

HH Shaikh Isa
congratulates HH
Shaikh Nasser



HH Shaikh Isa
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The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club High Committee (REHC), His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday congratulated His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on Team Victorious' success following the colt Bradsell's victory in Group 1 of the Coolmore Wootton Bassett Nunthorpe Stakes race at the York Racecourse.

HH Shaikh Isa stressed that the support received from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, contributed to furthering Bahrain's sporting reputation. The colt Bradsell was ridden by Jockey Hollie Doyle.

Pedestrian killed in
accident

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A pedestrian, aged 50, Asian national, tragically lost his life in a traffic accident involving a car and a motorcycle on the Shaikh Jaber Al Sabah highway towards Riffa. The incident occurred earlier today. Emergency services were promptly on the scene to manage the situation and provide necessary assistance. Authorities have confirmed that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident. Relevant procedures are being followed to ensure a thorough inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

Five Bahrainis in Yemeni Custody: MP says release imminent

Interior Ministry intensifies efforts to secure their safe release

● **Yemen says**
detained them over
security reasons

● **All of the travellers**
are in good health

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Efforts are intensifying to secure the release of five Bahraini citizens who have been detained in Yemen for the past 24 days. The group, known for their

Authorities finalising release

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MP Jalal Kadhem has announced that the Yemeni authorities are finalising legal procedures to secure the release of a group of Bahraini travellers detained in Yemen. Plans are underway to ensure

adventurous overland journeys, was taken into custody while traveling from Bahrain to Salalah, Oman, and then into Yemen before heading towards Abha, Saudi Arabia. Among the detained are Mehdi and Hadi, whose father, Zakaria Mehdi Abdulrasul, has urgently appealed for their swift

release, emphasizing that his sons and their friends are merely travellers. Reports indicate that the men chose to travel to Abha via Yemen to shorten their journey.

According to their father, contact was lost on August 1, when their trip was unexpectedly interrupted at a security checkpoint in Marib, a region controlled by Yemen's internationally recognized government. Yemeni authorities said have detained the group for security reasons, though specific details have not been disclosed. The Bahraini Ministry of Inte-

rior has assured the public that they are working diligently to ensure the safety and prompt return of the detainees. The Legal Affairs Directorate confirmed that the detainees have been held since August 1 but are reported to be in good health.

The situation has caused increasing concern among the detainees' families, who are calling for urgent government intervention. The ministry has stated that legal procedures are underway and that they are closely monitoring the situation to facilitate the detainees' release as soon as possible.

It's not fair!

MPs push for fairer electricity subsidies for families living together

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Out of the frying pan, into the fire. Families staying together under a single roof here in the Kingdom face such a situation, during the sweltering summer months, Parliamentarians say.

They argue that it is unjust to treat multiple families residing together as a single unit when determining electricity subsidies, especially during May, June, July, and September.

Currently, MP Mohammed Al Riffai points out that regardless of how many families live in a household, they receive a single subsidy, creating significant financial strain.

Many homes in the Kingdom accommodate several families, often including a homeowner and their married children.

To address this issue, MPs are proposing that each fami-



They argue that it is unjust to treat multiple families residing together as a single unit when determining electricity subsidies, especially during May, June, July, and September.

ly within a household receive separate subsidies. This change could effectively double the support provided.

The proposal, co-signed by MPs Hesham Al Awadhi, Jalila Al Alawai, Ahmed Qarata, and Abdunabi Salman, suggests

stipulations to ensure fairness: only first-degree relatives of the account holder would qualify for the increased subsidy, and the maximum number of subsidized units per account would be capped at three.

Besides, the maximum number of subsidized units per account should be capped at three.

The MPs hope the government will consider their proposal and make the necessary adjustments to the electricity subsidy system to better support families facing this challenge.

Focus on peace

Modi says 'firmly for peace' on historic Ukraine visit

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his first visit to Kyiv yesterday to again call for a diplomatic solution to more than two years of war with Russia, saying he stood "firmly for peace" in talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Arriving for talks on Friday, he embraced Zelensky and the pair held a minute of silence at a memorial commemorating children killed in Russia's invasion.

"We were not neutral from day one, we have taken a side, and we stand firmly for peace," he told Zelensky.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands during their meeting in Kyiv

He earlier said that "no problem should be solved on the battlefield." The Indian leader pledged

stand with you." Zelensky called Modi's visit a "historic moment".

But neither side showed signs of a breakthrough, with India's foreign minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar later saying that it was "clearly a complex issue" and that India believes Moscow should be involved if peace efforts were to progress.

Modi began his visit by accompanying Zelensky to an exhibit commemorating children killed in the war.

"I realised that the first casualty of war is in fact innocent children," Modi said. "And that is truly heartbreaking."

Bahrainis to enjoy
visa-free access to
Sri Lanka from
October 1st

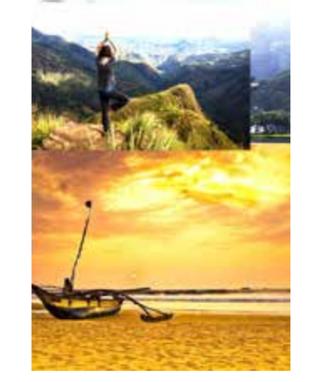
Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

From 1 October 2024, Bahraini citizens will be eligible for visa-free entry to Sri Lanka as part of a new initiative to attract tourists from 35 countries. This six-month pilot programme, running until 31 March 2025, will offer free 30-day tourist visas.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet spokesman and Transport Minister announced that the aim is to transform Sri Lanka into a visa-free destination, similar to Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The programme will also include travellers from major markets such as China, India, and Russia, as well as countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Poland, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, France, the US, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Belarus, Iran, Sweden, South Korea, Qatar, Oman, and New Zealand.

The Sri Lankan government will monitor the programme closely and may consider extending or expanding it to additional countries based on its success.



Bahrain rises to 16th in Global Digital Business readiness

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has emerged as a digital business leader in the Arab world, according to two global economic reports. These reports highlight Bahrain's advancements in digital infrastructure and online business ease, with a global ranking of 16th in digital readiness among emerging markets.

In the Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, Bahrain



Representative picture

is ranked 16th worldwide, just behind Oman (13th) and ahead of Kuwait (17th). The UAE leads the Gulf region at 1st, with Qatar

4th and Saudi Arabia 6th, underscoring the region's strong digital transformation.

The CEOWORLD magazine's 2024 Ease of Digital Business Index places Bahrain 4th among GCC countries, following the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. This ranking reflects Bahrain's competitive digital landscape, attracting investment and supporting its tech sector.

The CEOWORLD report, part of the 2024 Global Investment Confidence Index, evaluated 128

The UAE leads the Gulf region at 1st, with Qatar 4th and Saudi Arabia 6th, underscoring the region's strong digital transformation.

countries based on e-commerce and digital market appeal. Bahrain's high ranking is attributed to its market potential, skilled workforce, entrepreneurial spirit, and supportive policies.

Globally, the United States ranks highest for digital busi-

ness ease, followed by China, Japan, the UK, and Germany. India, France, South Korea, Canada, and the UAE complete the top ten, with Taiwan, Singapore, the Netherlands, Brazil, and Russia in positions 11th to 15th.

The CEOWORLD Global Investment Confidence Index is based on a survey of over 120,000 senior executives and business leaders, assessing countries on market potential, workforce skills, entrepreneurship, innovation, and security.

Healthcare revolution: 52 new digital services transform patient care

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Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, continues to advance in its development journey, particularly in healthcare, according to a report from our sister newspaper Alayam.

The healthcare sector has recently undergone significant modernisation, highlighted by the successful launch of 52 new digital services across 24 government entities. This initiative, part of His Royal Highness's broader effort to enhance 500 government services, aims to streamline processes, cut down on paperwork, and reduce patient wait times.

Key improvements include:

Electronic Medical Reports: Patients can now access their medical reports online, cutting out the need for physical hospital visits.

Remote Prescription Renewals: This service is particularly beneficial for those with mobility issues and helps de-



crease hospital congestion.

Digital Sick Leave: Obtained via a QR code, this service simplifies the process and lightens the workload at healthcare centers.

Notifiable Disease Alert System: Enhances public health by facilitating early detection and control of communicable diseases.

National Accreditation Application: Allows healthcare in-

stitutions to undergo reviews against international standards, ensuring high-quality care.

In addition, a new platform for online applications and tracking for residency, family medicine, and fellowship programs has been launched, easing the process for physicians and enhancing communication with supervisors.

The success of these initiatives

underscores the collaborative efforts of various government bodies, including the Supreme Council for Health, Ministry of Health, and the Information and eGovernment Authority, which has been instrumental in this digital transformation.

The digital sick leave service alone has processed nearly 800,000 requests since its launch, reflecting its wide-



spread adoption and impact in reducing wait times and printing costs.

These advancements demonstrate Bahrain's commitment to adopting best practices, leverag-

ing innovative technologies, and continually improving healthcare services for its citizens and residents, contributing to the country's sustainable development goals.

Education Ministry opens doors for school re-enrolment

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The Ministry of Education is opening applications for individuals wishing to re-enrol in public schools or continue their education after having previously discontinued their studies. This also includes students with academic certificates from abroad seeking admission into Bahrain's schools.

Applications will be accepted from 25 to 29 August, between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM, at the Customer Service Centre located in the Ministry's Isa Town building.

Parents interested in re-enrolling their children are advised to visit the Ministry in



person during the specified period. They should complete the student registration form, available on the Ministry's website (www.moe.gov.bh), and bring all required documents as listed on the form. Admissions will be determined based on the school's designated residential area and available capacity.

Bahraini tourists in Kuwait traffic accident stable; treatment underway

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Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait, Salah Ali Al Malki, has confirmed that the Bahraini citizens involved in a recent traffic accident in Kuwait are stable and receiving treatment at Al Jahra Hospital.

The accident involved eight Bahrainis—two men (one in his fifties) and six women (aged twenties to fifties)—who were travelling in a vehicle arranged by a tour operator en route to Iraq. The accident resulted in seven individuals sustaining injuries. Ambassador Al Malki reported that two of the injured women, who had minor injuries, did not require hospitalisation. One of the injured has already been discharged and resumed their journey to Iraq. The driver and four women remain hospitalised due to back injuries.

He noted that one woman in her fifties may need surgery



based on ongoing assessments.

The Ambassador assured that the embassy is closely monitoring their condition, with Bahraini Consul Hassan Al Saba'a having visited the injured and liaised with their doctor, Dr Khalid Al Awadhi, to ensure they are receiving appropriate care.

