

Yaser Alsharifi to lead BBK as Group CEO



Mr. Yaser Alsharifi
TDT | Manama

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) announced its leadership change as Dr. AbdulRahman Saif, Group Chief Executive, retires after 16 years of exemplary service, over four of which were spent as Group Chief Executive.

His last working day will be August 31, 2024.

In addition, the Bank has obtained approval from the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) on the appointment of Mr. Yaser Alsharifi as the new Group Chief Executive, and his joining date is on August 18, 2024.

Mr. Yaser Alsharifi brings a wealth of expertise, with close to 30 years of experience.

BBK Chairman Tariq Al-Saffar expressed profound appreciation for Dr. Saif's contributions.

Hallett nominated for Bahrain post



H.E. Stephanie Hallett
TDT | Manama

The US President Joe Biden has nominated Stephanie Hallett as the new US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, replacing the current ambassador, H.E. Steven Bondy.

The announcement was made on the White House website, with the nomination requiring approval from the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Hallett, a career diplomat with extensive experience in the Middle East, currently serves as Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Jerusalem.

Bahrain's human rights milestone

For seventh straight year, Kingdom tops ranking in US State Department's trafficking in persons report

TDT | Manama

The US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which evaluates 188 countries globally, has once again affirmed Bahrain's international standing in upholding human rights and combating human trafficking.

For the seventh consecutive year, Bahrain has retained its Tier 1 ranking, the highest classification in the report. This achievement underscores Bahrain's leadership in the region, showcasing its commitment to fostering a progressive and stable work environment that protects the rights of all individuals without discrimination.

Bahrain's success is attributed to a comprehensive framework that begins with proactive and continuous awareness-raising initiatives, followed by robust protection and redress mechanisms aligned with human rights principles and fundamental freedoms. These principles are deeply embedded in Bahrain's Constitution, National Action Charter (NAC), national legislation, and international treaties and agreements, providing a guiding framework for all government agencies in the Kingdom.

The report emphasises Bahrain's success in establishing a robust culture of human rights and combating trafficking in persons and a holistic framework centered on key pillars:



prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships, and institutionalising labour practices.

This success has contributed to building a strong societal base that rejects any illegal practices in the labour market and supports the maintenance of a highly stable work environment that protects the rights of all parties without discrimination.

Integrated mechanism

This is achieved through an integrated mechanism involving various relevant government entities.

Bahrain has coordinated and mobilised efforts at both national and international levels among all relevant parties by enhancing awareness and community partnership.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has established a dedicated directorate for Partnership and Outreach to raise awareness about illegal practices in the labor market, recognising the importance of community awareness in curbing such practices.

The LMRA proactively raises

awareness by informing expat workers upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport (BIA) about their rights and obligations, as well as providing them with communication channels for assistance, consultation, and reporting of any illegal practices.

Ongoing awareness efforts continue through multi-channel campaigns in partnership with the embassies of labour-sending countries, civil society institutions, and UN and international organizations to ensure that

awareness reaches all workers in various languages.

Community awareness

Bahrain has also continued to strengthen its efforts to raise community awareness of human trafficking and illegal practices in the labor market through the Regional Centre for Training on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

In partnership with international organisations, the centre conducts programmes and training courses aimed at defining crime and its various forms.

Crackdown on illegal workers intensified

Thousands deported in 2023 and this year

TDT | Manama

The Bahraini authorities have intensified their crackdown on illegal workers, conducting a total of 895 joint inspection campaigns with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) in 2023.

These efforts resulted in the apprehension of 4,232 violators and the subsequent deportation of 5,477 illegal workers, according to official stats. The capital, Manama, topped the list of areas with the highest number of illegal workers apprehended, both



in 2023 and the first quarter of 2024.

Increased Inspections in 2024

The momentum continued in the first quarter of 2024, with authorities conducting 391 joint inspection campaigns, apprehending 308 illegal workers in the capital alone.

Across the country, the Northern Governorate saw the apprehension of 251 violators in 22 campaigns during the first quarter of 2024, compared to 376 apprehended in 63 campaigns in 2023.

Similarly, the Muharraq Governorate witnessed 27 joint campaigns targeting areas with a high concentration of illegal workers, leading to the apprehension

of 238 violators in the first quarter of 2024, compared to 274 apprehended in 33 campaigns in 2023.

The Southern Governorate also saw a significant increase in enforcement activities, with 21 campaigns conducted in the first quarter of 2024, resulting in the apprehension of 126 violators, compared to 220 apprehended in 48 campaigns in 2023.

Moreover, 13 campaigns conducted during the first quarter of this year resulted in the apprehension of 308 illegal workers in the capital.

Meanwhile, 534 illegal workers were apprehended in 2023 through the execution of 35 campaigns.



Tharaa
Prize Account

NBB 

1 Luxury Villa and \$100,000 for 2 winners

Deposit in your Tharaa Prize Account now
for a chance to win June's monthly prizes.



Bahrain wins bid to organise global MICE congress in 2026

Zurich

The Kingdom of Bahrain has won the bid to host the 93rd Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (GAI) Global Congress, marking a significant milestone for the country's burgeoning Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry.

GAI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry Board voted in Bahrain's favour at the recent GAI European Conference 2024 held in Zurich, Switzerland.

This will be the first time the annual gathering, recognised as the largest event in the exhibition industry, will be held in Bahrain.



H.E. Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi

The GAI Global Congress is scheduled for November 2026, at the award-winning Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB) in Sakhir. EWB, the current World's Leading New Exhibition and Convention Centre

2023, and the Middle East's Leading Large-Scale Wedding Venue 2024.

"We are honoured to have been selected as the host destination for the GAI Global Congress," said Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi, the Minister of Tourism and Chairman of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

"This is a testament to Bahrain's commitment to the MICE industry and our ongoing efforts to drive innovation in this promising sector. We look forward to welcoming delegates from across the globe to experience the Bahraini hospitality and the many opportunities our nation has to offer."

Heinous crime

Bahraini man sentenced to life for burning European woman's body

TDT | Manama

The Bahraini man who killed a European woman and burned her body to ashes has been sentenced to life in prison by the High Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Bader Abdulateef Mohammed Al Abdullah.

The Public Prosecution had previously urged the judges to sentence him to the death penalty.

According to case details, the man had agreed with the victim, who was involved in prostitution, to engage in sexual activity. Afterward, he prevented her from leaving due to concerns that neighbors might see her exiting his house.

When she insisted on leaving, he forced her back into the bedroom, where he sat on her body and strangled her.

He then took her body to a remote area and burned it to eliminate any evidence. The woman had made a distress call to 999, seeking help and indicating she was at a house near Sitra.

Earlier, a high-ranking officer at the Ministry of Interior revealed that no traces of the victim's body were found.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The suspect allegedly burned and buried the woman's body, a revelation that came during the officer's testimony before the High Criminal Court.

The officer mentioned that he visited the area with a police dog unit in an attempt to locate the burial site mentioned by the defendant. However, despite the defendant's claims, no evidence of the corpse was discovered by the police dogs.

This case marks the first in-

stance in which the defendant is being tried without the discovery of the victim's body. The defendant confessed in court to the crimes of killing, burning, and burying the woman.

Nevertheless, he justified his actions by citing a dispute between him and the victim.

He claimed he did not intend to kill her and that he was under the influence of alcohol and drugs, which led to a state of hallucination.



Bahrain-Thailand ties

His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Maris Sangiampongsa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the sidelines of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting, held in Iran. The meeting discussed Bahraini-Thai ties and cooperation and the means to further enhance them in various fields. The two officials exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments and their potential impact on security and regional stability.

Inspiring the next generation

British Embassy launches 'shadowed ambassador' program for women in diplomacy



The 'young ambassadors' meet the Minister of Youth Affairs, H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The British Embassy in Bahrain, led by His Excellency Ambassador Alastair Long, recently launched a unique initiative to celebrate International Day for Women in Diplomacy.

The program offered a chance for young Bahraini women to gain first-hand experience in the world of diplomacy.

Ambassador Long announced a competition where young Bahrainis could vie to become a "shadowed ambassador."

Following a selection process, three outstanding young women - Jood Al Awadhi (British School of Bahrain), Zaina Fayyaz (St. Christopher's School), and Alhanoof Sahwan (New Vision School) - were chosen for the opportunity.

Initiative

"The purpose behind this initiative was twofold," Ambassador Long explained. "Firstly, to educate young people about the profession of diplomacy, and secondly, to identify talented



Alhanoof Sahwan

young women with the potential to excel in this field. We were thrilled to discover three such phenomenal young ladies for this program."

The program provided the young women with a valuable opportunity to meet with exceptional female Bahraini leaders.

They had the privilege of engaging with H.E. Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs; H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; and H.E. Shaikha Muneera Al Khalifa, Director General of the Academy of Diplomatic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Meeting with the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi



H.E. Ambassador Alastair Long with Jood Al Awadhi, Zaina Fayyaz and Alhanoof Sahwan



The 'young ambassadors' with the Minister of Tourism, H.E. Fatima Al Sairafi



Jood Al Awadhi

These meetings allowed the participants to learn about diplomacy, the role of ministers, and the critical aspects of decision-making.

Domestic exposure

The program was not limited to domestic exposure. The "shadowed ambassadors" also met with UN officials and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to gain a broader perspective on international diplomacy.

Al Awadhi, one of the shadowed ambassadors, shared her key takeaway: "Diplomacy offers diverse career paths. You



Zaina Fayyaz

can pursue it through banking, finance, or even a political background."

Fayyaz echoed the sentiment, expressing her excitement about learning new things firsthand.

Interconnected world

Sahwan emphasised the program's impact on their future, stating, "Meeting these inspiring leaders broadened our understanding of today's interconnected world."

Encouraged by the success of the initiative, Ambassador Long expressed his delight in witnessing the participants' enthusiasm and desire to make a difference.

"I was truly impressed by the ambition and dedication of the shadowed ambassadors. Their desire to make a difference in the world is truly inspiring. We look forward to hosting a second edition of this initiative in the near future."

- H.E. BRITISH AMBASSADOR ALASTAIR LONG

Cabinet briefed on citizenship 'fraud'

TDT | Manama

The Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, briefed the Cabinet on the latest developments of the committee's efforts to review all cases of acquisition of Bahraini citizenship since 2010, including cases of fraud in obtaining Bahraini citizenship.

This came as the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet Meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The committee was formed following an investigation carried out by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) on those who acquired Bahraini citizenship since 2010, which yielded information on some individuals that have provided inaccurate or forged documents to obtain citizenship, misuse citizenship, or harm the Kingdom's interests and community security, in addition to those who violated the conditions of the continuity of holding citizenship.

The Minister added that the Committee continues to review and evaluate the cases, in accordance to procedures.

The Cabinet commended His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa

Al Khalifa's directives to reallocate the funds set aside for the celebration of His Majesty the King's silver jubilee to charitable societies and funds. This transfer will be managed through the Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

It commended His Majesty the King's ongoing noble humanitarian initiatives to support efforts that promote solidarity, cooperation, and community partnership.

The Cabinet congratulated the pilgrims from the Kingdom of Bahrain on their safe return from the Hajj pilgrimage and commended the Bahrain Pilgrimage Mission for facilitating the journey for citizens and residents.

