IRONS

CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 5.00 + 8.45 PM  
SEEF (II):11.15 AM + 3.15 + 7.15 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 PM  
AL LIWAN: 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 + 6.15 PM

**GARUDAN**  
(PG-13) (MALAYALAM)  
SURESH GOPI, BIJU MENON, ABHIRAMI

OASIS JUFFAIR:12.30 + 5.15 + 10.00 PM  
SEEF (II): 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 PM

**FREELANCE**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/THRILLER)

**JOHN CENA, ALISON BRIE, JUAN PABLO RABA**  
CITY CENTRE : 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

**THE EQUALIZER 3**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME)  
DENZEL WASHINGTON DAKOTA FANNING DAVID DENMAN

CITY CENTRE:7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

**FIVE NIGHT'S AT FREDDY'S**  
(15+) (HORROR/DRAMA)  
JOSH HUTCHERSON, MATTHEW LILLARD, ELIZABETH LAIL

CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN

**RETRIBUTION**  
(PG-15) (THRILLER/CIRME)  
LIAM NEESON, NOMA DUMEZWENI, MATTHEW MODINE

CITY CENTRE:1.30 + 5.45 + 10.00 PM

**KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON**  
(15+) (DRAMA/CRIME/THRILLER)  
LEONARDO DICAPRIO, ROBERT DE NIRO, JESSE PLEMONS

CITY CENTRE: 1.00 + 7.30 PM

**SUKKAR**  
(PG) (ARABIC/MUSICAL/FAMILY)  
MAGDA ZAKI, HALA TURK, MOHAMAD THARWAT

CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM  
SEEF (II): 1.30 + 8.00 PM

**THE EXORCIST: BELIEVER**  
(15+) (HORROR/DRAMA)  
LESLIE ODOM JR., ELLEN BURSTYN, ANN DOWD

CITY CENTRE:10.30 AM + 5.00 + 11.30 PM

**PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/FAMILY)  
MCKENNA GRACE, TARAJI P. HENSON, MARSAL MARTIN

CITY CENTRE : 11.15 AM + 3.00 + 6.45 + 10.30 PM

**THE SNOW QUEEN & THE PRINCESS**  
(PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
IRINA CHUMANTYEVA, SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA

SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 6.15 PM

**GRAN TURISMO**  
(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/DRAMA/SPORT)  
DAVID HARBOUR, ORLANDO BLOOM, ARCHIE MADEKWE

SEEF (II): 3.30 + 10.00 PM

## 'Like an imposter living in your body': Emily Blunt still struggles with stutter

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

**E**mily Blunt feels like she has an "imposter" living inside her because of her stutter.

The 'Mary Poppins Returns' actress developed a speech impediment in childhood and she admitted she sometimes still struggles to not have her words get "stuck", particularly when feeling nervous or under pressure.

Speaking on stage at Variety's Power of Women gala in Los Angeles on Thursday (16.11.23), she said: "Certain words will get stuck, the phone is a bit of a nightmare... "Environments challenge me if I'm scared, or if I'm under pressure to persuade or convince, like, don't ever ask me to pitch you



Emily Blunt

anything ever." "A stutter is like an imposter living in your body. Who doesn't pay rent. And completely and utterly misrepresents who you are as a person."

The 40-year-old actress was honoured at the gala with the Wells Fargo's Power of Women Alumni Award for her work with children at the American Institute for Stuttering and she admitted she felt "grateful" to shine a light on the organisation.

She said: "I am grateful to shed light on [stuttering] because it is a disability that lives very often in the shadows alongside its friends: fear and shame and humiliation." And Emily called

## Drew Barrymore fears she'd get 'addicted' to cosmetic surgery

**Celebretainment** | Los Angeles

**D**rew Barrymore fears she'd get addicted to cosmetic surgery.

The 48-year-old actress-turned-talk show host - who had her first stint in rehab when she was just 13 years old - can't see herself "resorting" to going under the knife and admitted she'd be hesitant mostly because she is concerned about being the sort of person

who would get obsessive over chasing perfection.

She told People magazine: "I haven't done anything, and I'm going to maintain that as long as possible.

"I have zero judgment for anyone doing anything. But I don't see myself resorting to it... "I have a highly addictive personality, so I worry I'd continue to chase it, get this and that done."