Ambassador Al Malki con-



The Bahraini Consul at the embassy, Hassan Al Saba'a, has visited them to ensure their well-being. He has also been in contact with the doctor overseeing their medical care, Dr Khalid Al Awadhi, to confirm they are receiving the necessary care

SALAH ALI AL MALKI, THE AMBASSADOR OF BAHRAIN TO KUWAIT

firming that the injured will continue their treatment in Kuwait until they are fit for return to Bahrain.



The accident involved eight Bahrainis—two men (one in his fifties) and six women (aged twenties to fifties)—who were travelling in a vehicle arranged by a tour operator en route to Iraq.

Reckless driver leaves 7-year-old disabled; Court awards BD11,380

The accident resulted in an 18% disability for the child

● The child suffers from intermittent pain, headaches, memory loss, seizures, weakened eyesight, fear, and panic

● The court ordered to pay BD2,000 in emotional compensation

TDI | Manama

A 7-year-old boy has suffered a lifelong disability due to a reckless driving incident in a residential area. In response to the severe



Medical reports documented severe injuries, including head trauma, multiple bone fractures, facial bleeding, chest injuries, and deep cuts on his hand and neck.

additional 1% annual interest accruing from the date of the accident until the full payment is made.

Additionally, the court has ordered the defendants to pay BD2,000 in emotional compensation to the boy's mother, along with 1% annual interest for the insurance company. They are also responsible for covering legal fees.

The accident resulted in an 18% disability for the child. The parents initially sought compensation directly from the defendant, but their request was refused. Consequently, they filed a lawsuit claiming BD15,000 from the driver and his insurance company. This

lawsuit also sought BD5,370 for the parents and their five other children and BD370 for medical expenses, with a demand for 10% annual interest from the date of the incident. Court documents revealed that the driver's negligence caused the accident, which left the child in intensive care for two weeks.

Medical reports documented severe injuries, including head trauma, multiple bone fractures, facial bleeding, chest injuries, and deep cuts on his hand and neck. The child continues to suffer from intermittent pain, headaches, memory loss, seizures, weakened eyesight, fear, and panic.

impact on the child's life, the High Civil Court has awarded BD11,380 in compensation. This amount is to be paid

jointly by the driver and the insurance company, with an

One against 21: Brothers in legal battle over 250 sq ft housing unit

TDI | Manama

This 250-square-foot housing unit in Al Bilad Al Qadeem has 21 legal heirs. However, one of the brothers decided he needed to sell his share of the property.

The Urban Planning and Development Authority clarified that it is impossible to divide the property without violating zoning regulations and minimum plot size requirements.

The dispute eventually reached court, with one brother opposing the remaining 20 siblings, who were willing to keep the property for the brother residing in the house.

During the trial, the court ruled that although Article 790/1 of Law No. 19 of 2001 permits the division of shared property, dividing this property would violate minimum plot size regulations. Article 793 of the same law allows for the appointment of an expert to divide the property if feasible without significant loss in value, but this was deemed impossible in this case.



Representative picture

The court was unaware at that time of a clause in the property deed requiring written permission from the Ministry of Housing for any ownership transfer.

As a result, the court ruled to auction the property and distribute the proceeds among the heirs, based on Article 797 of the Civil Code.

The brother residing in the house challenged this decision, arguing that it was his only res-

idence and that he had invested in its maintenance.

The twist came when the appeal court discovered the property deed included a clause requiring written permission from the Ministry of Housing for any ownership transfer. Consequently, the Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's decision, dismissed the plaintiff's claim, and ordered him to cover the legal costs for both courts.

Ex-wife wins legal battle

Court grants passports and IDs for children after ex-husband's obstruction

TDI | Manama

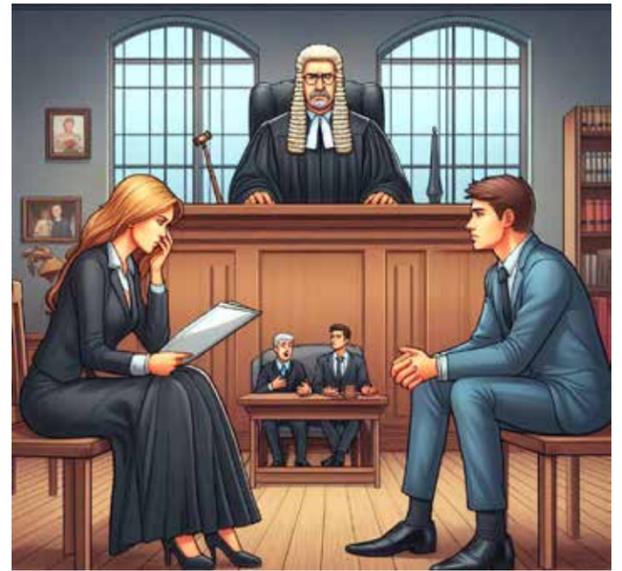
A mother's legal struggle to recover her children's passports and IDs from her obstructive ex-husband has ended in victory with a favourable court ruling.

The expatriate woman took legal action after her Bahraini ex-husband refused to hand over the documents despite numerous requests.

According to lawyer Jassim Al Essa, the couple, who had three children together, had their custody arrangement settled in the woman's favour following their divorce. However, her ex-husband exploited the separation to block the issuance of identity cards and a passport for their youngest child.

Undeterred, she sought a court order from the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs to secure a passport for the youngest child, as well as identity cards for all three children from the Information and eGovernment Authority. She also requested that her ex-husband cover the legal costs.

Al Essa argued that Bahraini law supports the children's



Representative picture

right to these documents, citing Article 4 of Decree-Law No. 12 of 1989, which affirms that children born to a Bahraini father are Bahraini nationals regardless of their birthplace, and Article 2 of Law No. 11 of 1975, which guarantees Bahraini nationals the right to passports.

The High Civil Court agreed with the mother's claims, or-

dering the issuance of a passport for the youngest child and identity cards for all three children. The court also directed the father to cover the legal fees.

This ruling affirmed the children's Bahraini citizenship through their father and ensured their right to identity documents as residents of Bahrain.

Driving change: new traffic campaign targets student and bus driver safety

TDI | Manama

The General Directorate of Traffic has launched a new awareness campaign focused on ensuring student safety and promoting responsible transportation practices.

Targeting both students and bus drivers, the campaign underscores the importance of following safety regulations for a secure and comfortable journey.

Central to the initiative is an informative video released by



the Directorate, which highlights the importance of hiring only licensed bus drivers for student transportation.

The video points out that licensed drivers provide essential insurance coverage for passengers, unlike their unlicensed counterparts who lack such protection.

Shared across the Directorate's social media platforms, the video also offers crucial advice for students. It emphasises the need for students to

remain seated throughout the journey and avoid distracting the driver.

Additionally, the campaign calls on bus drivers to prioritise safety by complying with traffic regulations and ensuring regular vehicle maintenance to prevent breakdowns.

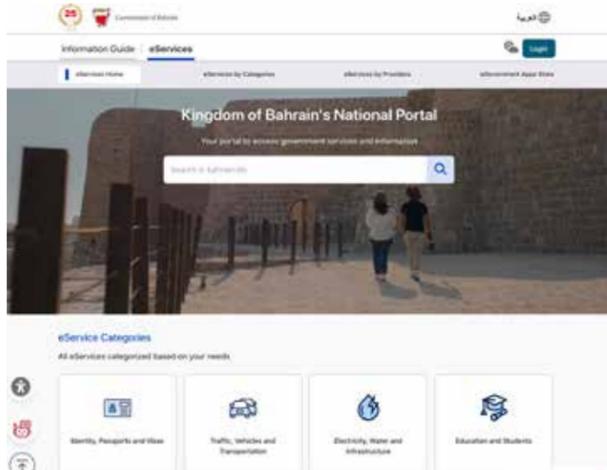
Through this campaign, the General Directorate of Traffic aims to enhance awareness among students, parents, and bus drivers, fostering a safer environment for all road users.

Bahrain.bh and Unified Application App poised for major revamp

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Bahrain.bh and its Unified Application App, which serve as a one-stop gateway for accessing government services and information, are poised for a significant redesign. According to the Information & eGovernment Authority, the revamp aims to make the portal experience smoother and more engaging for residents while providing easier access to government services and information.

Launched in 2008, Bahrain.bh has played a crucial role in advancing digital governance in the country. The upcoming upgrade will focus on a complete redesign to enhance both platforms' usability and appeal. A standout feature of the current



portal is its e-Services platform, which enables citizens and residents to handle various administrative tasks online, including

renewing licenses, paying bills, and applying for permits.

The overhaul is expected to increase public engagement by

simplifying the way users access and utilize government services, fostering a more connected and informed community. The initiative will involve creating a new roadmap and detailed guidelines for user interface (UI) design, ensuring that both the National Portal and the Unified Mobile Application are intuitive and visually appealing.

A key component of the redesign will be developing a fresh set of branding guidelines. These will encompass icons, images, illustrations, fonts, and a cohesive color palette, aiming to create a unified and modern look across all digital touchpoints. This digital transformation is set to streamline interactions with government agencies, making services more efficient and accessible.

Bahrain Chess Federation hosts Gold Generation Tournament

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Prizes and medals await those daring enough to test their skills at the Gold Generation Chess Championship, where top players will compete for victory. The Bahrain Chess Federation has invited chess enthusiasts, hinting that this event could be a pivotal moment for the game in the kingdom.

The federation announced that the championship will be held on the 27th and 28th of August under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee. The tournament is part of the Khalid bin Hamad Gold Generation Games 2024, which aim to in-

volve more sports federations, nurture talent, and enhance Bahraini achievements.

Ebrahim Al Burshaid, Secretary-General of the Bahrain Chess Federation, described the event as a step in a larger plan to develop a new generation of players who can represent Bahrain on the international stage.

Al Burshaid emphasized that the championship is part of a broader vision to build a strong foundation for players who will be the backbone of the Gold Generation, ready to compete both locally and internationally.

Teachers and Students to get tablets in government schools

TDT | Manama

In an exciting move to enhance digital learning, government schools are set to receive cutting-edge tablet computers for both teachers and students.

The Ministry of Education is spearheading this initiative, ensuring that the new tablets boast the latest technological features to meet modern educational demands.

These state-of-the-art tablets are designed to keep up with rapid technological advancements, offering high responsiveness and efficient data transfer capabilities. The goal is to transform the educational experience by integrating up-to-date technology into everyday learning.