The Cabinet also expressed its gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for ensuring



A committee investigates some individuals who have provided inaccurate or forged documents to obtain citizenship, misused citizenship, or harmed the Kingdom's interests and community security, in addition to those who violated the conditions of holding citizenship.

the utmost comfort and care for all pilgrims, including those from Bahrain, and congratulated Saudi Arabia's leadership, government, and people on the successful organisation of this year's Hajj season.

Additionally, the Cabinet commended the efforts of various government agencies in maintaining public security, safety and by providing services

needed for citizens, during the Eid al-Adha holidays.

Fire

Following a report submitted by the Minister of Interior, the Cabinet reviewed the efforts to address the fire that occurred in residential buildings and commercial stores in the Manama Souq.

The Cabinet acknowledged the professional response of the Civil Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and other authorities in handling fire incidents, particularly the blaze at the Manama Souq.

To mark the upcoming World Drug Day, the Cabinet commended the Ministry of Interior and relevant authorities for their efforts in combating drug use across the Kingdom and for adopting initiatives to raise community awareness of its dangers.

Women

On the occasion of International Day of Women in Diplomacy, the Cabinet commended the wide-ranging achievements of Bahraini women in diplomacy and their contributions to the Kingdom's extensive diplomatic endeavors.

The Cabinet then agreed to amend the frequency of its meetings during July and August to a biweekly schedule.

Doctor and two others face drug trafficking charges

TDT | Manama

A dramatic police operation involving undercover officers and covert monitoring led to the arrest of a Bahraini doctor and two accomplices following a tip-off about a suspicious individual concealing a package under a drainpipe.

The investigation began after authorities tracked down a 34-year-old man's vehicle based on intelligence.

He confessed to his involvement in drug trafficking during questioning and implicated two others — a 24-year-old employee and a 29-year-old doctor.

To gather further evidence,

police executed an undercover operation. The third suspect, under police supervision, got in touch with the doctor and arranged to purchase CBD oil for BD20. The agreed meeting point was near the doctor's workplace, a hospital.

A police team, accompanied by the third suspect, arrived at the designated location. The doctor emerged from the hospital and was identified by the third suspect.

As the doctor approached, he threw something on the ground. Police immediately collared him and discovered a plastic container containing liquid CBD oil.

Inmate on trial for assaulting police officer

TDT | Manama

A 23-year-old inmate at the Reform Centre in Jau is facing trial for assaulting a police officer and impeding him from carrying out his duties.

The incident occurred when the inmate went to check on the inmate's whereabouts in his designated room. According to the 32-year-old officer's testimony, the inmate punched him in the face with a closed fist. The officer's injuries were documented in a medical report

submitted with the case file. The Public Prosecution has charged the inmate with assaulting a police officer, causing injuries that did not render the victim incapable of performing his duties for more than 20 days. He is also accused of verbally and physically insulting the officer while he was on duty.

The High Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for July 2nd to formally announce the charges against the defendant at his place of residence.

PAKISTAN SCHOOL, BAHRAIN

STAFF REQUIRED

Applications are invited from male & female suitable & trained candidates to fill the following positions:

Teachers:	With the minimum qualification of a Masters degree in the relevant subject with B. Ed./ M. Ed. Or Professional Teaching Diploma to teach the subjects of FBISE & Oxford syllabus (for English Medium Classes) Must be proficient at 21st Century Skills namely Critical Thinking and Problem Solving ,Collaboration and Communication, Creativity and Innovation.
KG & Junior Teachers	With the minimum qualification of a Bachelors degree with B.Ed or Certified Teaching Diploma to teach Junior classes. Certified Montessori Diploma required for Kindergarten. Must be proficient at 21st Century Skills namely Critical Thinking and Problem Solving ,Collaboration and Communication, Creativity and Innovation.
Nurses (2)	Trained and should hold a valid License from National Health Regulatory Authority, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain
Librarian (2)	Master in Library Science with experience in Library Management
Physical Education Instructor (1 Male & 1 Female)	Bachelors or Master degree in Physical Education. Bahraini nationals preferred
Activity Coordinator	Bachelors or Masters degree with B.Ed/M.ed .Should be able to plan, schedule and conduct a diverse range of activities .
Social Counselor (1 Male & 1 Female)	Master degree in Counseling, Psychology or other related filed. Should be able to deal students with personal and psychological issues. Bahraini nationals preferred
BQA Manager/Coordinator	Should be able to implement all the BQA procedures across the school and maintain records. Should have minimum 5 years experience .

Note:

- Excellent Communication Skills in English required.
- Strong soft skills required (Ms. Word , Excel , Power point , Google Classroom , Zoom & Interactive Tools)

All educational documents must be attested from relevant Ministries and verified from Quadra Bay. Applications without B. Ed. or Professional/Certified Teaching Diploma will not be entertained.

The eligible candidates should forward their **CVs ONLY** through **email - hr@pakistanschool.org latest by 2nd July 2024**. Short listed candidates will be called for interview. Attractive package will be offered to suitable candidates.

Final and official results of May Queen Pageant announced



Indian Club officials with pageant winners

TDT | Manama

The Indian Club has issued a statement to clarify the sequence of events and rectify any misunderstandings in response to recent discrepancies in media reports concerning the May Queen pageant.

According to the latest update from the Club's President:

The judges notified organisers after the crowning ceremony about a potential calculation error. This notification occurred post-crowning and not before or during the event, as initially reported by another newspaper

Following a thorough investigation and re-evaluation of all contestants' scores, the correction regarding the top three positions was communicated to contestant Mary on June 4,

2024, at approximately 6pm. Mary cooperated in facilitating the announcement of the corrected winners' names.

There was no tie among the contestants, and the judges' decisions are final. Statements from all three judges confirm this fact. For inquiries regarding this matter, individuals are encouraged to contact directly.

An official announcement regarding this correction was sent to another newspaper following a press conference held on June 10, 2024.

Regrettably, the said newspaper did not issue an official clarification on the event.

Coverage by an English daily in the Kingdom about the event was biased and focused on personal interests rather than promoting public interest, the organizers alleged. This one-sided report misinterpreted state-

ments from judges and winner Ms. Astral, leading to confusion among contestants and members of The Indian Club.

It is unfortunate that a prominent newspaper in the Kingdom of Bahrain published a one-sided narrative that tarnished the reputation of The Club.

After consulting with the judges, The Club officially announces the corrected winners of the May Queen 2024 pageant:

May Queen 2024: Astral Cutinha

May Queen 1st Runner-up: Ishika Pradeep

May Queen 2nd Runner-up: Mary Annin Jacob

This statement aims to provide clarity on the accurate results of our prestigious May Queen pageant and address any misconceptions that may have arisen.

Court rejects appeals in brutal robbery, kidnapping case

TDT | Manama

In a shocking case of violence and criminal behavior, two men have been sentenced to prison terms for a brutal robbery and kidnapping incident.

Despite their initial efforts to overturn the rulings, the High Criminal Appeals Court has upheld the original verdicts, leaving the defendants with one final avenue for appeal - the Cassation Court.

The primary defendant, a 36-year-old Gulf national, was found guilty of orchestrating the violent episode and was sentenced to three years in prison.

His co-conspirator, a 29-year-old man, was convicted of participating in the crime at the behest of the older defendant and received a 1-month prison sentence.

The horrific events unfolded one night when the two defendants accosted the male victim at a restaurant around midnight. Forcing the victim into their vehicle, they drove

him to an apartment in the Juffair area, where the true brutality began.

Violent assault

The 36-year-old Gulf national unleashed a violent assault, raining down punches and striking the victim repeatedly with a wooden ladder.

The younger defendant, while not directly involved in the physical attack, joined in the torment, further traumatising the helpless victim.

For over 12 hours, the captive victim endured this ordeal, with his personal belongings, including his phone and scooter key, stolen by the defendants. Amidst the despair, the victim managed to locate a charging phone in the room and used it to contact the authorities.

Police arrived at the scene around 5:00 PM, bringing the victim's harrowing experience to an end. The defendants were immediately arrested, and the legal process began, leading to their conviction and sentencing.

Compromise prevails

Government, parliament postpone decision on flour mills price hike for three months

TDT | Manama

A meeting between the government and the bicameral legislature, comprising the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, has resulted in a decision to postpone the rejection of the Bahrain Flour Mills Company's price increase for certain unregulated products, according to sources.

The decision has been deferred for three months to allow for further study and discussions.

This compromise was reached following a proposal by the Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam.

Some members of the Council of Representatives expressed opposition to the postponement, emphasising the necessity of halting and canceling the price increase due to its negative consequences.

A group of MPs had pushed



Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam speaks at the meeting

This compromise was reached following a proposal by the Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam.

for an urgent meeting with government officials to address the recent price increase announced by the BFMC.

Subsidised prices

The company implemented a

significant price hike, ranging from 35% to 100%, across most of its flour products. However, it maintained subsidised prices for accredited popular bakeries.

For instance, the price of a 50kg bag of flour type 0 in-

creased from BD3.7 to BD5.2, while flour type 2 rose from BD3.1 to BD4.950. The price hikes also affected pizza flour, confectionery flour, and both human and animal bran flour.

Several MPs expressed concerns that these price increases could lead to higher costs for various food items, including pastries, pies, sweets, and livestock feed.

Bahrain participates in ACD Ministerial Meeting

Tehran

His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Iran.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Acting Foreign Minister of Iran and the President of the meeting in its current session.

Dr. Al Zayani said that the 33rd Arab Summit, hosted by

the Kingdom of Bahrain in May, led to constructive results and decisions which emphasised the commitment of Arab nations to achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, as well as their unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to freedom, dignity, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty.

He added that the Arab Summit adopted a number of initia-



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani at the event

tives submitted by the kingdom supporting Palestinian rights, and called for a UN-backed international peace conference to establish an independent Palestinian state, support international recognition and acceptance of a Palestine as a UN full member.

This is in addition to initiatives on providing basic education and health care services to those affected by the conflicts in coordination with international

organisations. The minister emphasised the vital significance of the support from ACD countries for the success of these initiatives.

Dr. Al Zayani pointed out that Bahrain chaired the ACD meeting in 2021-2023, under the theme "Post-Pandemic Sustainable Recovery".

He said that member states managed to overcome the challenges imposed by the global pandemic.

Money laundering appeals for 22 defendants adjourned

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has adjourned the hearing of the appeals of 22 individuals convicted of money laundering funds derived from a drug trafficking operation worth BD8 million.

The hearing has been rescheduled to July 1st.

Among the 22 defendants are two Bahrainis and 20 Asians. They were each sentenced to five years in prison, fined BD100,000 and ordered to forfeit over BD11.7 million in assets. The foreign nationals will also be deported from Bahrain after serving their sentences.

The case unfolded following a report received from the National Centre for Financial Investigations, which detailed the investigation into the defendants' receipt and subsequent laundering of money obtained through drug trafficking.

