

No casualties as US forces are targeted in Syria
AFP | Washington

American and allied forces in Syria were targeted yesterday in an attack that did not cause casualties, a US official said, after a militant group claimed to have launched drones at Washington's troops. Armed factions close to Iran have threatened to attack US interests over Washington's support for Israel since Hamas killed more than 1,400 people in a shock cross-border attack from Gaza on October 7. "An attack against US and coalition forces occurred early this morning in Syria. There were no injuries or damage," a US defense official said, referring to the international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) group.

Fifth death in UK after Storm Babet
AFP | London

A fifth death was confirmed in the United Kingdom yesterday following the torrential rains and high winds brought by Storm Babet, which caused extensive flooding across the country. The body of a man was found after he went missing in a vehicle in flood waters in Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland, police confirmed. He is the third person killed in Scotland during the storm, after a 56-year-old man died when a falling tree hit his van and a 57-year-old woman was swept away by a river.

France to sell arms to Armenia
AFP | Paris

France announced yesterday the sale of defensive equipment to Armenia as Azerbaijan launched military drills with its ally Turkey. The deal was announced weeks after Baku seized Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenian separatists and amid fears in Yerevan that Azerbaijan might now seek to target southern Armenia.

Bahrain and UAE vow to strengthen solid ties

Abu Dhabi

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, reviewed the deep-rooted solid Bahraini-Emirati relations, stressing their shared keenness to further strengthen them in a way that serves their common interests.

This came as HM the King and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed met at his residence in



HM the King meets with HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed

Bahrain and the UAE have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations, marked by cordial political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people contacts.

Abu Dhabi.

The two leaders expressed their pride in the robust bilateral relations, which are growing steadily thanks to their high-level joint fruitful cooperation and coordination at all levels.

They wished the two countries and their peoples further progress and prosperity. HM the King and UAE President also discussed the latest regional and global developments, and exchanged points of view on them.

We support peace

Bahrain promotes diplomatic resolutions for regional conflict, coexistence and prosperity

Memorandum to support Bahrain in creating smart cities approved

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's stance, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on supporting diplomatic and peaceful resolutions of conflicts to promote coexistence, security, development, and prosperity for all people of the region.

This came as the Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet also affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to supporting alliances that enhance stability and serve development



HRH the Deputy King chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

goals. This was reiterated by HM the King during his address at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit held by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Cairo Peace Summit held by the Arab Republic of Egypt, and during HM the King's meetings with His Majesty King Charles III of the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth, senior members of the UK government, His Holiness Pope Francis, Pope of the Catholic Church, the President of Italian Republic, HE Sergio Mattarella, and the Prime Minister of Italy, HE Giorgia Meloni.

Likewise, the Cabinet reiterated its stance in supporting Palestinians' right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

It commended HM the King's directives to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.

The Cabinet further expressed their gratitude to HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for sponsoring the national campaign "Day of Solidarity with Our People in Gaza... We Are

with You", and to the Royal Humanitarian Foundation for organising this campaign.

Swift response

The Cabinet also commended the efforts of Bahraini citizens for their swift response to the campaign.

To mark the United Nations Day, the Cabinet highlighted the importance of the UN's principles and values.

The Cabinet discussed and approved several memorandums during the meeting, one of which was a memorandum submitted by the Government Executive Committee on the Sixth National Telecommunications Plan, which aims to support Bahrain in creating smart cities, developing the economy, promoting innovation, and maintaining competitiveness through 30 initiatives implemented across six main axes.



Over 5,000 deaths, majority civilians, and 40% children

TDT | Manama

Deaths in Gaza topped 5,000 yesterday, a majority of them civilians and over 40 per cent children, since Israel began relentlessly pounding the Palestinian enclave after a Hamas attack on October 7th killed around 1,400 Israelis.

Over one million of the 2.3 million people in Gaza have been displaced and thousands of buildings, including homes,

mosques, hospitals and schools, have been destroyed in the repeated air strikes by Israel.

Having caused a death toll that is over three times that of Hamas, Israel has ramped up its attack on the Gazans, who are facing an acute shortage of food, water, and fuel following the two-week siege by Israel, forcing the UN to warn that international aid is only a trickle of what is needed.

An AFP report of yesterday



Injured Palestinians are transported into al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City following Israeli strikes yesterday. (AFP)

evening quoted the Gaza government as saying that Israeli strikes overnight killed over 60 people, including 17 in a single strike on a house in Jabaliya in northern Gaza. Yesterday morning, at least 10 more were killed, the report said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh yesterday accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill", in an apparent reference to recent statements made by Western

leaders supporting Israeli actions.

China's Middle East envoy will arrive in the UAE late evening on Monday to continue a visit to the region with the aim of cooling down the conflict.

Around a dozen aid trucks, which is the third convoy within three days, arrived in Gaza yesterday through the Rafah border crossing point with Egypt. About 100 trucks of aid are needed per day in Gaza, according to the UN.

Solidarity in action

Bahrain dispatches humanitarian aid worth \$1 million to help Palestinians

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The first batch of Bahrain's humanitarian aid for Palestinian people was dispatched yesterday.

It was held under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

This initiative was launched by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) and the National Committee for Support



HM the King and Advocacy of the Palestinian People in Gaza, which has collected \$1 million worth of aid within 72 hours.



HRH Prince Salman cased to the media at Awal Private Terminal, Muharraq, which includes 40 tons of necessary medical supplies, disaster relief, and food for the people in Gaza.



The much-needed humanitarian aid on way to Gaza

Development programs

Speaking to the Daily Tribune, Dr. Mustafa Al-Sayed, Secretary-General of the RHF, said: "Our effort will continue. We are planning to launch development programs including hospitals and schools."

During a meeting held in Jordan, Dr. Al-Sayed assured the counterparts about Bahrain's tremendous support for the Palestinian people at this crucial moment.

Bahrain is ready to launch a few more campaigns to collect aid to Palestinian people, and it will send them immediately.

This is the first batch that Bahrain has provided humanitarian aid to Palestinian people, and it is a testament to the country's commitment to helping those in need.

The aid will provide much-needed relief to the people of Gaza, who have been suffering from a humanitarian crisis for the last couple of weeks.



Bahrain's representatives attend the event

A pioneering model worth emulating

MP Maryam Al Dhaen: Legislative rule in Bahrain guarantees women's rights and protection

TDT | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen confirmed that the experience of women in the legislative authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain represents a pioneering model because it reflects a firm popular conviction and will that has been formed over the past years, reflecting growing societal awareness and the maturity of the political experience.

Addressing the Forum for Women Parliamentarians in the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Angola yesterday, the MP said the percentage of Arab women's participation in political life varies from one country to another and from one society to another according to the system of laws, values and ideas that prevail in society, with recent decades witnessing a clear increase in the pace of calls to empower women and make room for their participation in political life.

Dr. Al-Dhaen pointed out that although many women's voices were calling for the formation of a 'quota' in Parliament and allocating a percentage of parliamentary seats to women, the leadership believed in the awareness of the people, and succeeded in doing so, and Bahraini women were able to achieve direct, free election through the ballot boxes. During the last session, she had held the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, the MP said.

She added, "Many statistics related to the extent to which Arab women are empowered to exercise their right to run and



Dr. Al-Dhaen speaks at the conference elect have shown that the percentage of female candidates has declined and fluctuated, despite the national efforts made in some Arab countries to establish gender equality."

New behaviours

Further, she noted that the practices in some societies need further change, as laws alone are not enough. "There is a need in some societies to adopt new behaviours towards women, which reject violence, believes in complete equality, and supports women's right to participate in politics effectively."