A competitive bidding process has attracted several notable contractors, including FAKHROO Information Technology Services W.L.L., Nexcel Computer Solutions, Almoayyed Commercial Services, Almoayyed Computers Middle East W.L.L., ZAK Solutions for Computer Systems, North Star Technology Company W.L.L., and Computer World W.L.L. The cost of the project, based on the bids received, is expected to fall between BHD 135,118,500 and BHD 424,935,830.

This technological upgrade promises to make learning more interactive and engaging, marking a significant step forward in the Kingdom's commitment to modernizing its educational infrastructure.



Representative picture

New management for Isa Town traditional market



Representative picture

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The Southern Area Municipality is set to introduce new management for the Isa Town Traditional Market. The market, which includes 576 traditional outlets and 368 sheds, also features well-known stores such as Ramez, Home Electronics, and Al Lebnyan supermarkets, all of which will now be directly

managed by the Municipality.

In an effort to enhance the market's operations, the Municipality has opened a tender for interested parties to manage the market and its facilities. The Tender Board is scheduled to begin reviewing applications after September 18, 2024.

The successful bidder will secure a four-year contract to oversee the market's management.



Isa Town is a planned community that was designed by the Bahraini government in the early 1960s as a residential settlement. It has many popular attractions, including: Khalifa Sports City, Al-Estiqal Jogging Park, and Sabika Al Ansari Mosque.

Solar lighting to illuminate Hamad Town promenade

TDT | Manama

The Hamad Town Promenade is poised for major development, with sustainability at the forefront through the installation of solar lighting fixtures.

According to the Northern Area Municipality, these solar lights will significantly boost the promenade's energy efficiency and reduce its environmental footprint.

The project aims to rehabilitate and enhance the site, transforming it into a modern, well-lit, and eco-friendly public space.

As part of Project 1211, the municipality is seeking bids from contractors to carry out various tasks.

Key components of the project include removing damaged areas around the bases of existing lighting pole foundations, excavating to create new foundations, and supplying and installing steel pipe columns. Contractors interested in bidding must meet all specified requirements to be considered for this extensive redevelopment initiative.

Bahrain to advance Building Information Modeling with New Digital Initiative

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to enhance its construction and infrastructure sectors with a groundbreaking project centered around Building Information Modeling (BIM). This intelligent 3D modeling technology provides a collaborative approach for planning, designing, constructing, renovating, and deconstructing buildings and infrastructure through centralized digital models.

The project, which is divided into two key phases, aims to significantly advance BIM adoption in the Kingdom. Part one involves assessing the current implementation of BIM across Bahrain and developing a strategic roadmap for its integration throughout the real estate and infrastructure sectors, with a specific focus on buildings.

Part two of the project will introduce a sophisticated digital solution within the Benayat portal. This solution will leverage BIM technologies to streamline the building permit application process, including automating permit approvals. Additionally, the project will develop comprehensive technical guidelines, templates, and training resources to ensure the successful implementation of BIM practices.

The tender for this initiative has seen several notable submissions. Alkan Arabia for Communications was accepted with conditions for BHD 294,305,440. Micro Center W.L.L. had its proposal accepted for BHD 1,203,576,000, while Almoayyed Computers Middle East W.L.L. secured acceptance for BHD 1,552,782,000.

This initiative promises to transform how construction and infrastructure projects are managed in Bahrain, fostering greater efficiency and innovation in the sector.

New 2 million Gallons per Day Desalination Plant on way in Hawar

TDT | Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) is embarking on an exciting project to construct a cutting-edge seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination plant on Hawar Island. Named the "New Hawar SWRO Desalination Plant," this facility will be strategically located on the southeastern coast of Bahrain.

Designed to meet Bahrain's growing water needs, the plant will have the capacity to produce between one and two million gallons per day (MIGD) of potable water. It will feature an advanced desalination system, two ground storage tanks each with a one-million-gallon capacity, and the necessary forwarding pumps to ensure efficient distribution.

The project will be executed under an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) contract, highlighting the complexity and scale of the development. The New Hawar SWRO Desalination Plant is set to significantly bolster Bahrain's water resources and support the Kingdom's sustainable growth.

The upcoming tender has drawn interest from several leading contractors, including:

- Mohammed A Al Kharafi & Sons for General Trading General Contracting and Industrial Structures W.L.L.
- ALPHA Energy Generations Co. W.L.L.
- TECTON Engineering and Construction Branch Office
- ALMOAYYED Contracting W.L.L.
- China Machinery Engineering Corporation

These prominent firms will compete to bring this critical infrastructure project to life, reinforcing Bahrain's commitment to advancing its water supply capabilities and ensuring a reliable source of clean water for its residents.



Bahrain's Keralaeya Samajam organised harmony 2024 at Hyatt Regency, Trichur. Goa Governor Adv P S Sreedharan Pillai was the chief guest. Soman Baby's autobiography 'Anubhavangalude Thazhvara' was released by him and top story writer T Padmanabhan. Attending were, from left, Saji Pudukadan, Mr Padmanabhan, Mr sreedharan Pillai, Mr Soman Baby, Sherley Soman, award winning novelist Benyamin, samajam president P V Radhakrishna Pillai and general secretary Varghese Karackal. Earlier the meet was inaugurated by Kerala Water Resources Minister Roshni Augustine. Parliament member N K Premachandran, Raji Unnikrishnan and many others spoke on the occasion.

US Fed chair says 'the time has come' to start cutting rates

AFP | Washington, United States

Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell said Friday that the "time has come" for the United States to start cutting interest rates, adding that his "confidence has grown" that the battle against inflation is on track.

"The time has come for policy to adjust," he said in a keynote speech at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium in the western US state of Wyoming, in unusually direct remarks about the likely path of monetary policy.

"The direction of travel is clear, and the timing and pace of rate cuts will depend on incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks," he added.

US stocks rose on Powell's remarks, with all three major indices on Wall Street up sharply at around 10am local time in Washington (1400 GMT).

The annual economic symposium in Wyoming gives Powell a global platform to share the Fed's thinking with financial markets. He had said a few weeks ago that policymakers could cut rates "as soon as" September if the labor market remained solid and inflation continued to ease.

The Fed's benchmark lending



US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell

Key figures around 1540 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 1.1% at 41,156.01 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 1.0% at 5,627.44
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 1.3% at 17,855.92
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.5% at 8,327.78
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.7% at 7,577.04
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.8% at 18,633.10
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.4% at 38,364.27 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ N 0.2% at 17,612.10 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.2% at 2,854.37 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 144.83 yen from 146.27 yen on Thursday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1188 from \$1.1115
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3212 from \$1.3092
Euro/pound:	▼ at 84.67 pence from 84.87 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 2.3% at \$74.68 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 2.1% at \$78.80 per barrel

rate currently sits at a 23-year high of between 5.25 and 5.50%, cooling demand in the world's largest economy ahead of November's presidential elections, in which inflation and the cost of living have taken a central role.

Powell said the Fed's restrictive monetary policy had "helped restore balance between aggregate supply and demand, easing inflationary pressures and ensuring that inflation expectations remained well anchored."

"My confidence has grown that inflation is on a sustainable path back to two percent," he added, referring to the Fed's long-term inflation target.

'Soft landing' in sight

After holding its key lending rate at a two-decade high for more than a year, Powell's remarks suggest the US central bank is now all but certain to start cutting rates in September, as inflation continues to ease.

The Fed has a dual mandate from Congress to tackle both inflation and unemployment, and has been signaling in recent months that the risks to the two sides of its mandate are now coming into better balance.

Powell said Friday that the US labor market "has cooled considerably from its formerly overheated state," with the

unemployment rate up sharply from last year, though at 4.3 percent it remains low by historical standards.

"The cooling in labor market conditions is unmistakable," he added.

While inflation has fallen and the labor market has cooled, economic growth has remained positive, raising confidence that the Fed could pull off a so-called soft landing -- where it hits its inflation target without bringing about a recession or a substantial rise in unemployment.

Pace of cuts

Earlier this week, the minutes of the Fed's July rate decision spelled out the likely direction of travel: Most members of the bank's rate-setting committee said it would likely be "appropriate" to cut rates in September, if the data continued to come in as expected.

"Inflation gives them the reason to start to cut rates," Nationwide Mutual chief economist Kathy Bostjancic told AFP ahead of Powell's speech, adding that the upcoming labor market data would likely dictate how aggressively they did so.

Many analysts expect the Fed to move ahead with a more cautious quarter-percentage-point rate cut in September, but see a larger half-point cut as a possi-

bility -- depending on upcoming data.

Futures traders put the chances of a smaller cut in September around 70% and the probability of a bigger cut at approximately 30%, according to data from CME Group.

The decision to cut by 25 or 50 basis points "will depend on how the data come in over the next month or so, and importantly, what the next jobs report looks like," Deutsche Bank chief US economist Matthew Luzzetti told AFP ahead of Powell's speech.

A weaker jobs report would likely raise the chances of a larger half-point cut, he added.

Both Bostjancic and Luzzetti see three quarter-point cuts in the remaining three rate decisions this year as the most likely scenario -- higher than the median expectation of Fed policymakers back in June.

This would cut the Fed's benchmark lending rate by a total of 75 basis points, lowering it to between 4.50 and 4.75%.

But the financial markets think the Fed could go even further.

Futures traders currently assign a probability of more than 65 percent that the Fed will cut interest rates by at least a full percentage point by the end of the year.

Indian desert school's unique design offers respite from heat

AFP | Jaisalmer, India

In the sweltering heat of India's Thar desert, where summer highs soar above 50 degrees Celsius, an architecturally striking school is an oasis of cool thanks to a combination of age-old techniques and modern design.

The Rajkumari Ratnavati girls' school uses the same yellow sandstone as the 12th-century fort in nearby Jaisalmer, in India's western state of Rajasthan, dubbed the "golden city" due to the colour of the rock.

Like the fort, the school has thick rubble walls that help bounce back the heat, while the interior is plastered with lime, a porous material that regulates humidity and aids natural cooling.

Unlike the ancient fort, its roof is lined with solar panels, which provide all the school's power in an area with frequent electricity cuts.

Temperatures inside the school, designed by US-based architect Diana Kellogg and built by local artisans -- many of them parents of pupils -- can be as much as 20 percent lower than those outside.

"I love going to the school," said eight-year-old Khushboo Kumari, one of the 170 students.

"The air feels as if it is coming from an AC."

The school's classrooms are arranged around an open elliptical courtyard resembling a Roman coliseum, and walls with grids of vents create shade while



A view of Rajkumari Ratnavati Girls' School, in Kanoi village near Jaisalmer, in India's desert state of Rajasthan

allowing for cooling airflow.

Elevated windows allow hot air to escape as it rises. Rainwater is harvested from the flat roof.