Drew Barrymore

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Yesterday's solution

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

### CROSSWORD

**Across**  
1- Stitched; 5- Clickable image; 9- Kind of collar; 13- Dos cubed; 14- Water wheel; 16- Additional; 17- Forcible impact; 18- Urns; 19- Corn bread; 20- ... bene; 21- That, in Tijuana; 22- Leopardlike cat; 24- Fender ding; 26- Operation memento; 27- Coquet; 29- Exposed; 33- Thaw before takeoff; 34- Singer Turner; 35- Change the decor; 36- Female sheep; 37- Artificial waterway; 38- J. Hancocked?; 39- Staying power; 41- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 42- Rival of Helena; 44- Building; 46- Deluge; 47- Capital of Italy; 48- Derrick; 49- Wading birds; 52- Directional suffix; 53- Rights org.; 57- Move along in a stream; 58- Had; 60- Animal house; 61- Ballerina's skirt; 62- Umbilicus; 63- Nest eggs, briefly; 64- Football; 65- Jekyll's alter ego; 66- Gillette brand;

**Down**  
1- Planted; 2- Reflected sound; 3- Come again?; 4- Wandering; 5- Create with the imagination; 6- Seashore; 7- Estimator's phrase; 8- Never, in Nuremberg; 9- High ruler; 10- Kit item; 11- Yes \_; 12- Nair rival; 15- Reclusive; 23- Scoundrel; 25- Before, of yore; 26- Capital city of Yemen; 27- Not as many; 28- Feudal vassal; 29- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 30- Basil-based sauce; 31- Barely beat; 32- Network point; 33- Remove from text; 34- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 37- Incarnadine; 40- Foul-up; 42- "Hold On Tight" band; 43- East African nation; 45- Small drink, young child; 46- Caress; 48- Cultivate; 49- Newts; 50- Oversupply; 51- Routine; 52- A deadly sin; 54- Wagon; 55- Yarn spinner; 56- Bear up there; 59- Baby's cry;

Yesterday's solution

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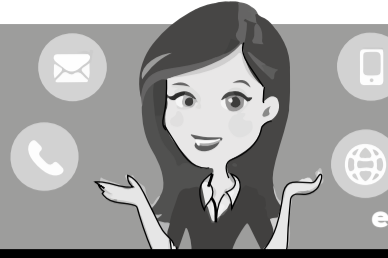
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## History for LeBron as Lakers advance in NBA in-season tournament

AFF | Los Angeles



LeBron James in action

LeBron James claimed another piece of NBA history on Tuesday, becoming the first player to break the 39,000-point barrier as the Los Angeles Lakers routed the Utah Jazz to reach the knock-out stage of the league's new in-season tournament.

The 38-year-old, needing just five points to reach the milestone heading into the game, etched his name into the record books with a three-pointer in the first quarter of a 131-99 Lakers win.

James, who passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar last season to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer, saluted the crowd as his achievement was announced.

"I haven't really had an opportunity to wrap my head around what it means," James said of his latest scoring milestone.

"There's been so many great players in this league since the beginning of time, and so many great scorers.

"To be able to be the first of anything is always pretty cool. A wild moment, for sure."

James' landmark set the mood for a celebratory occasion at the Crypto.com Arena as the Lakers went on to score a wire-to-wire win and reach the in-season tournament's quarter-finals.

## Batelco Fitness on Track, Orange Media Open Track Day to make for a fun-filled Friday at BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) has lined up another fun-filled Friday in Sakhir with an exciting double-header catered to both fitness enthusiasts and motorsport lovers.

Set to be held as back-to-back activities are Batelco Fitness on Track and Orange Media Open Track Day.

Both offerings attract large numbers of participants and those wishing to take part in either or both events are advised to book their slot in advance.

Batelco Fitness on Track will be held first thing Friday morning from 6am to 10am, giving participants a bright start to their weekend. This fun physical activity is perfect for the whole family or groups of friends to enjoy together, as all will have the chance to exercise either on foot or on a bicycle



Participants on track at BIC during a previous Fitness on Track event

within BIC's safe and controlled environment.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will be able to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Cir-

cuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

BIC's Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass, which is ideal for regular participants, is still also available

Meanwhile, the Orange Media

Open Track Day will follow on Friday from 11am to 7pm.

This activity offers motorsport enthusiasts the chance to satisfy their need for speed in their very own car or motorbike.

Participants will be able to push their vehicles to the limit along BIC's 2.550km Inner Track, all within the safe and controlled environment of "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

Instructor sessions are also available at an extra cost, while additional drivers and passengers can also participate for a fee.

Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance in every Orange Media Open Track Day, so there is no close or aggressive overtaking permitted. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly by officials.

# And the curse continues! Flavio out of BRAVE CF 78 as Lutterbach vs Santiago moved to main event

TDT | Manama

The BRAVE CF Flyweight title curse is real. After yet another injury, the organisation will not be crowning its first-ever 125-pound champion in Brazil after all.

Flavio Queiroz, who was supposed to face Edilceu Alves for the title, has fallen ill and is out of the fight - It is the 11th time the company is forced to deal with last-minute changes related to the inaugural Flyweight belt, which will continue to have no owner in the near future.

Alves now takes on newcomer Marciano Ferreira in a non-title bout, while the Super Lightweight duel between former world champion Luan Santiago and top contender Joilton Lutterbach is the new main event of BRAVE CF 78.

The event, which takes place December 7, in association with Victorious Fight and Entertainment, is the return of the most

### BRAVE CF 78 Full Fight Card

**Super Lightweight:** Joilton Lutterbach vs Luan Santiago

**Flyweight:** Edilceu Alves vs Marciano Ferreira

**Super Welterweight:** Luiz Cado vs Vernon Ramos

**Lightweight:** Arlen Benks vs Yabna Ferreira NtchalÆ

**Lightweight:** Marcelo Marques vs Manuel Mena

### Victorious Fight Card

**Lightweight:** Junior Melo vs Danilo Santos

**Catchweight 68kg:** Ricardo de Almeida vs Roberto Benitez

**Light Heavyweight:** Jhonatan Azevedo vs Rafael Cerqueira

**Bantamweight:** Tiago Caboclo vs Lazaro Mascarenhas

**Strawweight:** Gracy Maia vs Ada Leticia

**Featherweight:** Israel Figueira vs Wilker Nsamo

global MMA organization to its second home in Brazil.

For the first time, BRAVE Combat Federation will land in Fortaleza, in the North-East of the country, as Brazil become the first country to host BRAVE CF shows in three different cities (Curitiba and Belo Horizonte being the other ones).

The full fight card for BRAVE CF 78 has also been released with the return of Super Welterweight hard-hitter Luiz Cado taking on Vernon Ramos, in a bout that was supposed to take place in Colombia at BRAVE CF 73.

The main card is rounded up with the debuts of Brazilian



standouts Arlen "Benks" Ribeiro and Marcelo Marques, who take on Yabna Ferreira NtchalÆ and Manuel Mena, respectively.

Curiously enough NtchalÆ will become the first fighter from Guinea-Bissau to feature at BRAVE CF, while Mena will be the first male Venezuelan athlete, after Yasmeli Araque.

The Victorious portion of the fight card features two huge matchups, the first at Lightweight between Junior Melo and Danilo Santos and a Brazil vs Argentina clash as Ricardo



de Almeida takes on Roberto Benitez in a Catchweight bout of 68kg.

BRAVE CF 78: Victorious takes place at the Centro de Formação Olimpica stadium in Fortaleza, the capital of Ceara state in Brazil. It is BRAVE CF's fifth overall Brazilian show, and the first in four years, as the organisation renews its commitment with the booming Brazilian MMA scene, which has seen five world champions in BRAVE CF history, as well as over 90 fighters signed in seven years.



## HH Shaikh Khalid honours Bahrain Schools Chess Championship winners

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman, and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President, the Ministry of Education organised the Bahrain Schools Chess Championship.

HH Shaikh Khalid praised the success of the third edition of His Highness's Chess Championship for Bahrain Schools, in which a large number of students competed.

The tournament's success reflects the efforts of the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Bahrain Mind Games Federation and the Bahrain Chess Club, he added.

HH Shaikh Khalid emphasised the role of mind sports, particularly chess, in enhancing stu-



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with some of the winners from the event

dents' mental skills and thinking, promoting their abilities in sports competitions, and instilling values like commitment, cooperation, and fair competition, while also strengthening social communication skills among students.

His Highness urged for continued efforts to organize chess tournaments, highlighting its popularity and ability to moti-

vate the spirit to challenge and compete.

He emphasised the tournament's role in discovering talents and pledged to support the national chess team in foreign forums.

He expressed appreciation for the event's efforts and congratulated first-place winners and students on their success

Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak

Juma, Minister of Education; Dr. Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, General Sports Authority's CEO; and Dr. Khalid Burhan, Bahrain Chess Club Chairman were present during the event.