MP Al-Dhaen praised the achievements of Bahrain in terms of gender equality, as the principle of equal opportunities is a well-established doctrine and a fundamental pillar of the reform project.

The comprehensive plan brought by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has succeeded in bringing about important changes in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural life, especially with regard to equality between the segments of society, the MP said.

She continued, "The King-



"Bahraini women now are an active partner in supporting the wheel of economic development and sustainable economic growth through global partnerships."

- MP DR. MARYAM AL-DHAEN

dom of Bahrain launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, which contributed to the advancement of Bahraini women, enhancing their role and expanding their participation in various aspects of life, through integration with partners and allies in institutional work so that the Supreme Council for Women becomes the national house of expertise in women's affairs.

"The Council launched an ongoing work programme, which is an integrated program for the political empowerment of Bahraini women that focuses on networking with all concerned parties and institutions to implement a training, qualification and awareness initiatives targeting women who want participate in public affairs."

Supporting vision

Dr. Al-Dhaen stressed that as women's nature tends towards security and peace, the role of Bahraini female parliamentarians evolved in support of this vision.

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The Ministry of Labour extends its gratitude and appreciation to companies that have employed Bahraini nationals during (July 1 - September 30, 2023) as part of the priorities and objectives of the Economic Recovery Plan.

The Ministry also extends its gratitude to the following companies that have obtained the highest Bahraini employment rate for the third quarter of 2023 (July 1 - September 30, 2023)

A comprehensive list of the companies and organizations supporting national employment can be viewed by visiting the website www.mlsd.gov.bh



Higher education key to Bahrain's workforce development

● **HRH Prince Salman stresses need to boost creativity, innovation and scientific research**

TDI | Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, highlighted the higher education institutions' role in developing the Kingdom's workforce and supporting Bahrainis to contribute to progress and development.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted the im-

portance of keeping pace with the latest educational tools to support creativity and innovation and consolidating scientific research across educational workstreams to ensure citizens' contributions to the Kingdom's wide-ranging development goals.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received yesterday the newly appointed President of the Arabian Gulf University, HE Dr Saad bin Saud Al Fuhaid, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Deputy King expressed his best wishes to Dr Saad in performing his duties to achieve the university's aspirations.

HRH the Crown Prince and



HRH the Deputy King receives Dr Al Fuhaid

Prime Minister wished the university success in pursuing its goals and aspirations and com-

mended its contributions to scientific research and the GCC's health sectors, by developing

specialised medical personnel. Dr Al Fuhaid expressed his gratitude for the opportunity

to meet with His Royal Highness, and for his support for the university and its educational role. Dr Saad further wished the Kingdom progress and prosperity.

HRH the Deputy King recalled the efforts of the former President of the Arabian Gulf University, the late HE Dr Khaled Abdul Rahman Al Ohali, in furthering the university's overall progress.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Education, HE Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, also attended the meeting.

Stage set for Quran Award fourth edition

TDI | Manama

The fourth edition of the late His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Quran Award is organised by Al Noor Charity Welfare under the patronage of Shaikha Lulwa bint Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairperson of the Al Noor Charity Welfare.

Shaikha Lamia bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chairperson of Al Noor Charity Welfare and Head of the Award Permanent Committee, affirmed the suc-

cess of the previous editions of the award and the public demand.

The award for both genders includes four categories. The first is memorising the whole Holy Quran (from Surah Al-Baqarah to Surah An-Nas) for Bahrainis and residents regardless of their age. The second is memorising ten parts of the Quran (from Surah Al-Ankabut to Surah An-Nas) for Bahrainis only regardless of their age.

The third category is memorising one-tenth of the Quran

(from Surah Al-Mujadila to Surah An-Nas) for Bahrainis aged up to 15 years old, while the fourth category is memorizing Amma part of the Quran for Baraem Al-Quran (Children of Quran) for Bahrainis up to 10 years old.

The contest is open for registration through its website until December 7.

The contest will start in the last week of January 2024.

The final ten qualifiers will be chosen on the second week of Ramadan as scheduled in the contest timeline.

Sponsor on trial for residency forgery

TDI | Manama

An employee at the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) revealed a forgery committed by a 56-year-old Bahraini over the course of four years, who renewed the residency of his Arab divorcee claiming that she was still his wife.

When he decided to cancel

her residency, he presented their divorce document, which indicated that the divorce had taken place 10 years ago, after which he had renewed her residency despite her marriage to another Gulf national.

The High Criminal Court began trying the defendants and postponed the next hear-

ing to October 29 for review and response by the defendant's attorney.

A visa employee testified that the defendant requested the cancellation of his wife the second defendant's residency. He had divorced the defendant in 2013, yet she remained under his sponsorship.

Clean up your act!

Um Al Hassam residents seek authorities' help for cleaner garbage collection

● **Frustration mounts over debris splashing and rodent infestation**

Zahra Ayaz
TDI | Manama

Um Al Hassam residents are growing increasingly frustrated with the daily aftermath caused by garbage-cleaning trucks, which leave a trail of dirt and debris on parked cars.

The situation has prompted residents to demand urgent action from municipal authorities and waste management services to address the issue, which not only damages vehicles but also poses health risks to the community.

Due to a shortage of parking places, residents are left with no choice but to park their cars in close proximity to the locations where waste is collected.

Unfortunately, this puts their vehicles at risk of being splashed with water contaminated by debris when the garbage cleaning trucks arrive early in the morning around 4 am.

The trucks, as they collect the garbage, often unintentionally splash a significant amount of waste onto the road and nearby parked cars. Consequently, residents face the constant need to clean their vehicles, which adds an unnecessary burden to their daily routines.

Concerns

Anonymous residents, who have grown tired of this recurring issue, have voiced their concerns to The Daily Tribune.

They claim that the waste is thrown in such a manner that a large amount of dirty water and debris remains on the road, creating an unsightly and unhygienic environment.

The accumulation of garbage and stagnant water serves as breeding grounds for rodents and insects, thereby posing potential health risks to both residents and their properties.

Of particular concern is the potential damage to vehicles, especially during the winter season when cars are stored for extended periods.



The garbage-cleaning trucks often unintentionally splash dirty water on cars



Due to a shortage of parking places, residents are left with no choice but to park their cars in close proximity to the locations where waste is collected.

“It is important to clean and maintain the areas surrounding garbage cans, especially considering the approaching winter season when rodents tend to seek shelter in such areas.”

- MR. HASSAN AL QALLAF, DIRECTOR OF ALQALLAF PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Rodents, seeking shelter and sustenance, can easily take up residence under the cars and wreak havoc by chewing on wirings, hoses, plastics, and other critical car parts.

Response

In response to the concerns raised by residents, Mr. Hassan Al Qallaf, Director of Alqallaf Pest Control Service, shed light on the issue.

Mr. Al Qallaf emphasised that

rats seek refuge under cars or buildings due to their fear of changing weather conditions.

He further explained that sewage problems in cities like Um Al Hassam, Manama, Gudaibiya, Adliya, and others exacerbate the issue.

Despite years of discussions, no significant action has been taken to address these problems.

Mr. Al Qallaf stressed the importance of cleaning and maintaining the areas surrounding garbage cans, especially considering the approaching winter season when rodents tend to seek shelter in such areas.

Residents eagerly await a swift and satisfactory resolution to this problem, which will restore their peace of mind and contribute to a healthier and cleaner living environment in Um Al Hassam.