In some places, the walls are dotted with perforations -- a technique known as "jali" that was traditionally used for modesty, shielding women from view in the conservative society.

At the school, it is used to promote ventilation, creating a breeze channelled by the building's oval shape.

"There is cross-ventilation," said school supervisor Rajinder Singh Bhati, aged 29. "The white tiles on the terrace reflect the

sunlight."

"It is totally eco-friendly."

'Airy and cool'

India this year baked in its longest-ever heatwave, according to government weather experts.

Temperatures surged above 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit), with warnings people will face increasingly oppressive heat in the future.

Manohar Lal, 32, the father of pupil Khushboo, said students looked forward to class thanks to the relative cool.

"There are frequent power cuts in Rajasthan, and children

have to suffer as temperatures touch almost 50 degrees Celsius in summer," Lal said outside his modest home of mud and brick, which does not have a ceiling fan.

"But there are no such worries in the school because it is powered by solar energy," he added.

"It is airy and cool, and that is why the children enjoy going to school".

'Feels like heaven'

The school is supported by the US-based CITTA Education Foundation, meaning pupils attend for free in a state where the literacy rate for women is about

52 percent.

Uniforms, school materials and lunch for pupils are also provided.

"It's a big thing that they are getting quality education free of cost, considering they can't even afford proper meals or clothing," said Hindi teacher Priyanka Chhangani, 40.

Kellogg, the architect, said combining tradition with modern design and sustainable tech-



In the sweltering heat of India's Thar desert, where summer highs soar above 50 degrees Celsius, an architecturally striking school is an oasis of cool thanks to a combination of age-old techniques and modern design. The Rajkumari Ratnavati girls' school uses the same yellow sandstone as the 12th-century fort in nearby Jaisalmer, in India's western state of Rajasthan, dubbed the "golden city" due to the colour of the rock.

niques was key.

"Because the craftsmen were so familiar with the stone, we were able to integrate traditional architectural details along with indigenous heritage details, so that the structure felt authentic to the region", she said.

Her oval design was inspired by "feminine symbols of strength", she added.

But while her design focused on tackling baking heat, it also faces an unexpected, climate change-driven problem -- floods.

Intense rainfall during the annual monsoon is common from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing its frequency and severity.

That increased rainfall has begun to impact the school, which was designed for a drier climate.

This year, a long-dormant river was overflowing, washing away soil at one side of the school.

Rajan Rawal, a professor at India's Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, said the increasing intensity of rain was impacting buildings designed for other weather.

"Disasters like heat waves and floods impact the structural stability," Rawal said.

They also affect the thermal performance of the building, he added.

But teacher Chhangani said the school was still changing the lives of the pupils.

"These children don't even have fans at home," she said. "When they come to school, it feels like heaven to them."



News in brief

Volcano erupts in Iceland, sixth since December

A new volcano erupted on the Reykjanes peninsula in southwestern Iceland late Thursday, spewing hot lava into the air in the sixth eruption to hit the region since December, authorities said. Live video images showed orange lava bursting out of a long fissure, illuminating the billowing smoke rising up into the night sky. "A volcanic eruption has begun. A fissure has opened east of Sylingarfell," the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) said in a statement, adding that the eruption had started at 9:26 pm (21:26 GMT) following a series of earthquakes.

Seven people were killed and 12 others injured in a fire at a hotel in South Korea, authorities said yesterday.

The blaze erupted Thursday night in a room on the eighth floor of a hotel in Bucheon, around 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of Seoul, Seoul's interior ministry said in a statement. The cause of the fire, which was extinguished about three hours after it began, was not yet clear, the ministry said, adding three people had been seriously injured. The nine-story hotel reportedly had 64 rooms and 27 guests were staying there when the fire broke out.

Canada government steps in to end crippling freight rail shutdown

Freight rail operations were set to resume across Canada on Thursday following federal intervention to end a crippling disruption triggered by labor disputes at the country's two main operators. Work stoppages at Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) locked out nearly 10,000 workers and threatened to upend the North American economy, which is heavily dependent on rail operations.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Humpback whale freed from Sydney Harbour after 22-hour ordeal



Rescuers use specialised equipment to hold the whale in place while they cut the debris away
AFP | Sydney

A juvenile humpback whale was freed after it was entangled in ropes and buoys in the harbour of Australia's largest city for 22 hours.

Rescuers in Sydney received a call on Thursday afternoon that the whale had become entangled and raced under fading light to save it.

By dawn, rescuers followed the whale in an inflatable boat and used specialised equipment to hold the whale in place while they cut the debris away.



For decades, humpback whale populations were hunted to the brink of extinction -- at one stage there were only an estimated 1,500 of the animals left in Australian waters

The whale was freed shortly before midnight yesterday, and swam off to the open ocean after its 22-hour ordeal.

Jessica Fox, from the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia, told AFP that efforts to save the whale were "incredible".

"It is not uncommon for a whale to enter Sydney Heads -- they pop their heads in time to time, but to have one entangled in Sydney Harbour is extremely rare."

For decades, humpback whale populations were hunted to the brink of extinction -- at one stage there were only an estimated 1,500 of the animals left in Australian waters.

But they are a rare conservation success story after global protections were afforded to the whales in 1965.

Humpback whale numbers now exceed 40,000 -- a number close to pre-whaling levels -- and the marine animal has since been removed from Australia's threatened species list.

Death toll rises to 12 in attack on Pakistani police



Officials inquire the health of injured police officers
AFP | Lahore

The death toll in a rocket launcher attack on policemen whose vehicle broke down in central Pakistan rose to twelve yesterday, police said.

Organised criminal gangs have been active in the riverine border areas of southern Sindh and central Punjab provinces for decades, often making money through kidnap-for-ransom assaults.

"At least twelve policemen were martyred, and eight others injured in the attack," police spokesperson Saif Ali Wains told AFP.

Two police vehicles carrying around 22 policemen were travelling through Rahim Yar Khan district in Punjab province on Thursday evening, when one of the vans broke down in low-level flooding.

Wains said the gang then used rocket launchers to target the stranded officers.

Hamas official slams Israeli 'refusal' of Gaza deal over border troops

Hamas official accuses Netanyahu of refusing final agreement over border troop presence

- Hamas accuses Netanyahu of blocking final truce agreement
- Israeli troops' presence on Philadelphi border remains a key issue

AFP | Gaza

A Hamas official accused Israel's prime minister of refusing to agree to a final truce accord for Gaza, where the presence of Israeli troops on the Egyptian border remained a major sticking point.

An Israeli team was in Cairo "negotiating to advance a hostage (release) agreement", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Omer Dostril told AFP late on Thursday.

But Hamas representatives were not taking part and an official from the Islamist movement, Hossam Badran, said yesterday that Netanyahu's insistence that troops remain on the Philadelphi border strip reflects "his refusal to reach a final agreement".

Egypt with fellow mediators Qatar and the United States have for months tried to reach a deal to end more than 10 months of war between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza.

Top US diplomat Antony Blinken visited the region this week to emphasise the urgency of an agreement.

Witnesses yesterday reported combat in the territory's north, heavy shelling in the centre, and tank fire in the far south near Rafah city.

The United Nations said tens of thousands of civilians have been on the move again this week from Deir el-Balah and the southern city of Khan Yunis after Israeli



Palestinians gather to check a building shortly after it was levelled by Israeli bombing in the Nuseirat refugee camp

evacuation orders, which preceded military operations.

The war has displaced about 90 percent of Gaza's population, often multiple times, leaving them deprived of shelter, clean water and other essentials as disease spreads, the UN says.

"Civilians are exhausted and terrified, running from one destroyed place to another, with no end in sight," Muhammad Hadi, the UN humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said late Thursday.



The ongoing conflict has displaced 90% of Gaza's population, with civilians constantly fleeing destruction and struggling to find safety, as disease spreads due to lack of essentials

Civilians are exhausted and terrified, running from one destroyed place to another, with no end in sight. This cannot continue

MUHAMMAD HADI, THE UN HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR FOR THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

"This cannot continue," he said. Israel's military yesterday said that over the past day troops had "eliminated dozens" of gunmen around Khan Yunis and Deir el-Balah, in central Gaza.

In April the military had pulled troops out of Khan Yunis after months of devastating fighting, yet has found itself having to resume operations there, leaving civilians feeling they have nowhere to turn.

"This is no way to live," said Haitham Abdelaal.

Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on southern Israel triggered the war and resulted in the deaths of 1,199 people, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Landslide caused by heavy rain kills five on Thai holiday island



A view mud near a building after a landslide
AFP | Bangkok

A landslide caused by heavy rain on the popular Thai resort island of Phuket has killed five people, police said yesterday.

A Russian couple on vacation were among the dead, local police chief Khundech Na Nongkhai told AFP, adding that officers were working to identify the other victims.

"Heavy rain which began at 2:00 am (0700 GMT) last night caused a landslide that damaged homes. Those living in the area were caught off guard," Khundech said.

He said the landslide slammed into a residential area of the island, where hotels and rented apartments are located.

Thailand has been struck by heavy monsoon rains over the last week, largely affecting the country's southern coast and areas in the north.

27 Indian tourists killed in Nepal bus accident



A view of the bus after plunging into the river
AFP | Kathmandu

A bus carrying Indian tourists plunged off a Nepali highway and into a river yesterday, killing 27 people and injuring another 16.

Deadly crashes are relatively common in the Himalayan republic as a result of poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

The bus was travelling from the tourist city of Pokhara to the capital Kathmandu when the accident happened around noon in the central district of Tanahun.

"Out of 43, in total 27 people have died," Tanahun district official Janardan Gautam told AFP.

Rescuers struggled against the raging Marsyangdi River to pull passengers out of the water.

Another 16 injured passengers were airlifted by military helicopter to Kathmandu for treatment.

Authorities said that all the people who boarded the bus were Indian citizens who had stayed in Pokhara the night before and were heading to Kathmandu.

"Among the dead, 26 bodies are currently in a local hospital and will be sent to Pokhara after all proceedings," Gautam said.

One person died while undergoing treatment in Bharatpur hospital.

"We were focused on the rescue today, we will now investigate the incident," Gautam added.

Nearly 2,400 people lost their lives on Nepal's roads in the 12 months to April, according to government figures.

NATO airbase in Germany raises security level over 'potential threat'

AFP | Berlin

A NATO airbase in western Germany said Thursday it had raised its security level over a "potential threat".

"We raised the security level at NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen based on intelligence information indicating potential threat," the base said in a post on social media platform X.

The announcement comes just over a week after a German military base was sealed off for several hours as authorities investigated suspected sabotage.