The accused allegedly funneled the illicit funds through their bank accounts and further converted them into digital currencies using peer-to-peer (P2P) digital trading platforms,



Image used for illustrative purposes only



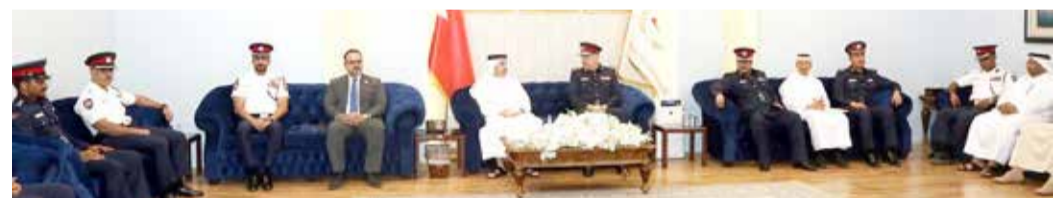
The accused were each sentenced to five years in prison, and fined BD100,000.

all in an attempt to obscure the money's origin and provide it with a veneer of legitimacy.

Promptly upon receiving the report, the prosecution initiated a thorough investigation, undertaking measures to uncover and freeze the accounts belonging to the accused.

They meticulously traced the movement of funds, scrutinizing their source and destination. Witness testimonies were recorded, and the accused were interrogated and confronted with the evidence against them.

Capital Governorate gears up for Ashura season



Meeting held on Monday under the leadership of Capital Governor to discuss arrangements for Ashura season.

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, has emphasised the governorate's commitment

to coordinating and cooperating with security and service departments to provide the best possible services to mourners and processions in the Capital Governorate during the Ashura season.

The attendees discussed the security and service preparations for the upcoming Ashura season and ways to ensure its occurrence in an atmosphere of security and peace, presenting it in the usual civilised way.

RAP Summer Camp



The second day of the Royal Academy of Police (RAP) 15th summer camp included various programmes and visits. It is considered one of the initiatives of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism. It is being organised in conjunction with Tamkeen. It included workshops to prepare the participants for the future, tackle various challenges, and enhance their skills and capabilities.

Irrigation networks set for expansion

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture has announced its intention to extend TSE-RO irrigation networks to the farms in Hoarat A'ali town through a tender submitted to the Tender Board.

This tender seeks to expand the treated irrigation networks to all new farms from the nearest available sources in Hoarat A'ali.

The project includes the supply and installation of 4-inch pipes for the TSE-RO network extension, along with all necessary work such as excavation, levelling, construction, pipe laying, warning tape placement, testing, and backfilling.

The Ministry specifies that the irrigation system must be established according to the schedules of quantities, encompassing all labour, equipment, technical supervision, materials, and other essential components as detailed in the schedules of quantities and specifications attached to the tender.

The Governor of the Northern Governorate, Ali Al-Asfour, accompanied by the Security Committee, governorate officials, and representatives from the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, recently visited the affected farms in Hoarat A'ali.

Endangered heritage

Racing against time, Muharraq Municipality moves to save historic structures

Abandoned and dilapidated houses on brink of collapse

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Numerous architectural treasures that embody Muharraq's storied past are on the brink of collapse, with their future precariously uncertain.

Efforts are underway to save these irreplaceable structures.

During its session yesterday, the Muharraq Governorate Municipal Council took a significant step towards addressing the issue of abandoned and dilapidated houses in the city.

The Council resolved to refer the matter to its Committee on Houses at Risk of Collapse for further investigation and action.

This initiative aligns with directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to preserve Bahrain's historical and cultural identity. This is particularly important in Muharraq, where many houses feature a distinctive heritage style.

Khaled Al-Qallaf, Director General of the Muharraq Mu-



Efforts underway to preserve Muharraq's architectural gems

This initiative to preserve heritage structures aligns with directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to preserve Bahrain's historical and cultural identity.

nicipality, emphasised the importance of preserving these heritage structures.

In danger of collapse

He acknowledged that some houses are in danger of collapse but stressed that demolition is not the first option. Instead, the municipality prioritises con-

tacting homeowners and urging them to undertake necessary restorations to ensure public safety.

However, identifying and contacting homeowners presents a significant challenge. Many of these houses belong to deceased owners, requiring coordination with the Ministry of Justice, Is-



lamic Affairs, and Waqf to locate and contact legal heirs.

Al-Qallaf highlighted the ongoing efforts to obtain this information, noting that the process can be time-consuming.

In cases where houses require immediate intervention, the municipality may take action to preserve them, balancing heritage conservation with public safety. If homeowners refuse to cooperate with restoration efforts, legal action may be pursued.

Level of risk

Ahmed Shabib, Secretary of

the Council, reported that the Committee on Houses at Risk of Collapse has already assessed 400 houses, categorising them based on their level of risk.

However, the committee faces obstacles, including difficulties gaining access to some properties despite collaboration with the municipality, police, and Ministry of Health.

Furthermore, the limited budget allocated for house demolitions restricts the pace of action. Currently, only one to two houses can be demolished per month.

Major infrastructure projects reach 70% completion rate

TDT | Manama

The ongoing development of Avenues 27 and 79, aimed at improving traffic flow, increasing capacity, and enhancing overall safety, is now 70% complete.

This was confirmed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Works, His Excellency Engineer Shaikh Meshaal Al Khalifa.

The project encompasses the expansion of Avenue 27, stretching from Sheikh Isa bin Salman Highway to Avenue 23.

This section of the road is being widened from a single lane to three lanes in each direction



Work in progress on a new rainwater drainage network

over a distance of 1.8 kilometres.

The development plan also includes the installation of medians, pavements, and concrete barriers, alongside the addition of traffic lights at six intersections.

Simultaneously, Avenue 79 is undergoing a transformation, being widened from one lane to two lanes in each direction, covering a 1.2-kilometre stretch eastward from its intersection with Avenue 27.

As part of the broader infrastructure enhancements, a new rainwater drainage network is being constructed along Avenues 27 and 79, as well as Roads 7736 and 2765.

Students, parents flock to government schools for textbook distribution



Parents and students collect their textbooks

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education has reported a robust turnout from students and parents on the inaugural day of distributing textbooks to government school students.

Approximately 55,000 students, accounting for 40% of all government school attendees, participated in the distribution.

This high participation rate

on the first day underscores the significant start to the distribution process, scheduled to continue throughout the current week from 8am until the end of school hours.

The Ministry emphasised its commitment to delivering textbooks early, a pivotal advancement in its educational policy aimed at enhancing the commencement of the school year.

Deal signed on civil protection, safety system

Washington

Brigadier Ali Mohamed Al Kubaisi, Director-General of Civil Defence, led the Interior Ministry delegation participating in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) conference held in the US.

Bahrain Civil Defence signed a cooperation agreement with NFPA.

This agreement came in line with the directives of General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Interior Minister.

Bahrain takes part in global space symposium

Focus on cooperation in space exploration

TDT | Manama

The National Space Science Authority (NSSA) recently took part in a pivotal symposium organised by Space News and Secure World, titled "The Views of the United States of America and Japan on Space Sustainability."

This event marked a significant step in global efforts to ensure the sustainability of activities in outer space.

Distinguished keynote speakers from NASA, JAXA, and



Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Al Asiri

prominent industry leaders convened to engage in constructive dialogues addressing the challenges and priorities of space sustainability.

Discussions underscored the critical importance of interna-

tional cooperation among nations to foster sustainable practices in space exploration and the development of the space industry. Emphasis was placed on adhering to the principles outlined in the five international space treaties.

Reflecting on the agency's participation in the symposium, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Al Asiri, CEO of the NSSA, remarked, "The symposium aimed to establish foundational relations among nations active in space endeavors. It featured insightful examples highlighting the dedicated efforts of American and Japanese space agencies in promoting sustainability in space activities."

NBB partners with AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation

● To launch University Preparatory Programme "Watheq"

● The programme focuses on developing the capabilities of students to ensure their seamless transition to university life

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has partnered with the AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation (MKF) to sponsor 'Watheq,' a university preparatory programme taking place during the summer break. The initiative aims to equip high school graduates with the essential knowledge to excel in their university studies as well as ensure a successful and enjoyable university life both academically and socially.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Shaikha Hala bint Mohamed Al Khalifa, General Secretary of the Board of Trustees of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, Ms. Saba Yousif Seyadi, Executive Director of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, Fatima AlJar, Youth Enrichment Department Head of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, Noora Bin Hindi, Head of Rayaat Scholarship of



The deal signing

AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, Hisham Abu Alfateh, NBB's Chief Corporate Communications Officer, Mohamed Alqassimi, NBB's Marketing & Partnership Manager and Salman Alalawi NBB's Marketing & Partnership Specialist.

The 'Watheq' programme was launched in collaboration with the Kingdom's reputable academic institutions including the American University of Bahrain, Euro University of Bahrain, University of Technology Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, British University of Bahrain, and Education Zone.

The programme focuses on developing the capabilities of students to ensure their seamless transition to university life.

These include choosing a major, navigating the application process, meeting university requirements, and acquiring key interpersonal skills. The comprehensive curriculum features interactive workshops, field trips, challenges, and real-life applications. These modules centre around personal development, motivation, foundational abilities, university major exploration, and career guidance. The courses were designed based on informative insights and data gathered through surveys and focus groups.

Shaikha Zain bint Khalid Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation stated, "Following 13 years of suc-

cess and achievements in youth development, we are proud of the Foundation's ongoing journey which continues to enrich the education sector in Bahrain through specialised programmes like 'Watheq', that act as a bridge connecting the high school and university levels."

For his part, Hisham Abu Alfateh, Chief Corporate Communications Officer at NBB said, "The innovative 'Watheq' programme embodies this commitment as it equips participants with the essential resources they need to flourish in their academic journeys. We believe it will contribute to the development of our nation's future talent, and NBB is pleased to be a part of this project."

Tamkeen supports career progression of 170 Bahrainis at Delmon Poultry Company

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced the career progression support to 170 Bahraini employees at Delmon Poultry Company, equivalent to 77% of the total Bahraini workforce employed at the company, with a total of 220 employees.

Tamkeen's support comes as part of the wage increment program, which covers the full cost of the employees' salary increase, up to 20%, for a duration of two years.

Delmon Poultry Company is a public shareholding company established in 1980, aiming to provide local products with the



Tamkeen Chief Executive, Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez

highest quality international standards and measures. Recently, the company has expanded by opening a new hatchery which is expected to double production capacity by 40

"Supporting local factories is at the forefront of Tamkeen's



Hussain Falah, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer

interests as part of the strategy to develop the manufacturing sector, which is one of the most important contributors to the national economy, having contributed 13% to the GDP last year," said Tamkeen Chief Executive, Maha

Abdulhameed Mofeez on the occasion.

In addition, Hussain Falah, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer said: "Through this support, we were able to increase the wages of local talent at our company, thus rewarding their performance and contributing to their career progression.

It is worth mentioning that last year, Tamkeen supported Delmon Poultry Company by funding a technological machine, the first of its kind in the GCC region, which gave the company the opportunity to advance and grow in the field of food security.

KPMG Bahrain unveils Top Risks Report 2024

TDI | Manama

KPMG in Bahrain announced the launch of its Top Risks Report 2024. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the critical risks that businesses and economies worldwide, including Bahrain and the wider GCC region, are expected to face in the coming year.