Central Bank of Bahrain



مصرف البحرين المركزي

NOTICE

With regards to Ace American Insurance Company Bahrain Branch Ceasing the provision of all Services Regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain

Pursuant to the provisions of Article (50) of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. (64) of 2006 as amended. Ace American Insurance Company Bahrain Branch, registered under C.R. No. 66315-1 issued on 27/08/2007, an Insurance Company (branch of a foreign company) licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain, hereby declares its intention to cease providing all services regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Written representations regarding the aforementioned cessation must be submitted to the Director of the Insurance Supervision Directorate at The Central Bank of Bahrain within 30 days from the date of publishing this notice to the following address:

Mrs Elham Ebrahim Taleb
Director of Insurance Supervision Directorate
Central Bank of Bahrain
P.O.Box : 27
Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: 17547302 / 17547303
Fax: 17530399



'External force' damaged cable between Sweden and Estonia: Swedish govt

Stockholm, Sweden

Damage to a telecommunications cable between Sweden and Estonia earlier in October was caused by "external force", the Swedish government said Monday.

"It has been confirmed that the cable has been damaged through external force or tampering," the government said in a statement.

On October 17, the Swedish government said it had received information that a telecommunications cable linking the two countries had been damaged, without being able to identify the cause.

The cable is believed to have been damaged at the same time as a gas pipeline connecting Estonia and Finland.

Last week, NATO said it was ramping up patrols in the Baltic Sea, including additional surveillance and reconnaissance flights. Ten northern European countries, including Sweden, Finland and Estonia, agreed this month to strengthen the surveillance of essential infrastructure following the shutdown of the Balticconnector gas pipeline in Finland.

Bahrain Islamic Index closes higher

TDT | Manama

Bahrain All Share Index has closed at 1,937.40 points marking a decrease of 6.77 points below the previous closing.

This decrease was due to the drop in the Financial Sector and Material Sector.

Bahrain Islamic Index has closed at 723.47 points marking an increase of 0.46 points above the previous closing.

Results indicated that 48 equity transactions took place with a volume of 1,691,805 worth BD 552,285.

Investors traded mainly in the Financial Sector representing 78.25% of the total value of securities traded.



Equities rattled

AFP | Paris, France

Stock markets slid on Monday, extending last week's sell-off on fears of widening conflict in the Middle East and worries that US interest rates will remain elevated for longer than initially thought.

The concerns about US interest rates have also been affecting bond markets, with the yield on 10-year US government bonds rising above 5.0% for the first time since 2007 during the height of the subprime mortgage crisis according to Factset data. Wall Street moved lower initially with CFRA Research investment strategist Sam Stovall forecasting that ongoing rates worries mean "the US equity market should remain under pressure."

About two-and-a-half hours

Key figures around 1400 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ at 33,127.81 points
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.4% at 7,374.83 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.02% at 14,800.72 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.5% at 6,850.47 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 149.80 yen from 149.84 yen on Friday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.0646 from \$1.0598
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2232 from \$1.2164
Euro/pound:	▼ at 87.01 pence from 87.17 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.0% at \$87.21 per barrel
Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 0.6% at \$91.58 per barrel

into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was flat at 33,127.81 points in a week bringing earnings notably for tech giants Amazon and Microsoft, as well as industrial heavyweights General Motors and Boeing.

The broad-based S&P 500 and the tech-rich Nasdaq were just into the green after sagging

slightly in early trading while oil prices eased.

Oil prices lost around one% as Israel's expected ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza was delayed, with diplomats trying to secure the release of more hostages and some suggesting this could change Tel Aviv's strategy.

AM Best affirms Takaful International's rating (A-) as highest for Takaful Companies in Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Takaful International Company announced that AM Best, the leading credit rating agency, has confirmed its rating of A- (excellent), the highest credit rating for Takaful companies in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This rating reflects the company's strong financial position, efficient operational performance, and robust risk management systems. Takaful International is the first and only Takaful company in the



Essam Al-Ansari

Kingdom to be classified within the A- financial and credit rating category. The rating also underscores

the strategic support and synergies between Takaful International and its parent company and Gulf Insurance Group, as well as their disciplined approach to corporate governance.

Essam Al-Ansari, the Chief Executive of Takaful International Company, expressed his pride in this achievement and emphasized that the credit rating validates the company's strong operating profits and its leading position in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Zain Bahrain wins HRM 2023 Summit & Awards

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain has recently won the 'Best Wellness Programme' Award of the 15th edition of the HRM Summit & Awards, organized by Roshcomm under the Patronage of Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, Minister of Labour, Kingdom of Bahrain.

HRM Summit Conference, Awards, and Workshops is a 2-day HR event in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Middle East to explore how HR will shape the world of tomorrow.

Zain Bahrain was awarded during the exclusive event on 9-10 October under the 'Best Wellness Program' category. The telco has consistently recognized the importance of em-



The award ceremony

ployee well-being through various initiatives and programmes supporting physical and mental health.

Rana Al Majed, Chief Human Resources Officer at Zain Bah-

rain, commented, "By providing a supportive and nurturing environment, Zain Bahrain has created a workplace where employees can thrive and reach their full potential."

France says talking to Saudi about Rafale fighter sale

AFP | Paris, France

The French government is talking to Saudi Arabia about selling the kingdom Rafale fighter jets, France's defence minister said yesterday.

Sebastien Lecornu told reporters there were "discussions" between Rafale maker Dassault Aviation and Saudi Arabia about a potential sale but gave no details.

Weekly La Tribune Dimanche reported that Saudi Arabia -- whose airforce is mostly equipped with American F-15s and Eurofighters built by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain -- had asked Dassault for a cost estimate for 54 Rafales by No-

vember 10.

The Rafale, a twin-engine multirole fighter aircraft, is a bestseller for the French arms industry, and helped push French weapons exports to a record high last year.

France, the world's third-biggest arms exporting nation after the United States and Russia, sold 80 of the fighters to the United Arab Emirates for an estimated 16 billion euros (\$17 billion) in 2022.

Indonesia, Greece, India, Qatar and Egypt are also Rafale customers.

France has sold more than half its Rafale production to date abroad.

Four startups shine at StartUp Bahrain Pitch, with Kashta Tours crowned winner



Award presentation

TDT | Manama

StartUp Bahrain, the leading platform for startups in Bahrain, recently hosted the seventh edition of the StartUp Bahrain Pitch series. The event was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), the Bahrain Economic Development Board, and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB). The Pitch event included a keynote speech by entrepreneur and investor, Bader Al Essa, who shared his valuable insights on the power of setting specific and measurable goals in driving the realization of these goals.

The event showcased four Bahraini startups which presented their business ideas to a distinguished panel of judges, featuring local and regional experts, including: Ali Abdullhussain, Investment Manager at Oman Investment Authority, Sameer Uchi, a board member of Bahrain's Hope Fund and serial entrepreneur, Suzy Kanoo, CEO of Khalil bin Ebrahim Kanoo and Bader Al Essa, entrepreneur and investor from Kuwait.

Among the participating startups were Kashta Tours,

a platform that designs and organizes new and innovative entertaining programs and leisure trips for all people to book and join; XTRUDE ENGINEERING, a manufacturing solutions company that utilizes digital manufacturing and lean manufacturing methods to provide product development and production, reverse engineering and spare parts production in polymers and composites; FACEKI, a platform that specializes in providing AI-powered facial recognition and identification technology; and lastly TWB Watches, a local business focused on selling luxury watches that fit the local taste while seamlessly matching the quality and elegance of world-renowned luxury brands.

"The bootcamp experience was a revelation, providing my team and me with invaluable skills and a deep understanding of fundraising and the market," expressed Ahmed Jamsheer.

Entrepreneurs interested in participating in the next cohort of StartUp Bahrain Pitch can stay tuned to new announcements and learn more about new cohorts through startupbahrain.com/pitch.