The base in Cologne-Wahn was locked down after a hole was discovered in a fence near drinking water storage facilities.



A crew member checks a NATO Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft at the military base of Geilenkirchen, western Germany

N. Korea says US sale of military helicopters to South 'reckless'

AFP | Seoul

North Korea on Thursday criticised recent US arms sales in Asia, calling a deal to deliver Apache helicopters to South Korea a "reckless, provocative act" and adding Pyongyang would build up its own forces in response.

"We strongly oppose and reject the US and its vassal forces' arms buildup," North Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, referring to the South.

"This is a reckless, provocative act of deliberately increasing the security instability in the region," it added, also critic-



South Korea's Apache AH-64 helicopter fires flares during a South Korea-US joint military drill

attack helicopters and related equipment, including missiles.

The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said the sale would "improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force capable of deterring adversaries and participating in regional operations", using the formal name for South Korea.

The State Department approved the possible sale of the helicopters to South Korea, and the DSCA on Monday provided the required notification to the US Congress, which still needs to sign off on the transaction.

Japan postpones trial removal of nuclear debris from Fukushima reactor



An aerial view shows the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant

AFP | Tokyo

The operator of Japan's stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant said this week's trial removal of radioactive debris from a battered reactor has been postponed due to a technical issue.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepeco) was aiming to remove a tiny sample of the estimated 880 tons of radioactive debris believed to sit inside reactors at the tsunami-hit nuclear plant.

But after carrying out the preliminary steps of the trial retrieval on Thursday morning, a Tepeco spokesman said the operator had "decided to suspend the work".

The trial removal will not resume yesterday as the operator has to "investigate the cause of the trouble," another spokesman Tatsuya Matoba said yesterday.

Harris accepts Democratic nomination with vow to unite America

AFP | Chicago

Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic presidential nomination in Chicago on Thursday in front of a rapturous crowd, pledging a "new way forward" if she beats Republican Donald Trump in November's blockbuster election.

"On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth, I accept your nomination to be president of the United States of America," the 59-year-old said to huge cheers.

"I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations," she said.

A sea of waving Stars and Stripes flags and chants of "USA"



Kamala Harris arrives to speak on the fourth and last day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the United Center in Chicago

filled the arena as jubilant Democrats anointed Harris as their standard-bearer.

Harris pledged to be a "president for all Americans" as she reaches out to undecided American voters after one of the most stunning upheavals in US political history.

With the November election, Americans have a "fleeting opportunity to move past the bit-

I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations
KAMALA HARRIS

terness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past -- a chance to chart a new way forward," she promised.

She laid out her personal story as a child of a single working mother, and her career as a prosecutor, saying she has the background and experience to serve the country in contrast to Trump who she said only works for himself and "his billionaire friends."

Flood deluge worsens in Bangladesh with millions affected

AFP | Dhaka

Floods wrought havoc in Bangladesh yesterday as the country recovers from weeks of political upheaval, with the death toll rising to 13 and millions more caught in the deluge.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people, crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers, has seen frequent floods in recent decades.

The annual monsoon rains cause widespread destruction every year, but climate change is shifting weather patterns and increasing the number of extreme weather events.

"It's a catastrophic situation here," rescue volunteer Zahed Hossain Bhuiya, 35, told AFP from the worst-hit city of Feni.



People wade through flood waters in Feni "We are trying to rescue as many people as we can."

the Brahmaputra, wind towards the sea after coursing through India.

All the major tributaries of the two transnational rivers were overflowing, according to local media reports.

Nur Islam, a shopkeeper in Feni, said his home had been completely submerged.

"Everything is underwater," the 60-year-old said.

Bangladesh's disaster management ministry said in a bulletin that the latest toll of 13 deaths included fatalities in cities along the country's south-eastern coast.

That included the main port city of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, a district home to around a million Rohingya refugees from neighbouring Myanmar.

Areas east of the capital Dhaka were also badly hit including the city of Comilla, near the border with Tripura state in India.

Venezuela top court confirms Maduro's disputed reelection



Nicolas Maduro
AFP | Washington

Venezuela's Supreme Court, which observers say is loyal to the government of President Nicolas Maduro, declared him the winner of the disputed July 28 election despite opposition claims of widespread vote fraud.

In its ruling, read by presiding judge Carylslia Rodriguez, the court said it had "indisputably certified election materials and validates the results of the July 28, 2024 presidential election issued by the National Electoral Council (CNE)," naming Maduro as the winner.

Minutes later, opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia responded to the ruling by posting an image to social media saying "void."

"The sovereignty of the people is not transferable," he said, accusing the court in a later video message of attempting to "please" Maduro.

Speaking in the coastal state of La Guaira, Maduro hailed the Supreme Court's decision as "historic and forceful."

Maduro had reportedly asked the court earlier this month to weigh in on the election, in which he claims to have defeated Gonzalez Urrutia with 52 percent of ballots cast.

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM) is a unique effort which will ensure medical facilities in a rapidly deployable manner. It consists of cubes which contain medicines and equipment for medical care. Today, presented BHISHM cubes to President @ZelenskyyUa @narendramodi

02

Today in Kyiv, Prime Minister @NarendraModi and I honored the memory of the children whose lives were taken by Russian aggression. Children in every country deserve to live in safety. We must make this possible... @ZelenskyyUa

03

Tonight, @KamalaHarris showed the world what I have known to be true. She is ready on day one to be President and represents the best of America. Let's get to work. @BarackObama

04

35 years on, the Baltic Way's legacy resonates stronger than ever. Around 2 million people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined hands across 600km. Demonstrating their unity against Soviet occupation. A strong reminder that freedom & democracy must be defended every day. @vonderleyen

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

celebs

Ryan Reynolds recalls his 'complicated' relationship with his dad

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds had a "complicated" relationship with his dad.

The 47-year-old actor lost his dad, James Reynolds, aged 74, in 2015 - but Ryan feels like his own experience of fatherhood has helped to give him some "closure".

The Hollywood star - who has James, nine, Inez, seven, Betty, four, and Olin, whose birth was announced in February 2023, with actress Blake Lively - told PEOPLE: "I think most men and boys have a slightly

complicated relationship with their father. But I also think that the healing for me or the closure around my dad actually really comes more through my relationship with my own kids."

Ryan's dad lived with Parkinson's disease for nearly 20 years, but the actor remembers his dad as a man of "incredible integrity".

The movie star - who has been married to Blake since 2012 - added: "He did not lie. He had this compulsion and moral and ethical compass that was I think very impressive."

Ryan Reynolds

Despite this, Ryan also acknowledged some of his dad's bad traits.

The 'Deadpool and Wolverine' star - who is now one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood - said: "[It] always pushed him to do the right thing at the right time, even though he made a massive amount of mistakes, was not a great communicator, blew it, all kinds of stuff.



"But I blow it all the time and we all do. It's funny that our parents are meant to have this kind of infallibility. So I do feel like part of that process and journey for me is with my own kids ... I get to fill in those little gaps that maybe hurt me with respect to my own father."

Jamie Lee Curtis admits to being 'quite a loner'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jamie Lee Curtis sees herself as a "loner".

The 65-year-old actress has confessed to being a bit of a loner in her personal life, but Jamie still relishes the opportunity to bond with her co-stars.

The actress - who stars alongside Cate Blanchett and Kevin Hart in the new action-comedy movie 'Borderlands' - told 'Extra': "I'm really quite a loner when I'm in my own life, but in my work I get to embrace people and I've been doing that for a long time."

The Hollywood star revealed that she particularly relished spending time with Cate, 55.

She shared: "We've bonded in a really lovely way.

"Obviously, Cate lives far, far away ... Chances that I would have ended up in a movie with her were very small, and so the opportunity presented itself ... and I went to Budapest."

What's more, Jamie is looking forward to reuniting with Lindsay Lohan for the 'Freaky Friday' sequel.

The actress - who starred alongside Lindsay in the origi-



I'm really quite a loner when I'm in my own life, but in my work I get to embrace people and I've been doing that for a long time

JAMIE LEE CURTIS



Jamie Lee Curtis

nal movie back in 2003 - admitted that it's "insane" to work with the 38-year-old actress after so many years.

She said: "She's grown up. She's had a baby of her own ... She's 38 years old. I mean, how crazy is that?"

"She was 15 when we made the movie. I mean, it's insane."

Jamie has enjoyed a hugely successful career - but she doesn't obsess about winning awards.

The movie star previously revealed that she's developed a philosophical attitude towards award shows over recent years.

Jamie - who stars in the 'Halloween' film franchise - told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It's out of your control ... At the end, win or lose, it doesn't matter."

Kaley Cuoco hails her engagement ring as 'slice of perfection'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kaley Cuoco has hailed her engagement ring as a "slice of perfection".

'The Big Bang Theory' actress, 38, announced she was engaged to her actor fiancé Tom Pelphrey, 42, in a series of Instagram posts on Wednesday - one of which showed her stroking her partner's face while showing off her new bling.

Hours later, the actress posted a video of her engagement ring, giving fans a close-up look at the sparkler.

She said in a caption it was a "once-in-a-lifetime slice of perfection" - adding: "My heart can't take it!"

Kaley added: "What a wild, beautiful journey life can be. Grateful for every road that led me straight to you."

Tom popped the question with a gold band boasting a main oval diamond flanked

by smaller stones.

Kaley also revealed she collaborated on the design of her ring with jeweller Shahla Karimi, whose designs have been worn by Hailey Bieber and Taylor Swift.

The actress was previously married to tennis player Ryan Sweeting from 2013 to 2016 and Karl Cook from 2018 to 2022.

She captioned a series of images of herself



Kaley Cuoco

flashing her engagement ring from Tom that she posted on her Instagram Stories: "Amazing weekend."

Other images in her carousel of snaps announcing her engagement included photos of her and 'Ozark' actor Tom hugging the actress' first child - daughter Matilda Carmine Richie, who she had with her now-fiancé in 2023.

Kaley recently opened up about leaving behind her

Hollywood for a quiet life on her ranch in Thousand Oaks, California.

She told People: "I wanted something away from LA. I love being an actor and I love the business, I really do, I've been in it my whole life.

"I know nothing else for 30-plus years. But I knew I needed a special place that wasn't that and that felt more grounded, felt more real, felt more family-oriented because I do love that side of my life, but this is equally as important to me."

Kaley bought her ranch for \$6.4 million in 2023 not long after it was built, and she added to People about falling in love with the idea of living in the home: "I was like, 'I want my own ranch. I want my own place.'"

"And I wanted a place for my family. My family's family and my child and my brain."