"Our latest Top Risks Report highlights the evolving landscape of geopolitical, economic, and technological challenges. Bahrain, with its strategic position in the GCC, must remain

vigilant and adaptive to these changes. This report serves as a vital tool for businesses and policymakers to navigate these complexities and capitalize on emerging opportunities," stated Jamal Fakhro, Managing Partner, KPMG in Bahrain.

Jeyapriya Partiban, Head of Advisory, KPMG in Bahrain commented: "As Bahrain continues to diversify its economy and embrace technological advancements, understanding and mitigation of the identified risks will be crucial. Our report underscores the impor-

ance of robust governance and operational resilience, which are key areas for sustainable growth. Operational resilience and strategic risk management are more important than ever in today's volatile environment. This report provides actionable insights that can help businesses build resilience and navigate the uncertainties ahead."

The Top Risks Report 2024 provides key insights and recommendations to support business leaders to better prepare for the year ahead. Some of the

key takeaways from the reporting include:

- Supply chain resilience still a priority amid rising geopolitical tensions.
- Investment and location decisions based on political, not economic factors.
- Companies will have to take the lead on AI strategy and policies.
- Diverging trends on ESG regulation and corporate scrutiny.
- Companies will need to adopt a proactive stance on geopolitical exposure.

ila Bank's Prepaid Card customers to win amazing Apple gadgets every month



TDI | Manama

ila Bank, Bahrain's fastest growing digital mobile-only bank powered by Bank ABC, announces the launch of the 'Spend & Win Amazing Gadgets with ila Prepaid Cards' campaign. As part of this ongoing campaign, lucky users of ila's Prepaid Cards can win electronic gadgets every month up to the end of the year.

To enter the draw, all that customers need to do is spend BHD 50 or more domestically, internationally or online every month using their ila Prepaid Cards. Each BHD 50 spent counts as one chance to win in the monthly draw. A total of eight lucky winners during the campaign, with one winner each month, will win electronic gadgets including

iPhones, iPads and an Apple Watch from May through December 2024. The more customers use the card, the better their chances of winning.

Commenting on this lucky draw for ila Bank's customers, Abdulla Abuidrees, Head of Marketing & Acquisition at ila Bank, said, "ila Bank brings a host of exciting campaigns that rewards customers of our various innovative products and services this summer. Our Prepaid Card campaign enables customers to win their dream gadgets throughout the year simply by using their ila Prepaid Card as much as possible. With this personalised offer, ila Bank not only intends to stay true to its promise of 'banking that reflects

you,' but also reward customers for their loyalty and trust in the ila brand."

ASRY organizes First Internal Padel Tournament



TDI | Manama

With the attendance of Shaikh Duaij bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, ASRY Support Services General Manager & the Human Resources Senior Manager; the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company (ASRY) held its first Internal Padel Tournament for the company's employees, last week at the Ola Padel Sports Club, located in the Seef District, with the participation of 16 teams.

The result was decided after four rounds, which ended in favor of the Marine team, who topped the competition ahead of the Woos team that came in second place.

To conclude the tournament, Shaikh Duaij bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, awarded the trophy to the victorious team, praising the efforts of the organizers that effectively contributed to making this distinguished sporting event a resounding success, and highlighting the event honorably.

For her part, Fatema AlMajed, ASRY Acting Corporate Communications Manager, commented "Through such events, we aim to enhance the healthy and effective communication and strengthen the social bonds between employees from various departments, which in turn inspires them to showcase their distinguished abilities and potentials.



QUOTE OF THE DAY
THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF
 FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

TODAY IN HISTORY

1876

Battle of the Little Bighorn: US 7th Cavalry under Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors led by Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull in what has become famously known as "Custer's Last Stand"

1929

US President Herbert Hoover authorizes building of Boulder Dam (Hoover Dam)



1950

North Korea invades South Korea, beginning the Korean War

WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus confirms the COVID-19 Delta variant is the most transmissible to date, now present in 85 countries and spreading rapidly

2021

News in brief

♦ **Floods and landslides** killed at least 24 people in 10 days in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's largest city, authorities said Monday after an unusually intense start to the rainy season. Rain around four times heavier than normal fell on the West African nation's economic capital over several days in that period, causing spectacular rises in water levels and landslides. The National Office for Civil Protection (ONPC) reported 24 deaths after "torrential rains from Thursday 13 to Saturday 22 June", warning of the risk of collapsed buildings. Two more people were missing after being "swept away by the waters", the ONPC statement added. It updated a toll given by the fire service on June 15, which said that eight people had died after the exceptionally heavy downpours.



Floods, landslides kill 24 in Ivory Coast's main city

♦ **Pope Francis yesterday** named a confidant of his predecessor who wrote a tell-all book detailing tensions between Francis and Benedict XVI as Vatican ambassador to the Baltic states. The nomination is likely to be seen as a sign of appeasement after months of strains between Pope Francis and Gaenswein, a German archbishop who served as private secretary to Benedict XVI. "The Holy Father has named Georg Gaenswein... as apostolic nuncio to Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia," the Vatican said. Benedict in 2013 became the first pope since the Middle Ages to step down. He lived in the grounds of the Vatican until his death on December 31, 2022, aged 95.

♦ **Pope Francis yesterday** named a confidant of his predecessor who wrote a tell-all book detailing tensions between Francis and Benedict XVI as Vatican ambassador to the Baltic states. The nomination is likely to be seen as a sign of appeasement after months of strains between Pope Francis and Gaenswein, a German archbishop who served as private secretary to Benedict XVI. "The Holy Father has named Georg Gaenswein... as apostolic nuncio to Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia," the Vatican said. Benedict in 2013 became the first pope since the Middle Ages to step down. He lived in the grounds of the Vatican until his death on December 31, 2022, aged 95.



♦ **A new discovery** of 33 ancient tombs in Egypt's southern city of Aswan could reveal "new information on diseases" prevalent at the time, the tourism and antiquities ministry said yesterday. The tombs date back to the Ancient Egyptian Late Period and the Greco-Roman Periods, which collectively lasted from the seventh century BC until around the fourth century AD. The burials were found by a joint Egyptian-Italian archaeological mission. Ayman Ashmawy, who heads the Supreme Council of Antiquities' Egyptian Antiquities Division, said studies of the mummies "indicate that 30 to 40 percent of those buried died in their youth, as newborns or as adolescents". Patrizia Piacentini, professor of Egyptology and archaeology at the University of Milan, headed the Italian side of the mission. She said preliminary studies on the remains showed that "some suffered from infectious diseases, while others had bone disorders". The remains of several adult women showed signs of pelvic bone trauma.

Egypt tomb find may shed light on ancient diseases: ministry



CURIOSER & CURIOSER

UK's Princess Anne in hospital after suspected horse incident



Princess Anne

London, United Kingdom

Princess Anne, sister of King Charles III, was in hospital on Monday with "minor injuries and concussion" after apparently being injured by a horse.

"The king has been kept closely informed and joins the whole royal family in sending his fondest love and well-wishes to the princess for a speedy recovery."

The 73-year-old royal, a keen horsewoman who competed at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, will remain at the hospital "unless or until her medical team advise otherwise".

The palace did not give details of the incident but sources in the princess's medical team said her head injuries were consistent with an impact from a horse's head or legs.

Anne's husband Tim Laurence was at Gatcombe Park when the incident occurred and accompanied her to hospital, said the palace. Her daughter Zara Tindall and son Peter Phillips were also on the estate at the time.

Australia's 'bicycle bandit' gets 35 years



CCTV shows the bicycle bandit during robberies.

AFP | Sydney, Australia

An Australian bank robber known as the "bicycle bandit" got a 35-year jail sentence Monday -- though he reportedly has advanced cancer and is seeking an imminent voluntary assisted death.



"Bicycle bandit" Kym Allen Parsons

Kym Allen Parsons, 73, admitted to a string of aggravated robbery charges, documents from the South Australian Supreme Court in Adelaide showed.

Parsons earned his moniker for fleeing some of his hold-ups on a bicycle.

He reportedly got away with more than Aus\$350,000 (US\$230,000). The robber now has advanced cancer, according to the ABC.

On Monday, Justice Sandi McDonald ordered him to serve 35 years, with a minimum period of 28 years before being eligible for parole, court papers showed.

Parsons' lawyers revealed last week that he was seeking a voluntary assisted death and wanted to be sentenced beforehand, according to a transcript of that hearing provided to AFP.

Parsons' lawyers revealed last week that he was seeking a voluntary assisted death and wanted to be sentenced beforehand, according to a transcript of that hearing provided to AFP.

Homeless man turns in 2,000 euros in Amsterdam



Hadjer Al-Ali showing the voucher he receives from police. Photo: Social media

The Hague, Netherlands

A homeless man found a wallet containing around 2,000 euros (\$2,100) on an empty train at Amsterdam station and handed it to the police, receiving a gift voucher for his honesty.

Hadjer Al-Ali, who has been homeless for 18 months, found the wallet at Amsterdam central station while he was "doing his rounds" looking for empty plastic bottles to exchange for cash.

Police said the 33-year-old turned in the wallet with "approximately 2,000 euros... but unfortunately no identity papers or anything that would allow us to contact the owner."

"Because we think that honesty should pay, he got a 'silver thumb' prize that we sometimes give to citizens and a gift voucher worth 50 euros," authorities added.

If the money is not claimed within one year, it will go to the finder.

In a video posted on local media De Stentor, Al-Ali said: "No matter what I find, I always give it back." "Maybe the owner has a business and can give me work, maybe a building I can live it. You never know what can happen."

Dubai announces \$8 billion stormwater runoff system

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai yesterday announced an \$8 billion plan for a stormwater runoff system, two months after an unprecedented deluge and widespread flooding brought the desert state to a standstill.



Picture for representation only

The rainwater drainage network announced by Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum on social media platform X is set to be completed by 2033 with construction to start immediately.

"It will cover all areas of Dubai and will absorb more than 20 million cubic metres of water per day," Sheikh Mohammed said of the plan for Dubai, the futuristic business hub of the United Arab Emirates.

The emirate's readiness to face future climate challenges, he said, calling it the region's largest such network. Record rains lashed the UAE on April 16, flooding homes and turning streets into rivers. The downpour, worsened by a lack of storm drains, hobbled Dubai airport, the world's busiest for international passengers. The rainfall, the UAE's heaviest since records began 75 years ago, killed at least four people, including three Filipino workers and one Emirati.

It "will increase the capacity of rainwater drainage in the emirate by 700% and enhance UAE authorities have not released an official toll.

Modi to lay out third-term plans as parliament meets

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian lawmakers begin taking their oaths yesterday as parliament opens after an election setback forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi into a coalition government for the first time in a decade.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2R) arrives before the opening of the first parliamentary session in New Delhi

Expected in the first session, which will run until July 3, is a preview of Modi's plans for his third term and the likely formal appointment of Rahul Gandhi as leader of the opposition -- a post vacant since 2014.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Monday called for a "peaceful and productive" session, but Indian media said they expected lively debate with a far stronger opposition. "All set to spar", one headline in the Hindustan Times read Monday.

Resurgent opposition set to push government", the Indian Express front page added. Rahul Gandhi, 54, defied analyst expectations to help his Congress party nearly double its parliamentary numbers, its best result since Modi was swept to power a decade ago.