NBB introduces new range of recycled Mastercard credit cards

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the launch of three new Credit Cards in collaboration with Mastercard that will provide customers with better value and convenience. The new range of Mastercard credit cards, including 'Platinum', 'World' and 'World Elite' with 'touch' feature to help the visually impaired.

The new cards give customers multiple redemption options, numerous valuable offers, and access to the Bank's



award-winning "Points by NBB" App. The range of premium benefits include access to airport lounges, travel perks, earning points through "Points by NBB", discounts, as well as travel and medical insurance. The Credit Cards are made from 100% recycled plastic and the 'touch'

feature incorporates an efficient design, enabling customers to identify the Cards by touch. NBB is the first bank in Bahrain to support Mastercard's initiative, whereby visually impaired individuals can use their sense of touch to help them differentiate between their Cards.

Commenting on the new products, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive - Retail Banking at NBB, said; "We continue to focus on sustainable products and our latest feature sets a new industry standard for accessibility and inclusivity,

easing the use of our cards for visually impaired clients."

Adam Jones, Country General Manager, MENA Central at Mastercard, said: "At Mastercard, we firmly believe in leveraging innovative technologies to drive financial accessibility for all segments of society."

NBB Credit Cardholders enjoy various benefits, aside from access to Mastercard's benefits. "Points by NBB" users can redeem their points for Cashback, Gulf Air frequent flyer air miles, Points raffle draws, charities, and more.

CBB Treasury Bills oversubscribed by 211%

TDT | Manama

This week's BD 70 million issue of Government Treasury Bills has been oversubscribed by 211%.

The bills, carrying a maturity of 91 days, are issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The issue date of the bills is October 25 and the maturity date is January 24, 2024.

The weighted average rate of interest is 6.40% compared to 6.44% in the previous issue on October 18.



The approximate average price for the issue was 98.409% with the lowest accepted price being 98.403%.

This is issue No. 1987 (ISIN BH00076MYG14) of Government Treasury Bills. With this, the total outstanding value of Government Treasury Bills is BD 2.110 billion.

News in brief

◆ US President Joe Biden

discussed the Israel-Hamas war Sunday with leaders of major Western powers, the White House said, as Israel intensified its attacks on Gaza. Biden spoke with the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany and Italy, the White House said. "The leaders reiterated their support for Israel and its right to defend itself against terrorism and called for adherence to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians," a White House readout of the discussions said. It said the leaders discussed their own citizens trapped in the Israel-Hamas war, "in particular those wishing to leave Gaza." Fighting raged unchecked and scores more were killed in air strikes by Israel in Gaza as the humanitarian situation in the enclave worsened. Another convoy of 17 aid trucks arrived in Gaza as the Hamas-run territory faced "catastrophic" shortages.



Biden discusses Mideast war with Western allies: White House

◆ French President Emmanuel Macron will visit Tel Aviv on Tuesday for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his office announced.

Macron to visit Israel for talks with Netanyahu: Elysee

US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni have already visited Israel. Israel says around 1,500 Hamas fighters were killed in clashes before its army regained



control of the area under attack.

◆ The European Union on Monday took a legal step towards imposing sanctions on Niger's new military rulers, who overthrew the democratically elected leader in July. The 27-nation bloc has condemned the ouster of Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum, which toppled a key Western partner in the jihadist-hit region. The EU announced it had adopted a legal framework under which it can now "sanction individuals and entities responsible for actions that threaten the peace, stability and security of Niger".

EU moves closer to imposing sanctions on Niger military rulers

The bloc's foreign policy chief said the move "sends a clear message -- military coups bear costs". The EU has already suspended security cooperation and financial support with Niger following the military takeover. Former colonial power France is currently pulling out its 1,500-strong military deployment to the Sahel country after a demand from Niger's new rulers. A relative told AFP on Sunday that Bazoum is with his family and is doing well, after claims by the country's new military rulers this week that he had tried to escape. Since he was toppled by the military, Bazoum has refused to resign and has been held at his residence in the heart of the presidential palace along with his wife and son.



CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Spain seizes ancient gold jewellery stolen from Ukraine



some of the stolen Ukrainian ancient gold jewellery, valued at more than 60 million euros

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spanish police said yesterday they have seized centuries-old gold artefacts worth over 60 million euros (\$64 million) that were stolen and taken out of Ukraine illegally.

The 11 pieces, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, were displayed at a Kyiv museum between 2009 and 2013, and were smuggled out of Ukraine before 2016, police said in a statement.

"The seized peices -- gold jewellery of great historic and economic value -- had been stolen and exported illegally from Ukrain and were going to be sold in Madrid," the statement added, noting items dated from between the 8th and 4th centuries BC.

Three Spanish and two Ukrainian nationals -- one of them an Orthodox Church priest -- were arrested as part of the operation, which was

carried out with the help of the authorities in Ukraine as well as Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and North Macedonia.

Police said the artefacts had forged documents in English, Ukrainian and Spanish to make it look as if they belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

"These are pieces that cannot be sold through the usual legal channels, such as auction houses," said police spokeswoman Ana Ramon.

Police began their investigation in 2021 after one of the pieces -- a gold belt with rams' heads -- was sold to a businessman in a private sale in Madrid.

This led investigators to the other 10 artefacts which police seized last month from the suspects.

The pieces are being studied by Spain's National Archaeological Museum and the country's Cultural Heritage Institute.

More than 19,000 displaced in Lebanon amid tensions on Israeli border: UN agency

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

More than 19,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon amid an uptick in tensions between Israel and Hezbollah at the country's southern border, figures released yesterday by a United Nations agency showed.

"An increase in cross-border incidents" has resulted in the displacement of 19,646 people in Lebanon, "both within the south and elsewhere within the country", said the International Organization for Migration.

"We expect the numbers to rise as the cross-border tensions continue" or if there is an escalation in violence, IOM spokesperson Mohammedali Abunajela told AFP in a statement.

Hezbollah has launched escalating attacks on Israel, raising fears the group intends open a



Mustafa al-Sayyid's children who fled their village in southern Lebanon, sit in a classroom of a school where displaced Lebanese families from villages near the southern border took refuge in Tyre city

front from Lebanon in support of ally Hamas.

The IOM's Abunajela said that "amidst a deteriorating economic

situation and the significant rise in poverty across all populations in Lebanon, internal displacements may add additional stress

to the resources of host communities".

Most of the displaced are currently "sheltered in host and family settings, while there are three designated schools, managed by local authorities that are also used as shelters", Abunajela said.

At least 40 people have been killed on the Lebanese side of the border, according to an AFP tally -- mostly combatants but also including at least four civilians, one of them Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah.

Four people have been killed in Israel, including three soldiers and one civilian.

While the tit-for-tat exchanges have so far been relatively contained, analysts have warned that the chances of Hezbollah scaling up involvement could hinge on any Israeli ground invasion of Gaza.

Palestinian PM says West gives Israel 'licence to kill' in Gaza

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayyeh yesterday accused Western nations of giving Israel a "licence to kill" in its war against the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas.

"What we hear from the mouth of the occupation (Israeli) leaders on preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement," Shtayyeh told the start of a Palestinian Authority government meeting.

"We condemn the statements that constitute a licence to kill and give Israel political cover to commit massacres and spread destruction in Gaza," he added.

Faster West Antarctic Ice Sheet melting unavoidable: study

AFP | Paris, France

The melting of West Antarctica's ice shelves is likely to substantially accelerate in coming decades even if the world meets ambitions to limit global warming, according to research yesterday, warning it would drive rising sea levels.

Researchers warned that humans had "lost control" of the fate of thinning ice shelves -- frozen ridges floating on the fringes of the main ice sheet that play a stabilising role by holding back the flow of glaciers into the ocean.