Cate Blanchett 'didn't get paid anything' for Lord of the Rings

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Cate Blanchett has claimed that "no one got paid anything" for 'Lord of the Rings'.

The 55-year-old actress starred as Galadriel in the big-screen ad-

aptations of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic novel series but when it was suggested that move was her "biggest" paycheck to date, she insisted that couldn't be further from the truth.

Speaking on 'Watch What Happens Live', she told host Andy Cohen: "Are you kidding me? No, no one got paid anything to do that movie."

Andy then asked the Oscar-winning star if she received a piece of the back-end - a term meaning that actors receive a percentage of box office profits upon the film's release -

and insisted that that was not the case either, as she insisted her only motivation to do the film was to work with director Peter Jackson.

She said: "No, that was way before any of that ... no, nothing. I wanted to work with the guy who made 'Brain-

dead'. I mean, I basically got free sandwiches and I got to keep my [prosthetic] ears.

No, no one got paid anything!"

The 'Tar' actress - who has a reported net worth of \$95 million - was then asked to name what her biggest paycheck to date

was, but remained coy and insisted only that women tend not to make the huge sums of money within the entertainment industry that may be expected or assumed by the masses.

She added: "Well, not very often. Women don't get paid as much as you think they do."

Earlier this year, Cate was participating in a United Nations press conference during the 2024 Cannes Film Festival when she described herself as a "middle-class" woman with a vested interest in helping others.

Earlier this year, during the 2024 Cannes Film Festival Cate described herself as a "middle-class" woman with a vested interest in helping others



Cate Blanchett

SUDOKU

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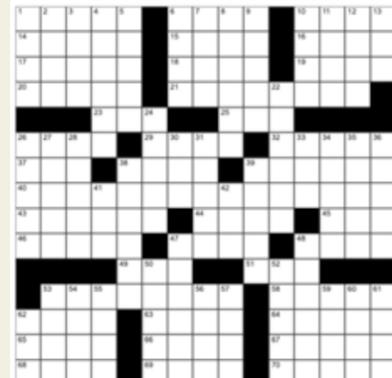
Yesterday's solution

4	7	2	5	9	6	3	1	8
9	3	1	8	2	4	5	7	6
6	5	8	7	1	3	2	4	9
2	1	9	3	8	5	4	6	7
5	4	6	1	7	9	8	3	2
3	8	7	4	6	2	9	5	1
1	2	5	6	3	8	7	9	4
8	6	3	9	4	7	1	2	5
7	9	4	2	5	1	6	8	3

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- Arrived; 2- On ___ with; 3- ___ uncertain terms; 4- Required; 5- Consumed; 6- ___ poor Yorick; 7- "Give that ___ cigar!"; 8- Two-piece bathing suit; 9- Novelist Calvino; 10- Light ring; 11- Bones found in the hip; 12- Treehouse used by birds; 13- Recipe abbr.; 22- Intellectual; 24- Saline; 26- Long hard seat; 27- Wahine's welcome; 28- "See ya!"; 30- ___ degree; 31- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 33- Gave grub; 34- Hackneyed; 35- Bert's buddy; 36- Fit for a king; 38- Pilot; 39- Dated; 41- Very small; 42- Tit for ___; 47- Climbing device; 48- Lens settings; 50- Mr. Magoo, for one; 52- Tortilla chip dip; 53- Trevi Fountain site; 54- La Scala highlight; 55- ___ uproar; 56- Suffix with concession; 57- Himalayan legend; 59- Chapters of history; 60- Comedian Johnson; 61- Driving aids; 62- ___ in Charlie;

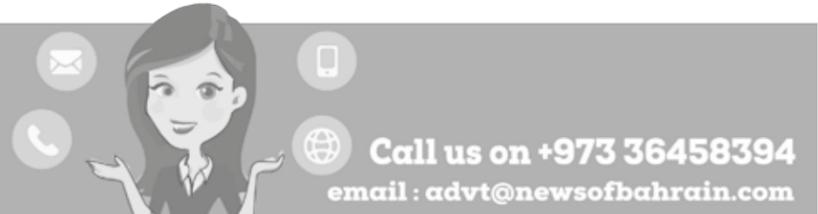
Down

1- Arrived; 2- On ___ with; 3- ___ uncertain terms; 4- Required; 5- Consumed; 6- ___ poor Yorick; 7- "Give that ___ cigar!"; 8- Two-piece bathing suit; 9- Novelist Calvino; 10- Light ring; 11- Bones found in the hip; 12- Treehouse used by birds; 13- Recipe abbr.; 22- Intellectual; 24- Saline; 26- Long hard seat; 27- Wahine's welcome; 28- "See ya!"; 30- ___ degree; 31- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 33- Gave grub; 34- Hackneyed; 35- Bert's buddy; 36- Fit for a king; 38- Pilot; 39- Dated; 41- Very small; 42- Tit for ___; 47- Climbing device; 48- Lens settings; 50- Mr. Magoo, for one; 52- Tortilla chip dip; 53- Trevi Fountain site; 54- La Scala highlight; 55- ___ uproar; 56- Suffix with concession; 57- Himalayan legend; 59- Chapters of history; 60- Comedian Johnson; 61- Driving aids; 62- ___ in Charlie;

Yesterday's solution

C	A	P	E	S	T	E	T	I	R	E
O	P	R	Y	M	A	K	E	S	O	N
I	S	E	E	O	N	E	A	L	B	R
N	E	W	S	B	O	Y	L	E	T	T
R	A	H	R	A	H	A	D	V	I	S
A	T	R	E	E	D	I	E	E	R	I
B	R	O	P	R	O	S	P	E	E	R
B	A	S	E	A	I	R	S	C	L	O
I	S	S	U	A	N	C	E	S	C	O
R	E	C	B	L	O	C				
S	E	N	O	R	A	S	E	A	S	I
A	T	O	P	K	I	T	T	Y	F	L
R	A	R	E	K	E	N	A	T	E	L
I	S	A								

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ALWAHDA BUILDING MATERIALS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33554008 or INFO@HONESTANDCHARTER.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741383 or info@BAHSTS.COM

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

THE K - HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

ALGHANIM INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. - For has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300616 or karim.eissa@alghanim.com

GENERAL CONTRACTING & TRADING SERVICES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700663 or info@gccts-bahrain.com

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667181 or mjmh69@hotmail.com

SITRA MEAT FACTORY. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732252 or gm@sitractory.com

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

Secure Me W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

Abo-hatim building contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33608787 or ABO-HATIM@OUTLOOK.COM

HERE SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33310088 or ALZAYANIA@GMAIL.COM

SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33637004 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

MEGROCE HYPERMARKETS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34491381 or KHALIL_ASFOOR@OUTLOOK.SA

SUN LIGHT REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34208050 or BAHRAINTRAVEL67@GMAIL.COM

WAJAHET SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33020047 or SHAH.VIRK2@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741383 or info@BAHSTS.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

S B C TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33600506 or SBCTRADING.ASKAR@GMAIL.COM

DHA REPAIR OF MACHINERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34567895 or ABEERRAJPUTI@GMAIL.COM

Plastico Bahrain W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36065102 or INFO@ALGHANAH.COM

LIKE MAKER COMPUTER PROGRAMMING BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34002030 or BAHRAINBLOCKBUSTER@GMAIL.COM

BRITUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17070170 or FKAMAL@GFH.COM

ABU HASSAN GARAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38385157 or ABBAS.MOSCOW@GMAIL.COM

REDSHINE MAINTENANCE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39332936 or REDSHINESERVICES2016@GMAIL.COM

SINEX MIDDLE EAST CREATIONS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217003 or VINEETH@MEDIASOLUTIONS.COM.BH

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

SEA SIDE WOOD DESIGN has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39746823 or SEASIDEWOOD.BH@GMAIL.COM

AL GUDHABIYA LAUNDRY bahraini partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38431321 or INDIANBAHRAIN123@GMAIL.COM

HANU GENERAL TRADING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33202345 or HOBH03521@GMAIL.COM

TASHYED HOSPITALITY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or mannai.hr@mannaitrading.com

GATE ALHARA BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39688982 or ABDULLA.RASHED207@GMAIL.COM

BURGER ALSADA 14 has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33022329 or SAYEDADNAN-KADAM@GMAIL.COM

SANYA PLUS FASHION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39455454 or SANYATRADING@GMAIL.COM

UZZAL PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36134371 or UZZALROHMAN428@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741383 or info@BAHSTS.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

BRANDYS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39394139 or BRANDYS.WLL@GMAIL.COM

SOA FASHION DESIGN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39329549 or JULHAS39329@GMAIL.COM

ALLDAY MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35617939 or ACCOUNTS.BAHRAIN@ALLDAYUAE.COM

AL MUAZZIB ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33448868 or MHMD.ALARADI.94@GMAIL.COM

WAHAT ALARAB FOR TRAVEL AND TOURISM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268000 or ALARABTRAVELBAH@GMAIL.COM

AL WAQIYA RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39499976 or MUJEEBFIJU@GMAIL.COM

OFF WHITE NAILS has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35526635 or FATI-MOHD321321@GMAIL.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

MVM CONTRACTING AND RECRUITMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66311099 or MVMRECRUITMENT-BH@GMAIL.COM

CPRN BEACH RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suit-

ably qualified applicants can contact 36114466 or ACCOUNTS@INFINITYBAHRAIN.COM

AH MINI MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33059022 or MUX.AHWLL@GMAIL.COM

S M SUITES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34204096 or FLORISSANT.BH@GMAIL.COM

THALASSERY LIVE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 63330888 or HASHIM@HALAYAGROUPINTL.COM

LAMAAT AL DEERAH CLEANING SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66666032 or ATHEERCARS@GMAIL.COM

WAQAS ELECTRONIC REPAIRS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36130529 or WAQASAHMEDBH52@GMAIL.COM

PROSIGNS ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRAFTING & PRUNING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32137528 or KHIZAR.SARDAR@HOTMAIL.COM

SKY BERRIO CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39548465 or shalu.rastogi@berriologistics.com

MOHAMMAD FIAZ INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689627 or MUHAMMAD33689627@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741383 or info@BAHSTS.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

GCS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICES HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or government@mre.co

DIKOBA GENERAL TRADING & SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36908690 or RUPESH.PALE86@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD FAIZAN INTERIOR DECORATION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ARCHITECT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37218948 or MQZ63666@GMAIL.COM

JUTT CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17421619 or AB.JUTT3772@GMAIL.COM

CAMEELER BEAUTY SALON AND SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33353224 or AYAT.ALAWI@GMAIL.COM

NASMA AL KHALEJ CAR MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37114484 or ALRUQA-IMI66@GMAIL.COM