The parliamentary session will start with newly elected lawmakers taking their oaths over the first two days.

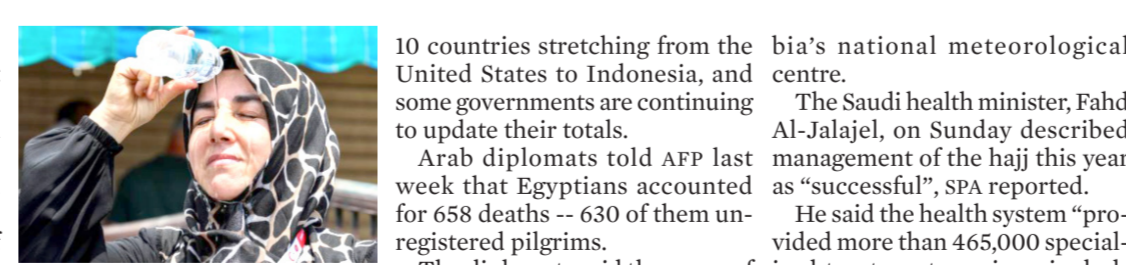
Modi has kept key posts unchanged in this government and the cabinet remains dominated by the BJP. That includes BJP loyalists Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and S. Jaishankar -- the defence, interior, transport, finance and foreign ministers, respectively, staying on in their jobs. But out of his 71-member government, 11 posts went to coalition allies who extracted them in exchange for their support -- including five in the top 30 cabinet posts.

Many will also be eying the election of the speaker, a powerful post overseeing the running of the lower house, with lawmakers slated to vote on Wednesday. Coalition allies covet the post, but others suggest Modi will put forward a candidate from his BJP.

Saudi says 1,301 deaths during hajj, mostly unregistered pilgrims

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia said Sunday that more than 1,300 faithful died during the hajj pilgrimage which took place during intense heat, and that most of the deceased did not have official permits.



An AFP tally last week, based on official statements and reports from diplomats involved in their countries' responses, put the toll at more than 1,100. The dead came from more than 10 countries stretching from the United States to Indonesia, and some governments are continuing to update their totals.

Regrettably, the number of mortalities reached 1,301, with 83 percent being unauthorised to perform hajj and having walked long distances under direct sunlight, without adequate shelter or comfort," the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The Saudi health minister, Fahd Al-Jalalaj, on Sunday described management of the hajj this year as "successful", SPA reported. He said the health system "provided more than 465,000 specialised treatment services, including 141,000 services to those who didn't obtain official authorisation to perform hajj," according to SPA, which summarised an interview he gave to the state-affiliated Al-Ekhabriya channel.

18 Chinese among 22 dead in South Korea battery plant fire

AFP | Hwaseong, South Korea

Twenty-two people were killed in a massive fire at a South Korean lithium battery plant yesterday, most of them Chinese nationals, in one of the country's worst factory disasters in years.



An aerial view of firefighters working to extinguish a fire at a lithium battery factory in Hwaseong

Over 100 people were working in the factory when workers heard a series of explosions from the second floor, where lithium-ion batteries were being inspected and packaged, firefighter Kim Jin-young told media.

In the massive blaze that ensued, 22 people were killed, including 20 foreign nationals -- 18 Chinese, one from Laos, and one of unknown nationality, he said.

Only about 15 seconds to cover the entire space due to the sudden ignition," he said, adding that as it was a lithium fire, the workers' efforts to extinguish wouldn't have worked.

Most of the bodies are badly burned so it will take some time to identify each one," he said, adding that one person was still missing.

"It is presumed that the victims inhaled toxic fumes in a short time which would have suffocated them quickly, and made them lose consciousness," he said.

Initial investigations indicate that the fire spread in a matter of seconds, with toxic fumes quickly overwhelming workers in the area, said Cho Sun-ho head of the Gyeonggi fire department.

Dozens of fire trucks were lined up outside the factory, an AFP reporter saw, with rescue workers carrying bodies, covered by blue blankets, out of the building on stretchers.

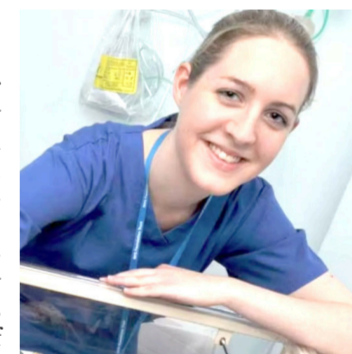
"White smoke began to rise from a battery part, and it took only about 15 seconds to cover the entire space due to the sudden ignition," he said, adding that as it was a lithium fire, the workers' efforts to extinguish wouldn't have worked.

Wearing a green jacket which top officials don during emergencies, South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol visited the disaster site late Monday, walking around the charred building in a hard hat and facemask before greeting firefighters at the scene.

UK baby killer Lucy Letby denies attempted murder at retrial

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Convicted UK baby killer Lucy Letby said yesterday she has never intended or tried to harm any baby in her care, when giving evidence at a retrial for attempted murder.



Lucy Letby

The former nurse, 34, is accused of trying to kill a baby girl, referred to in court as Child K, at the Countess of Chester Hospital's neo-natal unit on February 17, 2016.

Manchester Crown Court in northwest England has been told that Letby was convicted at a trial that ended last year of murdering seven babies at the unit and the attempted murders of six more between 2015 and 2016.

Reporting restrictions prevent publication of the identities of the surviving and dead children in the case.

The jury has been told that the panel in the first trial could not reach a verdict on the attempted murder charge relating to Baby K, leading to the retrial. Appearing in the witness box on Monday, Letby responded "no" when asked by her lawyer if she had attempted to murder

Prosecutor Nick Johnson alleged that Letby had displaced the tiny infant's breathing tube. Child K was transferred to a specialist hospital later the same day because she was born extremely prematurely. She died there three days later, although the prosecution does not allege Letby caused her death. Letby, from Hereford, western England, denies one count of attempted murder.

Parasites, defaced clothes found in N. Korea trash balloons, Seoul says

Seoul, South Korea

Parasites from human faeces and defaced Western clothing were found in the bags of garbage carried by North Korean balloons into the South, Seoul said Monday.

Pyeongyang has sent more than a thousand trash-carrying balloons into the South in recent weeks, in retaliation for leaflets sent northwards by activists opposed to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

An analysis of the contents of some 70 of the balloons found that they contained soil in which "numerous parasites, such as roundworms, whipworms and threadworms" were detected, South Korea's ministry of unification said in a statement. This is likely because human faeces was used in the soil instead of chemical fertilizers, it added.

It said there was "no risk of land pollution (or) infectious diseases" from the balloons, as the volume of soil sent was relatively low. The garbage sent by North Korea also revealed the country's woeful economic state, the ministry claimed, pointing to tattered children's clothes and other garments worn to the point of disintegration as evidence. In addition, it said some clothes from the balloons were previously donated by a South Korean company during an aid drive and were deliberately defaced -- including being slashed with knives. This appeared to be North Korea "expressing extreme hostility toward the leaflet campaigns and to highlight the adversarial stance against South Korea", a ministry official said.

TOP 4 TWEETS



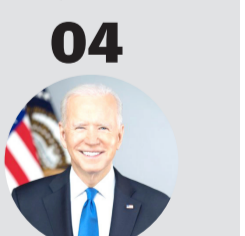
01
 I strongly condemn Sunday's terrorist attacks against Jewish and Christian religious sites and members of the security forces in the Republic of Dagestan of the Russian Federation. My condolences to the bereaved families and my wishes for a speedy recovery to those injured.
 @antonioiguterres



02
 Over 10,000 people need medical evacuations outside #Gaza. We call for their sustained medical evacuation and timely passage via all possible routes. Above all, the people in Gaza need peace. Ceasefire.
 @DrTedros



03
 For us, reforms are a means to improve the lives of 140 crore Indians. After the introduction of GST, goods for household use have become much cheaper. This has resulted in significant savings for the poor and common man. We are committed to continuing this journey of reforms to transform people's lives.
 @narendramodi



04
 I'll keep doing everything I can to protect access to reproductive health care in the wake of the Dobbs decision, but let me be clear: The only way to protect a woman's health and rights is for Congress to pass a law that restores the protections of Roe v. Wade once and for all.
 @POTUS

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

Kremlin warns US after Ukrainian strike on Crimea

● Russia said the strike on Sunday was carried out with a US-supplied ATACMS missile loaded with a cluster warhead.

AFP | Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin yesterday warned the United States of “consequences” and summoned its ambassador after Moscow said a Ukrainian strike with a US missile on Crimea killed four people.

Moscow has increasingly blasted Washington and Kyiv’s Western backers for supplying weapons to be fired on Russian targets, calling them direct participants in the two-year conflict.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called Sunday’s strike on Sevastopol “barbaric” and accused Washington of “killing Russian children”.

Two of the victims were minors, Sevastopol governor



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at the site of a Russian missile strike in Odesa

Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on Telegram.

Peskov also pointed to comments by President Vladimir Putin earlier this month about arming countries to potentially strike Western targets.

“The involvement of the United States, the direct involvement, as a result of which Russian civilians are killed, cannot

be without consequences,” Peskov told reporters on Monday.

“Time will tell what these will be,” he said.

“Just ask my colleagues in Europe and above all in Washington, ask the press secretaries there why their government is killing Russian children,” he said.

The foreign ministry said it

had summoned US envoy Lynne Tracy.

It later issued a statement saying that Washington “bears equal responsibility with the Kyiv regime for this atrocity” and the strike would “not go unpunished”.

Russia said the strike on Sunday was carried out with a US-supplied ATACMS missile

loaded with a cluster warhead.

Local Moscow-installed officials said the missile hit an area of the port city with sandy beaches and hotels.

Russia said 82 people including 27 children were hospitalized with injuries from the strike.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko was quoted by TASS news agency as saying on Monday that 14 of the injured were in a serious condition.

‘Russia must leave’

At a meeting with international news agencies including AFP this month, Putin criticised the West’s delivery of long-range weapons to Ukraine.

“Why don’t we have the right to supply weapons of the same class to regions of the world where there will be strikes on sensitive facilities of those (Western) countries?” Putin said.

“That is, the response can be asymmetric. We will think about it,” he told reporters.

Peskov also referred back to

comments by Putin that target data for Ukrainian strikes was being provided by Western countries.

Russia unilaterally annexed Crimea in 2014.

Andriy Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian president’s office, said on Monday: “Crimea is Ukraine.”

“Russia must leave the peninsula. Their army and military objects there must cease to exist,” he said on social media.

A senior aide to the Ukrainian president, Mykhailo Podolyak, also suggested that Crimea was a legitimate military target.

“Crimea is also a large military camp and warehouse, with hundreds of direct military targets, which the Russians are cynically trying to hide and cover up with their own civilians,” he said.

Russia has been launching deadly strikes against Ukraine on a daily basis since it began its campaign in February 2022.

Ukraine says 551 children have been killed and 1,396 injured since the start of the assault.