The minister expressed his gratitude for His Highness's patronage of the closing ceremony of the tournament, and thanked him for supporting youth sports

tournaments and school sports events in Bahrain.

He expressed pride in Bahrain's high support for the youth and sports sectors as art of the development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the follow up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He also noted the role of His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in supporting the development of the youth and sports sectors.

The minister highlighted the success of the chess school tournament in Bahrain, which attracted over 4,000 students from public and private schools in its first edition.

The second edition saw over 5,000 participants.

The Ministry plans to promote the tournament and encourage more participation in collaboration with mind sports organisations.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa awarded the tournament winners across. The Minister of Education presented a memento to His Highness.

# Argentina sink Brazil in ill-tempered clash

Argentina triumphs 1-0 against Brazil in a heated 2026 World Cup qualifier after crowd trouble

● **Otamendi's header seals Argentina's victory in Maracana despite pre-match chaos**

AFP | Rio De Janeiro

Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0 on Tuesday in an ill-tempered 2026 World Cup qualifying clash marred by pre-match crowd trouble that forced kick-off to be delayed.

A 63rd-minute header from veteran defender Nicolas Otamendi secured victory for Argentina as the world champions bounced back from last week's defeat to Uruguay to beat their bitter South American rivals.

The win at Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium leaves Argentina on top of the South American qualifying standings with 15 points from six games.

Brazil's third defeat of qualifying, meanwhile, leaves the five-time world champions in sixth place with seven points from six games.

"This group continues to achieve historic things," Argentina captain Lionel Messi said afterwards. "Maybe today wasn't the most important thing, but it was a nice win."



Argentina's defender Cristian Romero (L) fights for the ball with Brazil's forward Gabriel Martinelli

Tempers had flared in the stands at the Maracana moments before kick-off, with Brazilian police seen using batons to drive back a block of Argentine fans at one end of the ground.

Several Argentina players went towards the disturbances in an apparent attempt to plead for calm, with goalkeeper Emi Martinez attempting to jump into the seating area at one stage to confront a baton-wielding Brazilian police officer.

Argentina's players led by Messi then returned to their dressing room as the clashes continued, with Messi appearing to say: "We're not playing, we're

leaving."

Messi later explained he had taken his team-mates off the field in the hope of cooling the atmosphere.

"We went to the locker room because it was a way to calm everything down a little," Messi said. "We went to see how our families and people close to us were doing. And then we came back."

The 2022 World Cup winners re-emerged onto the field shortly before 10pm local time and the match kicked off shortly afterwards, roughly 30 minutes later than the scheduled start time.

The febrile pre-match atmos-

“This group continues to achieve historic things. Maybe today wasn't the most important thing, but it was a nice win”

ARGENTINA CAPTAIN LIONEL MESSI

phere spilled onto the field when play finally got under way, with Brazil's Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus being given a yellow card after just five minutes after clashing with Argentina's Rodrigo De Paul.

### Tense atmosphere

The tense nature of the contest continued throughout a poor first half, with neither side creating much in the way of goalscoring opportunities in a game littered with niggly fouls.

Brazil winger Raphinha was booked in the 14th minute for flinging an arm into the face of De Paul, and was lucky not to receive a second yellow five minutes later after catching Alexis MacAllister with a wild studs-up challenge.

Brazil meanwhile failed to register a single shot -- either on or off target -- until a 38th minute free-kick from Raphinha that deflected wide for a corner.

The only shot on goal from



either side in the entire first half came on 44 minutes, when Brazil's Gabriel Martinelli lashed a muffed clearance from Argentina goalkeeper Martinez back towards goal.

Martinelli's shot was heading for the net but Argentina breathed a sigh of relief after defender Cristian Romero blocked the effort on the line.

Brazil started the second half more positively, with Raphinha having a shot blocked at the near post by Martinez after 54 minutes.

Martinez then rescued Argentina again, parrying Martinelli's goal-bound shot after a good run by Gabriel.

But Brazil were rocked after Argentina took the lead on 63 minutes with their first attempt on target of the match.

Giovani Lo Celso swung in an inviting corner from the left and the 35-year-old Otamendi soared above Brazil midfielder Andre to head home for 1-0.

A miserable night for Brazil got worse in the 82nd minute when substitute Joelinton -- who had only been on the field for 12 minutes -- was sent off for an off-the-ball clash with De Paul.

In other South American qualifiers on Tuesday, Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez scored twice as Uruguay easily beat Bolivia 3-0 to remain in second place in the standings, two points behind Argentina.