NASIR NADEEM OF HEAD OFFICES & MANAGEMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35935010 or SERVICE-MONICA9@GMAIL.COM

AL MOUSSAWI INTERNATIONAL FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36422424 or sadeeq@yahoo.com

Visma construction Est. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36000440 or MSAKHEER@LIVE.COM

HKH CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33871683 or MK_ALKHALIFA.36@HOTMAIL.COM

Alfajer restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(KEBAB), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17414017 or ALIAAQ696@GMAIL.COM

ABDULHADI ALAFOO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alafoq@batalco.com.bh

TURK EXCAVATION AND CONTRACTING COMPANY B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39429987 or gro@turk.bh

FALAFEL ALYOUM has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39440695 or

FALAFELALYOUM1994@GMAIL.COM

MANNAI TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

PATWA PEARLS WORKSHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35094042 or patwapearls@gmail.com

AFANDI GOLD SMITHS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39867957 or ALIAFANDI@YAHOO.COM

Bahrain Services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224198 or BAHRAINSERVICES.BH@GMAIL.COM

NASSER GOLDSMITH WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39883277 or ABDUL-NABIALSARRAJ@GMAIL.COM

SAEED HABIB W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39460469 or HALAH88@BATELCO.COM.BH

AL TAADUL Trading Co W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785646 or HAMEED@ATCO-BH.COM

Topaz light Electrical Construction has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39679090 or MARHOON688@HOTMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED HABIB MOHAMMED ABDULLA has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66333744 or mohhmoh1@gmail.com

MARWA LAND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32161615 or M1995-33@hotmail.com

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

HAMEEDA MOHAMED ABDULRAZAQ MOHAMED has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or BUZAAL1970@GMAIL.COM

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

MONAYA BEAUTY SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39451155 or A.SHAHEED.ALI@HOTMAIL.COM

AL MASHRIQ KITHENS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088188 or alkhsh-ram@GMAIL.COM

ALQABAS LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343604 or BMMR74@YAHOO.COM

ALTASAMEH TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39400896 or MMA-MEEN600@HOTMAIL.COM

SUPER LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING . W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17274472 or MAJED@FAWAZAL-ZAYANI.COM

ADAM SUBS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39600998 or PAINTPLUS@HOTMAIL.COM

AWAL HOTELING (SHERATON BAHRAIN) COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PURCHASING MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533533 or thomas.flindt@sheraton.com

ARCAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701900 or hrd@arcabiz

NDT Global W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17006610 or info@NDTGLOBALWLL.COM

KHABAZ ALRASTAH has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36744554 or JVENTERPRISEHOLDING@GMAIL.COM

GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or hussain.almajed@gulfhotels-group.com

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@

gmail.com

DAY TO DAY DISCOUNT CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66634444 or REZA@DAYTODAYBH.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or ebrahim@macbh.com

MANAESH JUBRAN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015600 or HUSSAIN.SHABAN@GMAIL.COM

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

SM CARPENTRY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39973093 or SMB-MWLL@GMAIL.COM

MAQ Marine Services has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36266658 or MAQMARINE@GMAIL.COM

Sheila Eaze Food and beverage service activities - Bahraini Partnership has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39662990 or ALMOKLA@GMAIL.COM

D C C CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887610 or ABDULLA@MICOSABH.COM

NEHLA MEDICAL CENTER W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77926666 or AFFANDESHMUKH@ROCKET-MAIL.COM

RAFAY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AND OFFICE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38441357 or RAFAYSALMANSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

YABALASH MUHARRAQ W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33121878 or HABIB6280@YAHOO.COM

SHEIKH ZALI SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051379 or SHEIKHZALIBH@GMAIL.COM

MUNEER COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37396027 or FAISALKHATTAK149@GMAIL.COM

BATTA LIGHT CARGO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35948612 or BATTALIGHT@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ZUBAIR SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33157126 or YA8IUL-LABH@GMAIL.COM

AL BAHAR TRADING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1727134 or ALBAHAR.BH@BATELCO.COM.BH

GRAVITY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36255540 or almantech1997@gmail.com

ALDHABYANIYA SUPER MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33022299 or SAMEERLAFAYEZ99@HOTMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335558 or bucheeris@gmail.com

TEAM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39289289 or teamco98@gmail.com

BUSALMAN GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39690977 or J44101@HOTMAIL.COM

ALWASMIYA HAIRDRESSING SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38786844 or FAWAZPOTOCOL@HOTMAIL.COM

AL THARA SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33199122 or ALIABDULLAAA8@GMAIL.COM

MUBASHIR CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39043725 or mubashircafebh@gmail.com

EY Consulting W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38899982 or sara.ebrahim@bh.ey.com

EFEL LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified

applicants can contact 33345110 or FA000-HA75@HOTMAIL.COM

House of glam salon has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233717 or HYAGA2006@GMAIL.COM

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33916679 or LEGAL@PROJECTSACCESS.COM

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

UNIVERSAL ROLLING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17467477 or amin.hameed@unirol.com

Abdulla Jabor Habib Alnoaimi Construction has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888434 or ABDULLABH666@GMAIL.COM

SMART SECURITY & SAFETY has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666476 or husain.ahelli@gmail.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

SPA GOLD W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697074 or INFO@IWS-E.NET

ALGHANAH ALUMINIUM has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36065102 or info@alghanah.com

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOF-ITEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

SALTOS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17335588 or MOHAMEDTHANI111@HOTMAIL.COM

212 supermarket has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33242255 or 212SUPERMARKET@GMAIL.COM

D.G.JONES & PARTNERS MIDDLE EAST W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER SPECIAL PROJECTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256826 or hrd.bah@dgjones.com

HILAL GATE FOR CARS SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36557000 or HILAL.AHMEDI974@GMAIL.COM

HOUSE BOAT RESTERANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36455664 or MOHAMMED@HOUSE-BOATBH.COM

MOHAMMAD KHALID CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36980188 or MKAS.TRADING@GMAIL.COM

ARCAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701900 or hrd@arcabiz

NESTO HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272206 or WESTERBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

JAECON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

HARBOUR SUITES HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297922 or WALEED@KOOHEJI.NET

Arabian Building Support and Rehabilitation Co. LTD - Foreign Br has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36500443 or SABIR@ABSAR.COM

BAHRAIN TRADING AGENCIES CO. - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERINTENDENT(AIR-COND. EQUIP.MAINT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768181 or JM.JALAL@BATELCO.COM.BH

OBRAS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39133302 or OBRAS.CMS3@GMAIL.COM

JAVAID INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32321690 or USMANJAVI2003@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

Taste of chanie restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33300177 or tahaha@batelco.com.bh

ALNAIZAK TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66673333 or ALNAIZAKCARGO@HOTMAIL.COM

HAROUNA FOR AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39446651 or HUSSAINAKUSHI@GMAIL.COM

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Mbappe set for 'beautiful' Bernabeu debut: Ancelotti

Real Madrid fans eager for Mbappe's first home match against Real Valladolid

● **Mbappe set for his home debut at Santiago Bernabeu**

● **Ancelotti assures fans of a special day with Mbappe in action**

● **Madrid's attack faces balance challenges in early season matches**

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said striker Kylian Mbappe will enjoy a "beautiful day" when he makes his home debut for the Spanish

giants on Sunday in La Liga.

Los Blancos face Real Valladolid in their first match at the Santiago Bernabeu this season with supporters clamouring to see the French superstar in action.

Mbappe scored on his debut for Madrid in Warsaw against Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup win but could not find the net in a 1-1 league draw at Mallorca.

"I think it will be a beautiful day for Mbappe, to play at the Bernabeu for the first time in a Real Madrid shirt," Ancelotti told reporters yesterday.

"The fans are very excited about him, and he will have a great game, because of the quality he has -- the fans will enjoy themselves."

Mbappe was linked with Real



Despite early season balance issues, Ancelotti is confident that Mbappe's Bernabeu debut will be a spectacle, promising fans an unforgettable performance

Madrid for several years while at Paris Saint-Germain and was finally able to make his dream move this summer at the end of

his contract in France.

With Mbappe joining Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo Goes and Jude Bellingham in attack, Ancelotti has complained his team have lacked balance in their first two matches.

The coach said Bellingham suffered a knock in training and was being looked at by medical staff ahead of the Valladolid clash.

"We have prepared well for the game on Sunday... we know very well what happened against Mallorca and we have tried to fix it for this weekend," said Ancelotti.

"I think facing Valladolid will be a good test... we lacked balance at times and we have to work on that.

"It's not so hard to look

for a solution when the problem is clear, there is also a clear solution."

Vinicius, Mbappe, Rodrygo and to some extent Bellingham prefer to play coming in from the left.

"I won't tell them we have to play on the other wing when in the last years we've won two Champions Leagues playing (from the left)," said Ancelotti.

Madrid lifted a Champions League and La Liga double last season and in 2022 under Ancelotti and after adding Mbappe to their ranks are firm favourites to triumph again in Spain this season.



Kylian Mbappe

Flick hoping Barca can register 'unbelievable' Olmo

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick is hopeful Dani Olmo can make his debut for the club on Saturday against Athletic Bilbao.

The playmaker signed from RB Leipzig this summer has not yet been registered with La Liga because of the Catalan giants' financial difficulties.

Barcelona allowed midfielder Ilkay Gundogan to rejoin Manchester City yesterday which could give them enough room to register Olmo.

"(Finances) are not my job, we work with the team and I love what I see this week, Dani is ready to play and we're waiting for that and hopefully tomorrow he's on the team," Flick told reporters yesterday.

"He could help us, this will be very good for us, he's an outstanding player.

"Everyone can see in training when he's under pressure or in front of the goal he's unbelievable, it's good to have him in the team as soon as possible."

Olmo, 26, was vital for Spain

as they won Euro 2024 this summer, finishing as the competition's joint-top goalscorer with three strikes.

Flick said Fermin Lopez, who won both the Euros and Olympic gold for Spain, was ready to return for Barcelona.

Barcelona were heavily linked with a move for Athletic and Spain winger Nico Williams but he is set to face them on Saturday and stay with the Copa del Rey winners this season.

"We have an experienced player on that side, Jules

(Kounde) will take care of him, to speak about (Williams) is not my job because he's not our player," added the German coach.

"The focus is how we play against him and I think Jules will do a good job."



Dani Olmo

Slot 'trusts' Liverpool squad without signings

AFP | London

Liverpool manager Arne Slot said yesterday he was relaxed about his new club's lack of transfer activity after inheriting a "very good team" at Anfield.