Dagestan attack toll hits 20 as Russia launches terror probe

● The attacks on Sunday came just three months after Islamic State (IS) group fighters killed more than 140 in a Moscow concert hall

● The attackers had targeted two Orthodox churches, two synagogues and a police checkpoint

● Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church and a fervent supporter of the Kremlin, said the “enemy” was seeking to destroy “inter-religious peace” in Russia

AFP | Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin on Monday dismissed fears Russia’s historically restive North Caucasus region faces a wave of violence after a series of coordinated weekend attacks on churches, synagogues and police killed at least 20 in the southern Dagestan region.

The attacks on Sunday came just three months after Islamic State (IS) group fighters killed more than 140 in a Moscow concert hall, the deadliest attack on Russia for almost 20 years, raising fresh questions about Russia’s security apparatus.

Moscow said on Monday it had concluded an “anti-terrorist operation” and killed five of the



Head of Russia’s Dagestan Republic, Dagestan region governor Sergei Melikov (3R) visits a burned out synagogue, which was attacked by gunmen a day before, in Derbent

assailants behind the attacks in the cities of Makhachkala and Derbent.

The incidents had echoes of the kind of insurgent violence that struck the North Caucasus during the 1990s and 2000s, but the Kremlin on Monday dismissed fears of a renewed wave of attacks.

Russia has been a target in recent years for IS, which opposes Moscow’s military support for Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad and claims to have set-up a “franchise” in Russia’s North Caucasus.

Assailants ‘liquidated’

At least 20 people were killed and another 26 injured in the attacks, Dagestan’s regional health ministry said Monday.

Fifteen of those killed were law enforcement officers, according to Russia’s federal In-

vestigative Committee.

“Of those 26, some are more serious so the first figure of 20 (killed) could still change,” a spokesperson for Dagestan’s regional health ministry told AFP.

“In the course of suppressing the criminal actions, five people involved in committing the crime were liquidated,” the Investigative Committee said.

It was unclear how many had taken part in the attacks, and investigators said they were still working to “identify other persons involved.”

The attackers had targeted two Orthodox churches, two synagogues and a police checkpoint in the regional capital Makhachkala and Derbent, a historic city on the coast of the Caspian Sea.

The Russian Orthodox Church said its archpriest Nikolai Kotelnikov was “brutally killed” in his

church in Derbent.

‘War comes to our homes’

In the 1990s and 2000s, separatist and militant groups waged guerrilla-style campaigns against Russian authorities in the mountainous North Caucasus following the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Asked whether Moscow feared a possible return of such violence, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: “No. Now there is a different Russia. Society is consolidated and such terrorist manifestations are not supported by society in Russia or in Dagestan.”

Moscow fought two wars for control of the neighbouring Chechnya region, with President Vladimir Putin touted his success in quashing the insurgency at the start of his presidency.

Russia’s Investigative Com-

mittee said it had launched criminal probes over “acts of terror”, while Dagestan Governor Sergei Melikov called the attacks an attempt to “destabilise” his region.

“We know who is behind these terrorist attacks and what objective they are pursuing,” he added, without providing specific details but making references to the conflict in Ukraine.

“We must understand that war comes to our homes too. We felt it but today we face it,” he said, adding that authorities were hunting for “sleeping cells” that had trained the attackers with assistance from abroad.

He said later on Monday the perpetrators were from Dagestan, Russian state news agencies reported.

After the deadly attack on Moscow’s Crocus City Hall in March, Putin initially said Kyiv had a hand in planning that assault.

This was despite no evidence and an IS affiliate claiming responsibility on multiple occasions.

Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church and a fervent supporter of the Kremlin, said the “enemy” was seeking to destroy “inter-religious peace” in Russia, without naming who he believed was responsible.

Pool of blood

Melikov visited a church and synagogue in Derbent on Monday.

He posted videos showing a pool of blood in the church and the charred interior of the synagogue, completely burned out after assailants threw Molotov

cocktails at the building.

Russian authorities frequently announce successful “anti-terrorist operations” targeting alleged IS fighters from the North Caucasus.

The FSB security service in April said it had arrested four people in Dagestan on suspicion of plotting the deadly attack on Moscow’s Crocus City Hall.

Militants from Dagestan are known to have travelled to join IS in Syria and in 2015 the group declared it had established a “franchise” in the North Caucasus.

Tensions are running high in the Muslim-majority region since the start of the war in Gaza in October last year.

In October, an angry crowd stormed the local airport when reports circulated on social media that a plane was arriving from Israel.



Dagestan is a republic of Russia situated in the North Caucasus of Eastern Europe, along the Caspian Sea. The republic is the southernmost tip of Russia, sharing land borders with the countries of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the south and southwest, the Russian republics of Chechnya and Kalmykia to the west and north, and with Stavropol Krai to the northwest.

Israeli military confirms death of Gaza hostage

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military yesterday confirmed the death of a soldier held hostage by Hamas in the Gaza Strip for nearly nine months since their October 7 attack.

In a separate statement the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said that Mohammad Alatrash was killed during the October attack on southern Israel and his body taken captive by Hamas militants.

Israeli authorities had previously confirmed Alatrash, a sergeant major in the Israeli military's Bedouin Trackers Unit, was taken hostage on October 7.

Alatrash, 39, is survived by two wives and 13 children, the forum said in a statement.

"The Families Forum will



Palestinian children suffering of malnutrition or chronic diseases such as cancer, wait with family members at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

continue to support and stand by the family during this difficult time and until his remains are returned to Israel," it said.

Alatrash's death raises the toll from Hamas's attack to 1,195, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Hamas also took 251 people hostage in the attack, 116 of whom remain captive in the Gaza Strip, according to Israel. Of those, the military says 42 are dead, including at least nine soldiers.

Israel's retaliatory invasion and bombardment of the Gaza Strip has resulted in the deaths of at least 37,626 people, also mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israeli defence minister vows hostage efforts in US talks

Washington, United States

Israel's defence minister yesterday vowed during a visit to Washington to work to bring back hostages from Gaza, and urged close cooperation with the United States after strains in the relationship. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant met with CIA chief Bill Burns, the key US pointman in negotiations to free hostages from Hamas, and later went into talks with Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"I would like to emphasise that it is Israel's primary commitment to return the hostages,

with no exception, to their families and homes," Gallant said before starting his meetings.

"We will continue to make every possible effort to bring them home," he said.

President Joe Biden on May 31 laid out a plan for a ceasefire in Gaza and release of hostages, ahead of talks on ending the war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has faced major protests calling for him to accept the deal, in recent days has annoyed the Biden administration by accusing Washington of cutting back arms and ammunition deliveries.

US hits Brunei, upgrades Algeria on human trafficking



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken presents an award to Maria Werlau, of Cuba, at an event to release the State Department's 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States on Monday put Brunei on a human trafficking blacklist while pointing to improvements by Algeria, Egypt and South Africa -- and warning technology was aggravating the global scourge.

In an annual report, the State Department added Brunei to a "Tier 3" blacklist of countries that are not doing enough against human trafficking and could be subject to US sanctions or reductions of assistance.

Brunei -- a US partner as part of the ASEAN bloc -- did not convict any traffickers for the seventh straight year and likely prosecuted or deported some victims in need of help, the State Department said.

The oil-rich monarchy also "publicized efforts to catch 'runaway workers,' caning some of those who were caught," the report said.

Brunei has generally had friendly relations with the United States, although the Muslim-majority country has faced criticism for keeping capital punishment on the books, if not in practice, for homosexuality.

Most countries on the Tier 3 blacklist have poor relations with the United States including China, Russia and Venezuela.

The United States removed Algeria from the blacklist, say-

ing it was "making significant efforts," pointing to a new anti-trafficking law and a tripling of prosecutions against alleged perpetrators.

Egypt and South Africa were both taken off a watchlist, which carries a threat to downgrade to Tier 3 without improvements.

The report said Egypt more than doubled prosecutions of alleged traffickers and prosecuted officials accused of complicity.

South Africa was also credited with increasing prosecutions and with setting up more shelters for victims.

Despite some improvements, the report warned that human trafficking remained a major problem around the world, estimating that 27 million people around the world are exploited for labor, sex or services.

The report highlighted the role of technology, saying it was making it easier for traffickers to cross borders.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, presenting the report, pointed to a rise in cyber scams that lure people who are forced into labor.

But he pointed to work by non-governmental groups, including through artificial intelligence to root out trafficking.

"Some of these same technologies can be deployed to uncover and disrupt trafficking and can help us better hold perpetrators accountable," he said.

ADB sanctions USD 170 m loan to reinforce India's health infrastructure for future pandemic preparedness

ANI New Delhi

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 170 million policy-based loan aimed at enhancing the country's health system.

According to ADB, the loan, part of the Strengthened and Measurable Actions for Resilient and Transformative Health Systems (SMART Health) Sub-program 1, is designed to support the Indian government's National Health Policy 2017.

This policy seeks to provide high-quality healthcare services to all citizens, ensuring readiness to tackle future health crises.

The USD 170 million loan from ADB will play a crucial role in addressing gaps in India's health system and enhancing its capacity to respond to future pandemics.



Picture for representation

Sonalini Khetrapal, ADB Senior Health Specialist, said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us valuable lessons and adoption of several innovative practices that would significantly strengthen pandemic preparedness and response capacities if consolidated, sustained, and institutionalized. ADB has been working with the Government

of India to strengthen its health system and adopt transformative solutions."

She added, "This policy-based loan will help fill the gaps in policy, legislative, and institutional governance and structures and contribute to India's goal of providing universal access to quality and affordable health care services to strengthen pandemic

preparedness and response."

The program will establish comprehensive disease surveillance systems to effectively respond to public health threats.

It will set up laboratory networks for infectious disease surveillance at various levels, including state, union, and metropolitan areas, ensuring a robust and coordinated response to emerging health threats.

The initiative will support the development of robust data systems to monitor and coordinate national health programs, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the poor and women.

These data systems will facilitate better governance and decision-making in health service delivery.

ADB will assist in implementing policy reforms to ensure an adequate and competent health workforce.

UNESCO wants to add Stonehenge to list of endangered heritage sites

AFP | Paris, France

The UN's cultural organisation said Monday it recommended adding Stonehenge, the renowned prehistoric site in England, to its world heritage in danger list, in what would be seen as an embarrassment for

London.

The site has been in the UN organisation's sights because of British government plans to construct a controversial road tunnel near the world heritage site in southwestern England.

In a written decision seen

by AFP, the World Heritage Committee recommended that Stonehenge be added to the UN body's heritage in danger list "with a view to mobilising international support".

The decision will have to be voted upon by the member

states of the World Heritage Committee at a meeting in New Delhi in July.

One diplomat told AFP that the decision will likely be approved. Stonehenge has had UNESCO world heritage status since 1986.

Kuwait lifts visa ban on Philippines workers after row

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwait said yesterday it would lift a visa ban on domestic workers from the Philippines after a year-long suspension sparked by a row over the rights of employers and employees.

An interior ministry statement carried by the official KUNA news agency said the oil-rich Gulf state and Manila had reached an "agreement to resume the recruitment of domestic workers" after a "breakthrough" in talks.

"The countries agreed to form a joint committee pertinent to domestic labour affairs," the statement said.

This "would convene in a routine manner to address any sticking points that could potentially emerge", it added.

Kuwait suspended all new visas for Philippine nationals in May last year after relations soured over the murder of domestic worker Jullebee



Representative picture

Ranara.