This region has already seen accelerating ice loss in recent decades and scientists have said that West Antarctica's vast ice sheet, which holds enough water to lift ocean levels by several metres, could be nearing a climate "tipping point".

In the new study, researchers using computer modelling found that faster ice shelf



Representative picture

melting is already inevitable in the coming decades as the ocean warms.

Their results were largely the same even in a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions are slashed and warming stays within the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times.

"It appears that we may have lost control of the West Antarctic ice shelf melting over the 21st century," said lead author Kaitlin Naughten, of the British Antarctic Survey.

Manila says Chinese vessels 'intentionally' hit Philippine boats

AFP | Manila, Philippines

Manila said Monday that Chinese vessels "intentionally hit" Philippine boats at the weekend, escalating a diplomatic row over two collisions in the South China Sea.

The countries have traded blame over Sunday's incidents near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, with both sides filing diplomatic protests and releasing videos to support their accusations.

Philippine officials accused a Chinese coastguard ship and a "militia" vessel of "dangerous maneuvering" that resulted in collisions with a Philippine resupply boat and a Philippine Coast Guard vessel.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro took it one step further Monday, labelling the Chinese actions near Second Thomas Shoal deliberate.

"Chinese coast guard and maritime militia vessels, in blatant violation of international



A collision between a Chinese Coast Guard ship (R) and Philippines' resupply boat (L)



The two collisions happened during a Philippine resupply mission to troops stationed on the shoal in 1999 to assert Manila's territorial claims.

law, harassed and intentionally hit Unaiza May 2 and Philippine Coast Guard vessel BRP Cabra," Teodoro said.

"We are here to really decry in the strongest possible terms

this egregious violation and illegal act within the (Philippines) 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone and the obfuscation of the truth by China's distorting the story to fit its own ends."

EU debate top diplomat

● Aid allowed into Gaza from Egypt was "not enough"

● Israel, and key ally United States, have so far opposed any calls for a halt

AFP | Luxembourg, Luxembourg

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell yesterday urged faster aid deliveries to Gaza, and said the bloc was debating calling for a "humanitarian pause" in Israel's conflict with Hamas.

"What's important (is) more, quicker, and in particular to enter the basic things that make water and electricity supply being restored," Borrell said, ahead of a meeting of European Union foreign ministers.

Borrell said that the few dozen trucks of humanitarian aid that had been allowed into Gaza from Egypt was "not enough" and said fuel to produce power and drinking water was particularly needed.

He said ministers would discuss calls from United Nations' secretary-general Antonio Guterres for a "humanitarian ceasefire" and the issue would be on the table at an EU leaders summit on Thursday.

"Personally, I think that a humanitarian pause is needed in order to allow the humanitarian support to come in and be distributed, seeing that half of the population of Gaza has been moving from their houses," Borrell said.

He said "the attacks of missiles, rockets from Hamas, from Gaza, has to stop and the hostages, people who have been kidnapped, have to be released".

"It is part of any step towards de-escalation."

1260

Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself

1648

Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence recognized



1962

Cuban Missile Crisis: Soviet ships approach but stop short of the US blockade of Cuba

2008

"Bloody Friday" saw many of the world's stock exchanges experienced the worst declines in their history, with drops of around 10% in most indices.

Erdogan submits Sweden's NATO bid to Turkish parliament

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey officially submitted Sweden's NATO membership application to parliament yesterday, his office said, bringing closer the possible end of a 17-month diplomatic standoff.

Turkey and Hungary are the only NATO members yet to ratify Sweden's membership request, which came after Stockholm dropped its long-standing policy of non-alignment last year after Russia launched its war on Ukraine.

Erdogan agreed at a NATO summit in Vilnius in July to put the ratification of Sweden's membership before the Turkish parliament as pressure grew on Ankara from partners.

"Sweden's NATO membership protocol was signed on October



Erdogan

23, 2023, by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey," the presidency posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson called the announcement "encouraging news".

"Now it remains for the par-

liament to deal with the issue," Kristersson said, also in a post on X.

"We look forward to becoming a NATO member," he added.

Sweden's Nordic neighbour Finland, which applied to join NATO at the same time, was granted membership in April.

Fifteen killed, over 100 injured in Bangladesh train crash



The crash in the eastern city of Bhairab saw a freight train smash into a passenger train travelling in the opposite direction

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

At least 15 people have been killed and 100 others injured in Bangladesh after two trains collided yesterday, with officials saying they fear the death toll will rise.

The crash in the eastern city of Bhairab saw a freight train smash into a passenger train travelling in the opposite direction, derailing two passenger carriages, officials said.

"We have recovered 15 bodies, many are injured," Sadiqur Rahman, a government administrator in Bhairab told AFP, which lies around 60 kilo-

metres (38 miles) northeast of the capital Dhaka.

"The death toll will rise," Rahman said, with rescuers reporting they could still see bodies crushed and trapped under overturned coaches.

At least 100 people were injured, he added.

The accident, which took place at around 4:00 pm (1000 GMT), occurred when one train entered the same line as the other, Rahman said.

Train accidents are common in Bangladesh and are often caused by poor signalling, negligence, old tracks or other rundown infrastructure.

Iran calls for Gaza truce, as US diplomat urges more aid



Palestinian children covered in dust from an Israeli air strike sit in the grounds of a hospital in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip



A convoy of Israeli army trucks carrying mortar shells advances on a road near the southern city of Sderot



A young Palestinian girl has her hand held by a relative as a medic treats her wounds at a hospital following an Israeli air strike in Rafah, in the southern Gaza

The 27-nation EU bloc has long been split over its policy on Israel and the Palestinians.

It has struggled with conflicting messaging since the surge in violence following the October 7 attack by Hamas and Israel's reprisals against Gaza.

Israel, and key ally United States, have so far opposed any calls for a halt in the military campaign against Hamas.

Ireland's foreign minister, Micheal Martin, said his country understood "Israel's need to deal with Hamas because this was an appalling attack".

"But the degree of suffering -- innocent civilians in Gaza are suffering -- it's not acceptable at all and in our view that's why we believe a humanitarian pause is required to at a minimum get aid and supplies in."

Czech foreign minister Jan Lipavsky, however, cast doubt on the feasibility of achieving a temporary ceasefire with the group in charge of Gaza.

Italian minister Antonio Tajani echoed that, saying: "We can't tell Israel to stop defending itself when Hamas is firing missiles at its cities."

'Squaring the circle'

Latvian counterpart Krisjanis Karins insisted: "It's not at all an easy situation. I think there is no black and white solution."

And Germany's Annalena Baerbock said the "fight against terrorism, which has brought so much suffering to the people of Gaza, is essential".

"At the same time, everything must be done to alleviate the unbelievable suffering of the two million people in Gaza," she said.

"This is squaring the circle. But we must face this squaring of the circle together."

Officials said the central town of Deir al-Balah had been particularly badly hit overnight Saturday to Sunday.

Pakistan ex-PM Khan indicted in leaked documents case

AFP | Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was indicted yesterday for allegedly leaking classified documents, a charge set to keep him in custody in the countdown to national elections due early next year.

Since being ousted in 2022, Khan has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting polls in January, while his party has faced a massive crackdown.

A spokesman for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said he was charged under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act in a trial "conducted within the court premises with no access to public or media".

The case relates to a diplomatic cable the 71-year-old



Imran Khan

allegedly touted as proof of a "conspiracy" behind the no-confidence vote which turfed him out of office last April. "We are going to challenge it," Khan's lawyer Umar Khan Niazi told reporters outside the jail where the special court was convened.