Slot has the unenviable task of succeeding Jurgen Klopp but got off to a winning start by beating newly-promoted Ipswich 2-0 on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Liverpool are the only side in the English top flight yet to make a single signing in the window.

Spain international Martin Zubimendi rejected the opportunity to leave Real Sociedad, while a deal for Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili is reportedly close that would see the Georgian stay at the Mestalla this season on loan.

"I trust the team," said Slot on why he is not stressing about the lack of new signings.

"I've said before, I have inherited a very good team, with young players. We trust them a lot. They proved that they have earned our trust."

Slot takes charge of his first



Arne Slot

competitive game at Anfield on Sunday when Brentford are the visitors.

The Dutchman, though, said he was too focused on getting the three points to feel the nerves of having to impress the home fans.

"I am not nervous at all. Certainly not at this moment because I'm in the middle of preparation, prepare the team for Sunday," he added.

"It wouldn't be a good thing if you have nerves. I trust what me and my staff do to prepare the team in the best possible way. I trust the team a lot."

Liverpool's window has been more dominated by sales.

Arteta to hold contract talks with Arsenal after transfer window

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta will hold talks with Arsenal over extending his contract once the transfer window closes next week.

Arteta's current deal with the Gunners expires at the end of this season and the Spaniard is keen to extend his stay in north London.

Ahead of Saturday's trip to Aston Villa in the Premier League, the 42-year-old revealed his future should be resolved once the club's transfer market business is concluded.

"The focus has been on the transfer window. We had quite a lot of things to do and discuss. We are on it and we will take care of that in the right moment," Arteta told reporters.



Mikel Arteta

porters.

When asked if talks would occur after the transfer window shuts, Arteta replied: "Yeah.

"I am very grateful first of all for where I'm sitting and the people I work with every single day because it's really difficult to find that harmony, trust, belief and alignment in the vision.

"It's something I always mention because I believe we still

The focus has been on the transfer window. We had quite a lot of things to do and discuss. We are on it and we will take care of that in the right moment

MIKEL ARTETA

have an unbelievable time ahead of us. It's very exciting and I am very excited about it."

Arteta is focused on bolstering Arsenal's squad before discussing his own future, but he refused to be drawn on a reported £32 million (\$41 million) move for Real Sociedad midfielder Mikel Merino.

Amid claims Arsenal are on the verge of signing the Euro

2024 winner, Arteta said: "I cannot talk about any player that's not with us. There's still time in the market.

"Both ways. For all the managers, for all the teams here. You can see it's getting very busy.

"The full focus is on the players that we have at the moment, the big match we have at Aston Villa and that's all."

Arteta is braced for "surprises" to happen during the final week of the transfer window, which shuts on August 30.

But he said striker Eddie Nketiah would be involved against Aston Villa despite Nottingham Forest being eager to sign the forward.

"I expect Eddie to train with us today. To be prepared for tomorrow. That's it. Whatever happens will happen if it's good for everybody," Arteta said.

Madrid's Bellingham set for month out with calf injury

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham is set to miss around a month according to Spanish reports after suffering a calf injury in training yesterday.

"Following tests carried out today on Jude Belling-

ham by Real Madrid's medical team, the player has been diagnosed with an injury to the plantaris muscle in his right leg," said Madrid in a statement, without specifying his expected absence time.

Bellingham will miss La Liga games against Real Valladolid, Las Palmas and Real Betis, as well as England's Nations League matches

against the Republic of Ireland and Finland in September.

"(Bellingham) took a knock, we're evaluating it," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told a press conference earlier yesterday.

The midfielder was key for Madrid last season as they won a Champions League and La Liga double.

In Madrid's first two

matches this season Bellingham played in a central midfield role to accommodate the arrival of striker Kylian Mbappe, after playing in a more advanced position last season.

Bellingham, 21, will aim to return for Madrid's first Champions League match this season, set to take place between September 17-19.



Jude Bellingham



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Heartbreak for Bahrain as UAE advance to West Asia U20 Volleyball final



Action from the match

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In a hard-fought semi-final match at the West Asia U20 Volleyball Championship, Bahrain faced the United Arab Emirates team but unfortunately fell short, losing 3-0.

This defeat marks the end of Bahrain's campaign in the tournament.

The first set was closely contested, with Bahrain pushing

hard but eventually losing 23-25. The second set saw a similar battle, with the UAE pulling ahead to win 25-22. In the third and final set, Bahrain couldn't recover, with the UAE sealing their victory with a 25-18 scoreline.

Despite the valiant effort, Bahrain U-20's hopes of advancing to the final were dashed as the UAE team maintained control and outperformed them in key moments of the match.

Norris, Russell on top in first two Dutch Grand Prix practices



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris drives during the first practice session

AFP | Zandvoort

tyres locked up.

British drivers Lando Norris and George Russell secured the bragging rights after the first day of practice for the Dutch Grand Prix on Friday, with local hero Max Verstappen in unfamiliar territory behind them.

Russell set a lap time of 1:10.702 early in the second hour-long practice session and it was never beaten, Oscar Piastri from Australia coming in 0.061 seconds behind.

Verstappen trailed in fifth, 0.284 seconds behind Russell's Mercedes, having been pipped into second by Norris in the day's first practice session.

The second session was paused for six minutes while officials cleared debris off the track after Nico Hulkenberg crashed his Haas as his rear

earlier Friday, the drivers had to deal with typical Dutch weather that swung from torrential rain to bright sunshine and back within minutes.

Even Verstappen spun his Red Bull on the wet track but as the clouds parted and the sun emerged, so did quicker lap times, with the lead changing hands several times.

In a thrilling last lap, Verstappen took the lead only to be pipped by Norris, who turned in a lap of 1:12.322, just 0.201 seconds ahead of his Dutch rival. Verstappen, 26, has never lost at his "home" Grand Prix since it was reintroduced to the circuit in 2021.

The three-time champion had a blistering start to the season, picking up from where he left off in 2023 with seven wins out of the first 10.

Gundogan returns to Man City from Barcelona

AFP | London

Ilkay Gundogan said he had returned to the "best club in the world" after re-signing for Manchester City from Barcelona on Friday.

The former German international won five Premier League titles and the Champions League among 12 major trophies during his first spell at City between 2016 and 2023.

Gundogan departed the English champions just over a year ago to join Barca.

However, the 33-year-old and the Catalan giants reportedly agreed to rescind his contract after just one season to pave the way for a return to the Etihad on a one-year deal.

"I'm incredibly happy," Gundogan said in a City statement. "Happy to see the team-mates, the staff, people that over seven years I had an amazing time with, a very successful time with. Many ups, a few downs, but in general, an incredible experience.

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ILKAY GUNDOGAN

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"You realise how big the club is -- the best club in the world."

Gundogan's return is a timely boost for City after the departure of Julian Alvarez to Atletico Madrid for a reported fee of up to 95 million euros

(\$104 million).

"Most of the time the managers say until the transfer window finishes anything can happen and this is the real proof," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "It was a complete surprise."

In his sole season in Spain, Gundogan scored five goals and provided 14 assists but Barca failed to win a trophy.

"We know him well, the staff, players and everyone and the quality that he played last season in Barcelona," added Guardiola.

"We didn't have any doubts when the possibility was open and delighted he is back."



Ilkay Gundogan

Shadman anchors Bangladesh's good show in first Pakistan Test

Bangladesh reach 316-5 as Shadman Islam's 93 guides them against Pakistan

● Bangladesh trails Pakistan by 132 runs with five wickets remaining

● Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das forge unbeaten 98-run partnership

● Pakistan's bowlers struggle on unresponsive Rawalpindi pitch

AFP | Rawalpindi

Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam missed a fighting hundred by just seven runs but still guided Bangladesh to an impressive 316-5 by close of day three in the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi on Friday.

The left-hander scored a patient 183-ball 93 to ensure the visitors' chances of a draw or pulling off a first-ever win over Pakistan in the 14th Test match between the rivals.

At close, veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim was 55 not out while Liton Das was 52 not out to fur-



Bangladesh's Shadman Islam (L) and Mominul Haque run between the wickets

ther Bangladesh's progress, having added a solid 98 runs for the unfinished sixth wicket stand.

Bangladesh trail Pakistan's total of 448-6 declared by 132 runs with five wickets in hand as the Rawalpindi pitch proved unresponsive to bowlers -- nearly quashing Pakistan's hopes of a big lead.

Rahim hit Shaheen Shah Afridi for his seventh boundary to reach his 28th Test half-century. Das also completed 50 with three boundaries and a six in one

Naseem Shah's over after Pakistan took the second new ball.

"The match is even," said Pakistan's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood, a former allrounder. "We were not disciplined in the last 12 overs but, still, if we get a 80-90 run lead then we can make a match out of it."

Bangladesh's Mominul Haque, who made 50, believed his team can win.

"Definitely, we believe in positive things," said Haque. "The first session tomorrow will be

“Definitely, we believe in positive things. The first session tomorrow will be crucial and if we don't lose early wickets it will be better. I think spinners might get turn and bounce

BANGLADESH'S MOMINUL HAQUE

crucial and if we don't lose early wickets it will be better.

"I think spinners might get turn and bounce."

But Bangladesh's resistance was led by Shadman.

The 29-year-old left-hander was defiant but was bowled by a sharp delivery from Pakistan pacer Mohammad Ali in the last over before tea.

Pakistan also dismissed Shakib Al Hasan for 15 as the ace all-rounder played a loose shot against Saim Ayub as the part-time spinner got a maiden wicket in his first-ever Test over.

Pacer Khurram Shahzad was the pick of bowlers with 2-47 while Naseem Shah, Moham-



Shadman Islam's resilient knock of 93 was crucial in keeping Bangladesh in contention, helping them avoid a collapse and stay in the game against Pakistan

hit five boundaries in his 76-ball innings.

It was Shadman who anchored his team's fight as Pakistan's pace attack looked less effective on the slow pitch.

The Shadman-Haque stand led the recovery after Pakistan removed Zakir Hasan (12) and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (16) in the extended three-hour session due to Friday prayers.

Pakistan employed all four pacers but were missing the services of a frontline spinner.

Part-time slow bowler Agha Salman had Shadman leg-before wicket on 57 but the decision was overturned on review.

Resuming at 27-0, Bangladesh lost Zakir to a smart catch by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, diving to his left to take a one-handed catch in Shah's fifth over of the day.

Shanto looked good during his short knock but was bowled between bat and pad by Shahzad, leaving the visitors on 53-2.

The second and final Test will also be played in Rawalpindi from August 30, with the series part of the nine-team World Test Championship's third cycle (2023-2025).