Her charred body was found in the Kuwaiti desert in January 2023, prompting Manila to stop sending first-time workers to Kuwait.

It sparked the latest in a series of spats between the Philippines and Kuwait, which is home to a sizable domestic worker population.

In 2020, the Philippines re-imposed a ban on its citizens going to work in Kuwait after a Filipina was allegedly killed by her employer.

That incident echoed a 2018 row between the two countries that began with the discovery of the remains of a murdered Filipina maid in her employers' freezer.

CAMPUS

PTA unveils sustainable solutions at New Horizon School during Gatekeeper workshop launch



TDT | Manama

On June 22nd, New Horizon School along with the PTA hosted the highly anticipated 'Gatekeeper' workshop at Zinj campus.

The event featured a comprehensive agenda that brought together educators and parents from both Zinj and Se-gayya campuses, and a team of experts from American Mission Hospital to address key issues and launch new initiatives.

Dr. Ankita Agarwal, the JKG class representative, unveiled a series of innovative sustainable solutions aimed at reducing the school's environmental footprint.

Dr. Babu Ramachandran provided an insightful overview of the 'Gatekeeper Workshop', detailing its objectives and the critical role it plays in safeguarding the mental health and well-being of students.

Dr. Feba Percy Paul delivered an engaging seminar titled 'Happy Adults = Happy Children,' highlighting the connection between adult well-being and child development.

The Chairman of the school, Joy Mathews commending the PTA and the school administration for their unwavering commitment to sustainability and student welfare. The school Principal, Vandana Sateesh, shared insights on the successful implementation of various sustainability projects and the positive impact they have had on students.

In a heartfelt ceremony, the school recognized the invaluable contributions of several doctors and Nayanthara Salim for their support in promoting health and well-being within the school community.

Al Noor commemorates results of Grade 12 of Arabic section



TDT | Manama

Al Noor International School celebrated the Graduation Ceremony of its' seventeenth batch of Grade 12 Arabic Section students who achieved 100% pass in the Ministry of Education Examinations at The Gulf Hotel on Saturday, 22nd June.

Dr. Sana Saeed Al Hadad, Assistant Undersecretary for Strategies and Performance, Kingdom of Bahrain, handed out the certificates along with Ali Hasan, school's founder Chairman.

She congratulated all the students on their achievements and wished them well in their further education and future endeavors.

The School Chairman Ali Hasan expressed his immense pleasure at such excellent results and commended both the staff and students for the outstanding results.

The Principal of the school Abdul Hakim Al Shaer welcomed all the guests and parents and praised the results and highlighted the achievements of the school in the course of the academic year 2023-2024.

Dr. Muhammad Mashood, the School Director said that the management is looking ahead for better prospects and aiming at greater heights.

He also expressed pride at our alumni student population spread around the globe.

Out of 84 students who appeared, 31 students had obtained more than 90% of marks.

ISB Junior Wing celebrates International Yoga Day

The Indian School Junior Wing observed International Yoga Day, centering on the theme "Yoga for Self and Society". This year's celebration underscored yoga's dual role in enhancing personal health and fostering social well-being. Under the guidance of PE instructors and teachers, students showcased their dedication to yoga through a variety of practices. Emphasizing the holistic benefits of yoga, teachers encouraged students to integrate it into their daily lives



Last-gasp Fuellkrug goal rescues top spot for Euro hosts Germany

Stoppage-time goal secures 1-1 draw against Switzerland, topping Group A

● **Ndoye gives Switzerland early lead**

● **Tah suspended for Germany's next match**

● **VAR overturns early German goal**

AFP | Frankfurt

A stoppage-time header from Niclas Fuellkrug rescued a 1-1 draw for Germany against Switzerland on Sunday in Frankfurt, ensuring the Euro hosts finish top of Group A.

The Swiss took the lead when Dan Ndoye scored from close range after 28 minutes to stun the home side.

Germany took a series of risks late in the hope of an equaliser and veteran striker Fuellkrug delivered, heading home in the second minute of stoppage time.

The result means Switzerland, rather than Germany, face a tougher last 16 as-



ignment, setting up a potential meeting with holders Italy or 2018 World Cup finalists Croatia.

The Germans look set to face second place in England's Group C, which is currently Denmark.

"I think the equaliser was deserved, as was the group win. We threw a lot forward at the end," said Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann.

"The cross was perfect. That was a nice moment for us as a team, that

could be decisive. That changes the situation," Fuellkrug told ARD.

Heading into the match the hosts were optimistic they had turned the corner after almost a decade of disappointment at major tournaments, with two World Cup group stage exits

bookending a Euros last 16 elimination.

Led by an experienced midfield featuring captain Ilkay Gundogan and Toni Kroos, Germany beat both Scotland and Hungary in their first two matches.

Germany were however caught off guard by Switzerland's energy and failed to carve out many clear-cut chances.

Despite Fuellkrug's late rescue effort, Nagelsmann will have plenty to ponder after the stodgy performance.

'Unjustified' yellow card

Nagelsmann decided to play the same starting XI for the third straight game despite already having made sure of a last 16 place.

It was a decision he may regret when defender Jonathan Tah saw yellow, his second in the group stage, meaning he will miss Germany's first knockout game.

"The yellow card for Tah was unjustified, which is annoying. But we have enough quality to compensate for that," Nagelsmann said.

Pushed on by an optimistic and partisan home ground, Germany started brightly, carv-

"I think the equaliser was deserved, as was the group win. We threw a lot forward at the end. The cross was perfect. That was a nice moment for us as a team, that could be decisive. That changes the situation

GERMANY COACH JULIAN NAGELSMANN

ing out some half-chances after launching long balls over Switzerland's midfield press.

Robert Andrich looked to have given Germany the lead after 16 minutes when Yann Sommer made a meal of his long-range strike, which bounced past the goalkeeper and into the net.

The goal was however overturned with VAR finding Jamal Musiala had committed a foul in the lead-up.

The Swiss had been on the back foot early but took the lead on the 28-minute mark, taking advantage of some sloppy play from Musiala and Joshua Kimmich.

Musiala lost the ball in his own half, sending Switzerland on the break. Kimmich won but then let go of possession, allowing Remo Freuler to find Ndoye who stuck out a leg and booted the ball into the net.



Germany's late equalizer potentially changes their knockout stage opponent from Italy or Croatia to Denmark, significantly impacting their tournament path

It was the first time the hosts had trailed this tournament and the goal seemed to rattle Germany, who were increasingly hesitant in closing out the first half.

Germany went on the attack in the second half as Nagelsmann made several offensive changes but the hosts had few clear chances against a Swiss side doggedly protecting their lead.

Man City defender Manuel Akanji stretched out to block Kimmich at point-blank range with 20 minutes remaining.

Nagelsmann brought Fuellkrug from the bench with 14 minutes remaining and the Borussia Dortmund striker stepped up to the plate, heading in a cross from David Raum to send Germany back to the top of the group.

Hungary knock Scotland out of Euros after Varga injury horror

● **Csoboth's late goal keeps Hungary's Euro 2024 hopes alive**

AFP | Stuttgart

Kevin Csoboth scored in the 10th minute of added time after a frightening injury to Barnabas Varga as Hungary snatched a 1-0 win over Scotland to stay in the hunt for a place in the last 16 of Euro 2024.

A sickening incident led to Hungary striker Varga being stretchered off in front of his visibly shocked team-mates in the second half, but Csoboth's late winner kept them alive in the tournament.

The Hungarian Football Federation said shortly after Sunday's match that Varga was in a "stable condition" in a hospital in Stuttgart.

The episode brought back harrowing memories of Christian Eriksen's collapse at Euro 2020, when Denmark players shielded him from the cameras and those in the stadium after he suffered a cardiac arrest.

Csoboth dedicated the goal to Varga by holding up his stricken team-mate's shirt during his celebration.

"Of course we were fighting for him in the remaining 15-20



Hungary's Barnabas Varga (L) falls on the pitch after colliding with Angus Gunn of Scotland

minutes. We wanted to win for him and we dedicate the win to him," said Hungary attacker Roland Sallai.

It was a bitter end to Scotland's bid to reach the knockout phase of a major tournament for the first time as they were caught out pressing for a goal of their own right at the death.

"It was always a one-goal game," said Scotland coach Steve Clarke. "We didn't manage to get the goal, we opened up at the end to try and get it."

Germany finished top of Group A after a 1-1 draw with Switzerland, who will go through as runners-up. Hungary must rely on other results if they are to advance as one of

Germany's late equalizer potentially changes their knockout stage opponent from Italy or Croatia to Denmark, significantly impacting their tournament path

the best third-placed sides.

Scotland came last with just a point as their wait for a first European Championship win since 1996 goes on.

Clarke made one enforced change for Scotland as Scott McKenna replaced Kieran Tierney, who was stretchered off with a hamstring injury in the 1-1 draw with Switzerland.

Southgate still the right coach for England despite Euro 2024 struggles: Kane

AFP | Blankenhain

Harry Kane has thrown his support behind Gareth Southgate amid criticism coming the way of the England manager after a sluggish start to Euro 2024.

The Three Lions are well-placed to progress to the last 16 after taking four points from their opening two games.

However, England have failed to live up to pre-tournament expectations as a fearsome front four of Kane, Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka is yet to click.

Southgate's men put in a disjointed display in a 1-1 draw with Denmark after edging past Serbia 1-0 to open their tournament in Germany.

Under Southgate, England have reached a final, semi-final and quarter-final in the past three major tournaments.

But the 53-year-

old raised questions over his future beyond Euro 2024 by saying in a pre-tournament interview with German publication Bild that he would be unlikely to keep his job if England do not win a first major tournament in 58 years.

"I can't speak highly enough of Gareth and what he has done for this team and the nation. In terms of where we were and where we are now as a national team it is completely different,"

said Kane.

"There are always going to be people who criticise or doubt him but his record speaks for itself -- it's really successful with us.

"But like all of us he's determined to take that next step and win it and that's what we are all really determined to do."

England have experience of going through a bumpy ride in the group stages of an international tournament, having also failed to win their second match at the previous Euros and World Cup.

Kane believes it is better to face adversity early in the tournament and make adjustments than be caught on the hop when it really matters in the knockout phase.

"I can't speak highly enough of Gareth and what he has done for this team and the nation. In terms of where we were and where we are now as a national team it is completely different

HARRY KANE



Gareth Southgate and Harry Kane

USA, Uruguay start Copa with wins

US defeats Bolivia 2-0 in Copa America opener, Uruguay tops Panama 3-1

● Pulisic scores and assists in US victory

● Balogun nets second goal before halftime

● US defense holds firm against combative Bolivia

AFP | Arlington

Christian Pulisic scored one goal and set up another as the United States launched their Copa America campaign with a clinical 2-0 victory over Bolivia on Sunday.

Also in Group C, Darwin Nunez was on target as 15-time Copa winners Uruguay beat Panama 3-1 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, offering a reminder of their status among the favourites.

US captain Pulisic curled in a superb early goal before teeing up a second for striker Folarin Balogun just before half-time at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"We came out flying with a lot of intensity," Pulisic said. "Obviously an early goal helped us a lot, but all around a pretty dominant performance."