Khan's lawyers say the crime he has been charged with carries a possible 14-year prison term, and in the most extreme circumstances, the death penalty.

Hamas says new Israel strikes kill at least 70 in Gaza

AFP | Ramallah

Israeli strikes on Gaza overnight and early Monday have killed at least 70 people, Hamas officials said, as the military said it had struck some 320 targets in the Palestinian enclave in 24 hours.

The Hamas-controlled government media office in the blockaded Gaza Strip said in a statement that "more than 60 were martyred in the (Israeli) raids" during the night including 17 who were killed in a single strike that hit a house in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza.

At least 10 other people were killed in new strikes on Monday morning, the media office



Israeli soldiers patrol an area near the northern border of Lebanon

said in a separate statement, bringing to overall toll since Sunday night to at least 70 deaths.

The Israeli military said Monday it had hit "over 320 military targets in the Gaza Strip" over the past 24 hours.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Spoke with His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan. Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation.

@narendramodi

02



Over the last two years, we've revitalized the partnership between the EU and the U.S. Together, we'll continue to address our most pressing global challenges - including strengthening our economic security and standing with Ukraine against tyranny and Israel against terrorism.

@POTUS

03



I had a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on ways to further develop Ukraine's ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



This is not a time for hyperbole. We need quiet and dogged diplomacy that recognises the hard realities on the ground and delivers help now. Today I can announce we are extending our humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza with an additional £20 million package.

@RishiSunak

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

CAMPUS **campus**

NMS Bahrain goes pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign



New Millennium School, Bahrain voiced its solidarity with the global 'THINK PINK' Breast Cancer Awareness campaign by celebrating the month of October as 'Pinktober'. Students were involved in activities like delivering self-composed speeches, self-created video presentations, poster designing, and launching campaigns. Dr Hajira Begum, from KIMS Hospital, Bahrain and Dr Silky Kothiwai, from Bahrain Specialist Hospital conducted workshops on healthy lifestyle. Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma, Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Geetha Pillai appreciated and applauded the efforts put in by the students and the staff.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain commends relations with Ambassadors of Kuwait and Oman



Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, welcomed on campus Shaikh Thamer Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain, to review the standing of the Kuwaiti medical students enrolled under the agreement signed with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education and the progress of the Kuwaiti medical graduates currently in training around the world. Professor Otoom's also hosted Faisal Bin Harib Al Busaidi, newly appointed Ambassador of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain, to discuss the standing of the currently enrolled Omani medical students, including those sponsored by the Omani Ministry of Higher Education



New Horizon School commemorates UN Day

New Horizon School commemorated United Nations Day with engaging activities. The event took place on October 23 at the school premises on both the Zinj and Suqayya campuses. The keynote address by Principal Vandana Sateesh emphasized the role of education in promoting global understanding and peace



Bhavans -Bahrain Indian School organises Breast Cancer Awareness week



Bhavans -Bahrain Indian School (BIS) organized Breast Cancer Awareness week to impart knowledge regarding the benefits of early detection of breast cancer. In order to promote physical activities, students played various games and a basket ball match was conducted between students and teachers. A charity drive was conducted wherein parents and teachers donated money to help the breast cancer fighters. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob applauded the students for working towards the cause

Classifieds



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Classifieds



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Bahrainis set for Davis Cup

Kingdom's four-player national team named for Asia/Oceania Group V matches

● Elyas Abdulnabi, Faris Altoobli, Shadi Kallel and Hasan Abdulnabi to fly Bahrain flag

● Pre-tournament technical meeting, official draw for opening stage to be held today

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have named their four-player squad that will be flying the Kingdom's flag at the Asia/Oceania Group V matches in the 2023 Davis Cup.

The zonal event is set to be held at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town, with the participation of 13 men's national teams. They are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Laos, Macau, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Tajikistan, Yemen and hosts Bahrain.



A player in training at the BTF ahead of the start of the Davis Cup

Bahrain are one of 13 men's national teams taking part. The others are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Laos, Macau, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Tajikistan and Yemen

Abdulnabi.

The draw for the event's preliminary round is scheduled for today. It will divide the field into four groups for the round-robin stage, with the top team from each moving on to the play-off round. Two winners will then be promoted to Group IV for next year's Davis Cup competition.

Also taking place today will be the official pre-tournament technical meeting, during which a number of topics will be discussed including the event format, match system and schedule, rules and regulations and other developments.

The Davis Cup is one of the

premier world competitions for men's tennis, run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The Kingdom is hosting Asia/Oceania group matches for the third successive year.

This year's event comes directly after the BTF's hosting of the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III matches last week.

The two tournaments will be followed by three successive International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior championships.

Two of the championships will be J30 events, with the first being held from 30 October to 4 November, followed by a second from 6 November to 11 November.

The third, a J60 tournament, will then take place from 13 November to 18 November.

All three competitions are part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, featuring the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18. Each event in the Kingdom will feature play in boys' and girls' singles and doubles.

Busaiten open volleyball league with victory

TDT | Manama

Busaiten came away with a hard-earned four-set victory over A'ali last night as the 2023/2024 season of the Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League got underway.

The match was played at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena at the Bahrain Volleyball Association headquarters, located at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The victory gave Busaiten a positive start to their campaign in Group A of the league's preliminary round.

Fourteen clubs are participating this season. They have been divided into two groups for this ongoing first stage.

Also in Group A are defending champions Dar Kulaib, Nabi Saleh, Ma'ameer, Muharraq and Al Dair; while in Group B are Al Najma, Al Ahli, Al Nasser, Bani Jamra, Tadhamun, Al Shabab and Etehad Al Reef.

League action continues tonight with Ahli facing Etehad Al Reef at 6pm followed by Nabi Saleh and Ma'ameer clashing at 7.30pm. Then, to-

YOU

KNOW WHAT

Fourteen clubs are participating this season. They have been divided into two groups for this ongoing first stage

morrow, Nasser play Shabab at 6pm followed by Bani Jamra locking horns with Tadhamun at 7.30pm.

Following a single round-robin, the top three teams from each group qualify for the top six, while the remainder play in a bottom-tier league.

The top six will then play two rounds, with the top four making it through to the Golden Square semi-finals. There, the top seeds play the fourth and the second seeds take on the third.

F1 legend shines in Bahrain karting

Rubens Barrichello leads double winners in first two rounds of Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge at Bahrain International Karting Circuit

● Julian Rivera, Xen De Ruwe join Barrichello as back-to-back victors in championship's first two rounds

● Antione Lemiesx, Tye Mejia and Oliver Kruglov also emerge triumphant in round one

● Caleb Odendaal, Luca Houghton and Pappacenia Elia clinch a win apiece in second round

TDT | Manama

Formula 1 legend Rubens Barrichello spearheaded a trio of supremely talented racers who clinched back-to-back victories in the first two rounds of the Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC) 2023, held over the weekend at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Barrichello triumphed in both DD2 MAX Masters Finals along with BIKC's globally renowned 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track, and was joined as double winners by Julian Rivera in the Micro MAX category and Xen De Ruwe in the DD2 MAX class.

Meanwhile, also stepping onto the podium as victors from round one were Antione Lemiesx in the Mini MAX, Tye Mejia in the Junior MAX and Oliver Kruglov in the Senior MAX. From round two, Caleb Odendaal captured first place in the Mini MAX, Luca Houghton won the Junior MAX, and Pappacenia Elia took the chequered flag in the Senior MAX Final.

The SRMC has kicked off the 2023/2024 national karting season at BIKC, the world-class grassroots motorsport facility of Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

The final two rounds of this campaign are scheduled to take place this coming weekend on Friday and Saturday. The SRMC will then be followed by the



Rubens Barrichello receives his winner's trophy during his podium ceremony

Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) 2023/2024, which is set to feature eight rounds taking place until March of next year.