Colombia kept up their qualification push with a 1-0 win over Paraguay in Asuncion, while Chile's problems mounted with a 1-0 defeat in Quito against Ecuador.

Colombia, who failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, are third in the table with 12 points. Chile however are languishing in eighth spot with just five points. In the day's other game, Peru drew 1-1 with Venezuela in Lima.

The top six teams of the round-robin home-and-away qualifying tournament will earn berths at the 48-team 2026 World Cup taking place in the United States, Canada and Mexico, while the seventh-placed team goes into a play-off.

## Nagelsmann says Germany have 'unbelievable work to do' before Euro 2024

AFP | Berlin

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said his side have an "unbelievable amount of work to do" six months from hosting Euro 2024 after falling to a 2-0 friendly defeat against Austria in Vienna.

Germany fell behind to a Marcel Sabitzer goal in the first half and then lost Leroy Sane early in the second to a red card, the Bayern Munich winger pushing Austria defender Philipp Mwene in the face and forcing him to the ground.

Christoph Baumgartner then scored a second for Austria as Nagelsmann's side struggled to

“We're not playing freely. We've an unbelievable amount of work to do in each position. We need to accept the situation but we can't fall into the role of being victims”

JULIAN NAGELSMANN

fight back with 10 men.

"We're not playing freely. We've an unbelievable amount of work to do in each position," Nagelsmann told German broadcaster ZDF.

"We need to accept the situa-

tion but we can't fall into the role of being victims."

Nagelsmann said his side was "a really well-functioning group at training, but it's not transferring onto the pitch".

"We're missing some self-confidence, which is not a surprise when you see the past few months."

Germany have now won just three of 11 games since the four-time World Cup winners' embarrassing group-stage exit in Qatar a year ago.

Captain Ilkay Gundogan lamented his side's "homemade" mistakes, saying things "couldn't be worse" before Euro 2024.

"Doing it this way, we won't be

successful," he admitted, adding that his team were lacking cohesion.

"We have to be honest and say it's not only the defence. I said after Turkey (Germany's 3-2 loss last weekend) that defence starts up front, with the way we run and pass, and with our attitude.

"We need to infuse ourselves with some positive energy, with some emotion and defend emotionally -- right now we're doing the opposite."

Defender Mats Hummels, one of the few 2014 World Cup winners remaining in the Germany squad, was confident the team could turn things around before the Euro starts in June.



Germany's midfielder #07 Kai Havertz (C) celebrates scoring the opening goal with his teammates



# King Hamad Trophy set for tee-off

Prestigious 54-hole strokeplay tournament to feature 100 professional and amateur golfers from around the world

● Fifteen countries being represented in competition, with large group of pros

● Several Bahrain national team players and veteran stars also in the fray

● Cut to be made of top 50 plus ties heading into final round of play Saturday

TDT | Manama

The 15th edition of the prestigious King Hamad Trophy golf championship gets underway today at The Royal Golf Club (RGC) at Riffa Views, with the participation of 100 professional and amateur golfers from around the world.

The event, organised and run by the Bahrain Golf Association, is a 54-hole strokeplay competition, set to take place along RGC's



Defending champion Tom Sloman with last year's King Hamad Trophy (File photo)



The winner of this year's King Hamad Trophy will get an invitation to the inaugural Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour, set to be played in early February. This DP World Tour place is coveted by many as they will get to compete alongside some of the world's biggest names in the game of golf

18-hole Montgomerie championship course.

Fifteen countries are being represented in the event, with a large group of pros from Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Sweden,

France, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, along with other foreign professionals based in the GCC.

This year's event is extra special as, aside from coming away with the glittering King Hamad Trophy, the winner will get an invitation to the inaugural Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour, set to be played in early February.

This DP World Tour place is coveted by many as they will get to compete alongside some of the world's biggest names in the game of golf.

Set to lead the field this weekend are defending champion Tom Sloman and two-time former winner Luke Joy.

Sloman was crowned last year's champ after playing the final day's best score of eight-under-par 64. He ended the 54-hole competition with a 13-under 203 total and finished three shots clear of joint-runners-up Joshua White and Hugh Foley.

With his win, Sloman etched his name onto the list of title winners in the championship—one that includes Joy, Ahmed Marjan, Andrew Marshall, Gra-

ham Spring, David Park, Yasin Ali, Jamie Elson and Rayhan Thomas.