The SRMC and BRMC are for individual racers competing against one another in sprint races in their very own Rotax-powered karts.

DD2 MAX Masters

In last weekend's events, Rubens Barrichello was the pace-setter in the DD2 MAX Masters from the opening session. He topped the first round's Qualifying with a best lap of 55.167 seconds and then won the Pre-Final unchallenged. In the Final, Barrichello raced to the victory after 15 laps with a winning time of 13 minutes 45.822 seconds. He was joined on the podium by runner-up Anthony Hogg.

In round two, Barrichello was even quicker in Qualifying with a best lap of 53.963s for pole. He won the Pre-Final before completing his sensational double in 13:37.545 in the Final, again finishing ahead of Hogg.

Micro MAX

In the Micro MAX category, Julian Rivera narrowly beat out Rayyan Najjar in the first round's Qualifying with a fastest time of 1:05.542. In the Pre-Final,

Rayyan triumphed while Julian was disqualified from the session, but Julian bounced back in their nine-lap Final, taking the chequered flag in 9:30.913 with a significant lead over Rayyan.

In round two, Julian picked up from where he left off the previous day, topping the Qualifying timesheet with a quickest lap of 1:03.773 and then winning the Pre-Final. Julian then took his second Final win of the weekend in 9:29.924, with Rayyan joining him on the podium.

DD2 MAX

In the DD2 MAX class, Xen De Ruwe set the quickest lap time of 53.800s in the opening round's Qualifying and went on to win the Pre-Final. He then powered to a fantastic win in the 15-lap Final in 13:30.882, enjoying a 14.767s gap from runner-up Dainal Muallem.

In round two, Muallem was the early aggressor and was best in Qualifying with a lap of 53.289s. But in the Pre-Final, De Ruwe captured the lead in the opening lap and went on to claim the win, setting the stage for his Final victory in 13:28.966, this time with an 8.396s gap from Muallem. Sheng Ya Hong joined them on the DD2 MAX podium in third place.



Winners from the past weekend's rounds celebrate on the podium

Mini MAX

In round one of the Mini MAX battles, Nasser Nass topped a highly competitive Qualifying session with a best lap of 1:01.380. He then triumphed in the Pre-Final, but in the Final, Nasser crossed the finish line in first place but was demoted to third due to a 10-second penalty. Antione Lemiesx, who made a stunning late surge after starting from fourth, inherited the victory with a time of 9:12.133 after nine laps. Shaheen Shaheen followed closely in second 0.197s back, and Nasser completed the podium placers classified 4.646s from Antione.

In round two, Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa took the top spot in Mini MAX Qualifying with a fastest lap time of 1:00.584. Nasser then won the Pre-Final but it was Caleb Odendaal who was celebrating on the top podium step following the nine-lap Final.

After starting third, Caleb was in the lead by lap three and powered on to triumph in 9:02.699. Nasser dropped back to fourth but fought back brilliantly to gain two places by the finish and take the runner-up spot 1.828s from Caleb. Shaikh Ahmed joined them on the podium in third 2.176s behind.

Junior MAX

The Junior MAX category saw plenty of heated action and Luca Houghton struck first by topping Qualifying in round one with a



The Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC) has kicked off the 2023/2024 national karting season at Bahrain International Karting Circuit, the world-class grassroots motorsport facility of Bahrain International Circuit. The final two rounds of the SRMC campaign are set for this weekend

best lap of 56.188s. He claimed the Pre-Final win but in the Final, lost a massive 11 places on lap four before making a stunning comeback to join winner Tye Mejia and runner-up Brett King in the top three.

Tye started from eighth on the grid but made up three places on the very first lap and then was in the lead by lap five. He went on to capture the chequered flag in 14:07.524 after 15 laps. Brett followed 2.410s behind, himself gaining four spots during the race after starting from sixth, while Luca finished 2.470s behind Tye.

In round two, Luca was

once again best in the Junior MAX Qualifying with a lap of 55.645s. He then triumphed in the Pre-Final before claiming a fantastic pole-to-flag win in the Final in 13:54.904. Tye followed just 1.064s adrift, while Brett was third 2.321s back.

Senior MAX

The Senior MAX class featured the largest field of entrants in both SRMC rounds last weekend. In the opening meeting, Shaikha Haya bint Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa topped the Qualifying timesheet with a 54.813s best lap. Oliver Kruglov then won the Pre-Final, and then maintained his strong form for a pole-to-flag win in the 15-lap Final with a time of 13:42.966. Pappacenia Elia was classified second with a 2.399s gap, while Theo Kekati took third place 6.958s behind.

The following day, Elia rode his momentum into the second round and was best in Qualifying with a 54.158s lap time. He triumphed in the Pre-Final, and then wrapped up a perfect outing with an outright victory in the Final, finishing in 13:42.752 after 15 laps. Elia enjoyed a 5.235s winning margin from Fahad Almuqla in second, while Fahad Alkhaled claimed third 5.347s back.

At the end of all the SRMC action on each day, the winners were awarded their respective trophies and medals by BIKC and BIC officials in podium ceremonies.

Record-breaking Hypercar battles set for WEC weekend

TDT | Manama

Motorsport fans attending the upcoming Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will enjoy a never-before-seen Hypercar spectacle at the World Endurance Championship (WEC) event.

A record number of 12 Hypercars flying the flags of eight teams and six manufacturers will be lining up on the grid, making for the largest-ever entry in the WEC's top-tier category to hit the tarmac at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

The Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain is scheduled to take place 3 and 4 November at BIC in Sakhir as the final round of the 2023 FIA WEC season.

This year, the Hypercar category will yet again be the top draw, but this time it will have



Toyota Gazoo Racing's #7 Hybrid in action earlier this WEC season

up to a dozen contenders vying for glory as the Spirit of Le Mans makes its presence felt once again in the Kingdom.

Toyota Gazoo Racing and Peugeot TotalEnergies will be making their return. They will be joined in the Hypercar battles for the first time in Bahrain by Ferrari AF Corse, Porsche

Penske Motorsport, Cadillac Racing, Floyd Vanwall Racing Team, Hertz Team JOTA, and Proton Competition.

Toyota Gazoo Racing, Peugeot TotalEnergies, Ferrari AF Corse and Porsche Penske Motorsport will each have two cars taking to the track. Eleven of the cars will be Hybrids, including both

of Toyota's GR010 challengers, Peugeot's 9X8 contenders, Ferrari's 499P challengers, and Porsche's 963 cars, which will also be raced in by Hertz Team JOTA and Proton Competition.

Cadillac Racing will be on track with its V-Series.R Hybrid, while Floyd Vanwall Racing Team will compete with their Vanwall Vandervell 680.

Many of motor racing's most popular and supremely talented drivers will be among those sharing the duties in their respective Hypercars in Bahrain. They include former Formula 1 ace Sebastien Buemi and Brendon Hartley in Toyota Gazoo Racing's #8 car; Kamui Kobayashi in Toyota's #7 challenger; Paul di Resta and Jean-Eric Verge in Peugeot TotalEnergies' #93 contender; and Antonio Giovinazzi in Ferrari AF Corse's #51 car, to name only a few.

Verstappen claims 50th career win

AFP | Austin

Freshly-minted triple world champion Max Verstappen

completed a hat-trick of Texan victories when he claimed the 50th win of his career in the United States Grand Prix.

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Afghanistan stun Pakistan

Afghanistan send Pakistan crashing to shock World Cup defeat, win by eight wickets

● Superb batting and clinical bowling lead Afghanistan to a historic win over Pakistan

AFP | Chennai

Afghanistan put on a superb batting and bowling display to hand Pakistan a stunning eight-wicket defeat in the Cricket World Cup on Monday.

Chasing a 283-run target, Afghanistan were lifted by Ibrahim Zadran (87), Rahmat Shah (77 not out) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (65) as they scored 286-2 in 49 overs.

Pakistan had made 282-7 in their 50 overs with 74 from skipper Babar Azam and 58 from opener Abdullah Shafique but the total did not prove tough enough for a clinical Afghanistan.

Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, with a 45-ball 48 not out, hit the winning boundary as Afghanistan improved upon their highest ODI chase of 274 against the UAE in Dubai in 2014.

The win is Afghanistan's first-ever over Pakistan in eight ODIs and came eight days after their shock victory over defending champions England in Delhi.

"This win tastes nice," said Shahidi. "The way we chased was very professional and the way we did that will help us going into our other games now."

"We are playing quality cricket. We have always had belief and at the start of the tournament I told my team I wanted to make it a historic one for our country and our people. We did that against England and now today against Pakistan."

The defeat leaves Pakistan's World



Afghanistan's players celebrate after the dismissal of Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique

Cup campaign in disarray with three defeats in five games and a formidable South Africa to face at the same venue on Friday.

In contrast, Afghanistan's campaign is slightly revived with two wins in five matches and struggling Sri Lanka as their next opponents in Pune on Sunday.

"That really hurt us. We got a good total. Our bowling is not up to the mark," said Pakistan skipper Azam.

The win was greeted with celebratory gunfire, cheers and fireworks across the Afghan capital Kabul for at least 15 minutes after the match concluded.

Pakistan were sloppy in the field as they conceded easy boundaries with openers Zadran and Gurbaz taking their side to 100 in the 16th over.

The pair put on 130 by the 22nd over

“We are playing quality cricket. We have always had belief and at the start of the tournament I told my team I wanted to make it a historic one for our country and our people. We did that against England and now today against Pakistan”

AFGHANISTAN SKIPPER HASHMATULLAH SHAHIDI

and it was only a miscued shot from Gurbaz off Shaheen Shah Afridi that brought Pakistan their first wicket.

Gurbaz hit nine boundaries and a six in his 53-ball knock while Zadran scored 10 boundaries off 113 deliver-

ies before handing a catch behind off Hasan Ali with 93 still needed.

Rahmat and Shahidi ensured Afghanistan did not collapse.

Rahmat hit five fours and two sixes in his 84-ball stay at the crease.

Earlier, Azam hit a stylish half-century to guide his team to a fighting total after he won the toss and batted first.

Azam's 92-ball knock was complemented by Shafique's 75-ball 58 while Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed scored a valuable 40 runs apiece.

On a spin-friendly Chidambaram Stadium pitch, Afghanistan fielded four slow bowlers with 18-year-old left-armer Noor Ahmad grabbing a career best 3-49 on his World Cup debut.

Noor shines on debut

Shadab added a rapid 73 runs with Iftikhar for the sixth wicket as Pakistan took 61 off the last five overs, with Shadab falling off the last delivery.

Iftikhar cracked four sixes and two fours while Shadab's innings featured a six and a four.

Pakistan enjoyed a strong start with a 56-run stand before Azmatullah Omarzai dismissed Imam-ul-Haq for 17 in the 11th over.

Ahmad struck his first blow when he trapped Shafique for 58 in the 23rd over.

Shafique hit two sixes and five fours in his third half-century of the World Cup.

Scorecard

Afghanistan 286 for 2 (Ibrahim 87, Rahmat 77*, Gurbaz 65, Shahidi 48*, Hasan 1-41) beat **Pakistan** 282 for 7 (Babar 74, Shafique 58, Noor 3-49, Naveen 2-52) by eight wickets



Ibrahim Zadran plays a shot

Ahmad then dismissed Pakistan's top scorer in the World Cup, Mohammad Rizwan, caught sweeping in his next over to leave Pakistan on 120-3.

Azam also fell to Ahmad when the Pakistan skipper played a tennis-like shot to a delivery that was seemingly out of his reach, ending up hitting it straight into the hands of Mohammad Nabi at extra cover.

Azam added 43 with Saud Shakeel who made 25.

Afghan spinner Rashid Khan went wicketless in his 10 overs but conceded just 41 runs, while pacer Naveen-ul-Haq took 2-52.

Zain basketball league set for tip-off

● Muharraq take on Sitra tonight to get new campaign underway in 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League

TDI | Manama

The 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League tips off this evening for another exciting campaign in the Kingdom's leading basketball championship.

Eleven clubs are once again taking part this season, with defending back-to-back champions Manama aiming for an historic "three-peat". But their rivals will be looking to mount a stern challenge, led by perennial contenders Muharraq and Al Ahli.

Also hoping to make their presence felt on the hardwood are Al Hala, Al Ettihad, Al Najma, Sitra, Bahrain Club, Nuwairat, Isa Town and Samaheej.

Joining the fray this season are Bahrain's men's B national team, but their results are not to be counted on the league standings.

The first evening of action tonight will feature one contest between Muharraq and Sitra, scheduled for a 7.30pm start.



Manama court general Hussain Shaker in action during practice ahead of the start of the new season

Tomorrow, Hala and Ettihad face off at 5.30pm, followed by Bahrain Club and Najma squaring off at 7.30pm. On Thursday, Ahli face off with Nuwairat at 5.30pm, and then Manama take on Samaheej at 7.30pm.

Action in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League is scheduled to continue until May of next year.

Manama captured the 2022/2023 league title to cap a remarkable season that saw

them win three major trophies, with the two others being the Khalifa bin Salman Cup and the first-ever FIBA West Asia Super League.

Last week, Manama kick started the 2023/2024 campaign by winning the Late Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa Cup, also known as the Bahrain Super Cup, after defeating Muharraq in the traditional annual season-opening game.

Al Khaldiya beat Busaiteen in football league

● Muharraq equalise late in 1-1 stalemate against bitter rivals Al Ahli in week four action

TDI | Manama

Defending champions Al Khaldiya came away with a fine victory over Busaiteen last night while Muharraq salvaged a late draw against bitter rivals Al Ahli in week four of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Khaldiya scored twice in the second half before conceding one in the game's closing moments in their 2-1 triumph over Busaiteen. Muharraq, on the other hand, levelled the contest in stoppage time after Ahli appeared to be heading towards a narrow win.

The two matches were played at separate venues.

In Khaldiya's triumph, Ismaeel Abdullatif and Dhurgham Ismail were both on target for the winners. Abdullatif opened their account in the 73rd minute with a brilliant bicycle kick from inside the penalty area, and then Ismail doubled their advantage just five minutes later with a free-kick from a metre



Manama court general Hussain Shaker in action during practice ahead of the start of the new season

outside the box. Ismail's shot flew over the Busaiteen wall and into the goal.

Busaiteen got their lone consolation in the third minute of second-half stoppage time through Saleh Al Zubaidi.

Khaldiya improved to 10 points with the result following their third win in four matches. Busaiteen suffered their third loss and stayed on one point.

Meanwhile, in the Muharraq-Ahli stalemate, Ahli went ahead in the 58th minute with a brilliant volley from Geovane Silva Santos from the edge of

the penalty box. He set his shot up with his first touch and then fired in a stunning rocket to the top-left corner of the net.

But Muharraq equalised in the third minute of second-half stoppage time when Firas Shawat headed home off a corner kick, squeezing the ball into goal past Ahli's Bahrain international goalkeeper Ebrahim Luthfallah.

The share of the points helped Muharraq improve to five on the standings with their second draw. Ahli went to four points.