This year, a number of Bahrain's top golfers are also set to compete. They include national team stars Fahad Abdulla Al Hakam, Ahmed Al Zayed, Mohammed Diyaib Al Nuaimi, Khalifa Duaij Al Kaabi, Khalifa Al Meraiasi, Abdulla Al Yaqoob and Yousef Al Janahi.

A few of the Kingdom's leading veterans are also in the field, namely Abdulla Sultan Al Hakam, Hamad Mubarak Al Afnan, Nasser Yaqoob and Sultan Abdulla Al Hakam.

Following the first two rounds today and tomorrow, a cut will be made of the top 50 players and ties for the final 18 holes on Saturday.

In preparation for today's start, members of the tournament's supreme organising committee had held several meetings with RGC management on all issues related to the smooth running of the competition.

Entry is free to attend this weekend's events and spectators are welcome to watch all the action.



Members of Bahrain's national bodybuilding team were received upon their return to the Kingdom yesterday from Alexandria, Egypt, where they participated in the Arab championship and came away with one gold and one bronze medal. Bahrain Bodybuilding Federation president Sami Al Haddad and Bahrain Olympic Committee sports federations director Hisham Al Balushi were on hand to welcome back the athletes. Abdulla Al Mansoor clinched the gold medal for Bahrain while Mohammed Bukhalaf came away with the bronze in their respective categories. The Kingdom's delegation in Egypt was headed by Aysha Ahmadi. Above, officials with the bodybuilders upon their return to Bahrain

## Ettihad rout Samaheej in basketball league



Al Ettihad's Ahmed Ghanim takes a perimeter shot during their game

● Nick Faust scores 24 points, grabs 13 rebounds to lead victors

TDT | Manama

Al Ettihad powered past Samaheej 112-85 last night as the fourth week of action got underway in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ettihad raced out to a 35-19 advantage at the end of the first quarter and cruised the rest of the way. They led by as many as 35 points and made the most of their size and talent advantage, with their opponents playing without a foreign professional.

Nick Faust had 24 points and

13 rebounds in just 22 minutes of action, while Hassan Fahad and Hussain Mohammed added 18 apiece. Mohammed led a bench mob that contributed 53 points in the contest.

For Samaheej, Salman Alkaabi scored 17 and both Ahmed Fateel and Mohammed Abdulla Jaffar finished with 15 points each.

With the result, Ettihad improved to six points from four games with their second win, while Samaheej dropped their fourth contest and went to four points.

League action continues tonight and tomorrow. This evening, Nuwaidrat take on Al Hala at 5.30pm followed by a titanic clash between perennial title-contenders Muharraq and Al Ahli at 7.30pm. Tomorrow evening, Al Najma face off with Isa Town at 5.30pm.

## Red-hot Djokovic hoping for 'final push' for Serbia in Davis Cup

AFP | Malaga

Novak Djokovic said yesterday he is aiming to carry his superb form into the Davis Cup and winning the competition with Serbia this week is one of his "greatest goals".

The 36-year-old great has won three Grand Slams this year, with an all-time best tally of 24 and clinched his seventh ATP Finals title on Sunday in Turin, beating both Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz.

Djokovic and Serbia, who last won the Davis Cup in 2010, face Great Britain on Thursday in the last eight.

"It's the last week of the season, so one final push is neces-

sary from each one of us," world number one Djokovic told reporters.

"I couldn't be happier with the way I performed in the semi-finals and finals of Turin, so hopefully I'm carrying this kind of energy and performance level to the Davis Cup."

He continued: "As I said

many months ago, actually (at the beginning of the season, the Davis Cup has been and is one of my greatest goals of this season and always is. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to win."

Djokovic said he loves the Costa del Sol, where his brother lives, calling it "one of the most beautiful places in the world" but was critical of the tournament being held in the same country four years running.

Since the Davis Cup changed format in 2019 the finals have been held twice

in Madrid and twice in Malaga. "(Allowing) one nation to host every year the last 8 for now three, four years in a row ... Madrid, Malaga, is too much, in my opinion," said Djokovic.

"It has to travel. This is a competition that is played globally.

"I feel like the Davis Cup Finals, at least if you're going to keep it (with a) final four, final eight, should travel every year. It shouldn't stay in one place more than a year."

Serbia face a British team aiming to win the trophy for the first time since 2014 but shorn of former world number one Andy Murray and Dan Evans, who was crucial in reaching the finals.



Novak Djokovic

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