US coach Gregg Berhalter had warned his team against complacency against a Bolivia side who had won only one game in nine previous editions of the Copa America since 1999.

Pulisic was clearly in no mood



USA's forward #10 Christian Pulisic fights for the ball with Bolivia's defender #02 Jesus Sagredo



Despite dominating possession, the US missed several chances to extend their lead, including a disallowed goal and late opportunities

to let the South Americans improve that record, firing the hosts into the lead after only three minutes.

Receiving the ball from a corner on the left, Pulisic darted towards the edge of the area and

whipped a rasping shot goalwards.

Bolivia goalkeeper Guillermo Viscarra got a hand to it but could not stop the ball flying into the roof of the net.

Despite that early breakthrough the US struggled to convert their dominance into chances and were frustrated by a combative Bolivian team who had three players booked in the first 31 minutes.

Leonel Justiniano, Gabriel Villamil and Luis Haquin were all shown yellow cards in an indisciplined start by Bolivia.

The US doubled their lead in the 44th minute and once again Pulisic was heavily involved.

Picking up the ball near half-way, the AC Milan forward accelerated towards the penalty area and squared to Balogun, who took a touch to drag defender

"In the first half we were better. In the second half they controlled the game for the first 15 or 20 minutes. We suffered a bit, but with the second goal we improved again and ended up playing well. We missed a lot of chances, a lot of plays that ended badly. But you learn from mistakes and we never gave up

DARWIN NUNEZ

Jesus Sagredo wide before drilling a low shot into the bottom corner.

The superior movement of the US forward line continued to cause problems after the restart.

Balogun just failed to get a toe on a low shot by Tim Weah in the 50th minute and had the ball in the net moments later but was adjudged marginally offside.

Pulisic then drew a fine save from Viscarra in the 60th minute after weaving into the penalty area and unleashing a ferocious shot.

Substitute Ricardo Pepi should have made it 3-0 in the 65th minute, moments after coming on for Gio Reyna, but saw his shot from an Antonee Robinson cross roll wide.

Pepi was then denied a goal in the 90th minute after a desperate double save by Viscarra.

Darwin Nunez of Uruguay celebrates after scoring

Relentless Uruguay

Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay began in trademark fashion, swarming opponents Panama and pressing relentlessly.

Maximiliano Araujo put Uruguay ahead in the 16th minute with a beautifully executed left-foot shot into the top corner.

Panama keeper Orlando Mosquera had to be at his best to deal with the wave of attacks, parrying a fierce Nunez blast

and then producing an outstanding save to keep out a header from Giorgian de Arrascaeta.

Mosquera's reflexes served him well again in the 29th minute when he denied Nunez from close range, the Liverpool striker having connected on a low cross from Federico Valverde.

It was a very different story after the break, though,

with Uruguay looking a little tired and Panama enjoying some sustained pressure.

But Bielsa's side gave themselves breathing space when Nunez doubled their lead in the 85th minute, showing his superb technique to volley home a half-clearance from inside the box.

Matias Vina's perfectly timed header from a Nicolas de la Cruz free-kick put an end to the contest, although Panama received some reward in the final minutes with Michael Amir Murillo finishing off a swift break.

"In the first half we were better. In the second half they controlled the game for the first 15 or 20 minutes," Nunez said.

"We suffered a bit, but with the second goal we improved again and ended up playing well," said the striker.

"We missed a lot of chances, a lot of plays that ended badly. But you learn from mistakes and we never gave up," he added.



Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) held its 20th Annual Junior Awards Ceremony for 10-and-under players at the Dilmun Club in Saar. The ceremony was held to honour the most outstanding players of the 2023-24 season. 16 awards were presented across two sections: 'Best of 2023/24' (12 categories) and 'Player of the Year' (four age categories). Some of the categories included Best Forehand, Most Improved Player and Best Attitude. Five players were short-listed for each award and a winner chosen based on each category's criteria while also taking into account each player's skill level and experience in the game. Winners of the Player of the Year awards were Khalifa Jamal (four-and-under), Sama Fakhro (six-and-under), Samyak Shah (eight-and under) and Andrew Carvelli (10-and-under). Other category winners were Ali Alaali, Alya Ben Lassoued, Carla Maxim, Moosa Altaf and Tariq Alrayes. Moosa Altaf was the star of the ceremony by being nominated in nine categories and claiming four awards. The awards were presented by BTA Director, Dan Barrie

Dorival Junior searches for Brazil's balance ahead of Copa opener

AFP | Inglewood

Brazil coach Dorival Junior says his team have yet to find their balance but is hoping they can discover the right mix when their Copa America campaign kicks off against Costa Rica on Monday.

The 62-year-old coach took over the reigns of the 'Selecao' in January with the team having endured a poor start to World Cup qualification in South America.

"We need to find a balance, a regularity, for this team that was assembled three months ago and is now rediscovering itself," he told a news conference ahead of the team's opener in Group D



Brazil's forward Vinicius Junior (C) takes part in a training session (file photo)

Brazil have been unbeaten in their new coach with wins over the four friendly games under England and Mexico and draws

against Spain and the United States.

But they have yet to gel as a team, showing fragility in defence and lacking control in midfield while at the same time having exciting attacking talent such as the Real Madrid pair of Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo and Barcelona's Raphinha.

"We are still a team in formation, with some players who maybe didn't even imagine being here at this moment," said Dorival Junior, who opted not to call up experienced duo of Thiago Silva and Casemiro and also left out Premier League based forwards Richarlison and Gabriel Jesus.

Riffa eliminated from Chengdu Masters

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's basketball team, Riffa, secured a sixth-place finish at the Chengdu Masters in China, part of the FIBA 3x3 World Tour.

After a strong performance in the group stage with two wins, Riffa was eliminated following a 10-21 loss to Lausanne, Switzerland.

Riffa started the game trailing 0-2 and couldn't recover. Lausanne extended their lead to 11-5 halfway through the game and later achieved a 19-9 lead with two minutes left.

Jonas Foerts led Riffa with four points, while Vic Van Oosterwyck, Dennis Donkor, and Caspar Augustijnen added

three, two, and one point. For Lausanne, Malik Hluch-oweckj scored nine points, and Westher Molteni contributed five.

Ub Huishan NE from Serbia won the gold, Lausanne took silver, and Princeton from the US claimed bronze. Beijing of China and Liman of Serbia finished fourth and fifth, ahead of Riffa.

The Chengdu Masters featured 12 teams from various cities worldwide and was the fourth stop on this year's FIBA 3x3 World Tour.

The series will continue with an event in Bahrain, the Manama Masters, set for November 1 and 2, promising more exciting basketball action.

AQUA COOL
Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

Easy & Secure
Online Ordering of your favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the AQUA COOL App Now

Available on Google Play and App Store

Free Home Delivery
Call Us Now-1787 5098
www.aquacool.bh

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.
P.O. Box 1770, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
G.R. No. 14986, Public Health Registration No. 18/006

Rohit leads India to semi-finals

India defeat Australia to set up T20 World Cup semi-final clash against England

● **Rohit smashes 92 off 41 balls with 7 fours and 8 sixes**

● **India posts 205-5; Australia falls short at 181-7**

● **Arshdeep Singh takes 3-37; Kuldeep Yadav bowls impressively**

AFP | Gros-Islet

Rohit Sharma led from the front with a blistering 92 as India beat Australia by 24 runs in St. Lucia yesterday to seal their place in

Rohit Sharma in action

the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup.

The India captain's dashing innings -- he faced just 41 balls, including seven fours and eight sixes -- was the cornerstone of a total of 205-5 made after he lost the toss.

Australia eventually finished their reply on 181-7, with left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh taking 3-37.

India will now face defending champions England in Thursday's semi-final in Guyana.

Defeat meant Australia's fate was no longer in their own hands.

Afghanistan, who produced a stunning upset in beating Australia by 21 runs last time out, will qualify for the semi-finals if they defeat Bangladesh later yesterday in the concluding Group One game of the Super Eights.

Australia lost David Warner for just six when the veteran left-handed opener was undone by a full-length delivery from Arshdeep that he could only edge to Suryakumar Yadav at slip.



Rohit Sharma brutalized Mitchell Starc in a single over, hitting four sixes and scoring 29 runs

Travis Head, whose superb century crushed Indian dreams of a 50-over World Cup final win on home soil last year, kept Australia in the hunt with a well-made 76 off 43 balls.

His second-wicket stand of 81 with skipper Mitchell Marsh looked to be turning the tide.

But Marsh was brilliantly caught one-handed on the boundary by a leaping Axar Patel off Kuldeep Yadav for 37.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep then bowled dangerman Glenn Maxwell for 20 with a superb 'wrong-un' on his way

Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah celebrate a wicket

Scorecard

India 205 for 5 (Rohit 92, Hazlewood 1-14) beat Australia 181 for 7 (Head 76, Arshdeep 3-37, Kuldeep 2-24) by 24 runs

to fine figures of 2-24 in his maximum four overs.

And when Head holed out off a superbly disguised slower ball from paceman Jasprit Bumrah, Australia were all but beaten at 150-5 in the 17th over.

Earlier, India star batsman Virat Kohli holed out for a five-ball duck off Josh Hazlewood, with Tim David taking a fine running catch over his shoulder.

But fellow opener Rohit then cut loose. He was particularly severe on Mitchell Starc, the only change to the Australia team following

their upset defeat by Afghanistan.

He hit the left-arm fast bowler for 29 runs in a third over where he struck

four sixes -- two in successive balls over

extra-cover, a monster hit

over deep midwicket and a top-edged full toss over the wicket-keeper.

But with Rohit threatening the first hundred of this tournament, Starc bowled him with an excellent yorker.



Bahrain junior volleyball team set for Arab U17 championship

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Bahraini Volleyball Federation has finalized the roster for their junior team, which will compete in the Arab U17 Men's Volleyball Championship in Jordan from July 1 to July 12.

Under the guidance of head coach Fouad Abdulwahid and assistant coach Mustafa Abdullah Khamis, 12 players have been selected to represent Bahrain.

The squad includes Ali Abdullah, Ali Talaq, Mohamed Al-Hayki, Jassim Medan, Syed Hassan Al-Abar, Amar Youssef, Elias



Bahrain junior volleyball team

Sadiq, Ali Abdul-Amir, Hassan Sadiq, Ali Abbas, Mohamed Abdulnabi, and Mohamed Qasim.

The team is set to depart for Jordan on Wednesday, June 26, where they will participate in a

five-day training camp.

This preparation phase will include three friendly matches designed to ready the team for the upcoming championship.

Leading the delegation is Ab-

dul Jalil Fateel from the board of directors, accompanied by team manager Abdullah Maharous, administrative manager Ali Mohammed, physical trainer Gafran Al-Zeeb, and referee Khaled Al-Shomli.

Bahrain's junior volleyball team will kick off their championship campaign against Libya on July 3.

The following day, they will face Saudi Arabia. After a brief break, they will play against Qatar on July 7, followed by a match against Kuwait on July 8. The team will conclude its group stage matches against Iraq on July 10. All games will be held at the Palace Gymnasium.

2 Seas Motorsport dominates British GT Championship at Spa



2 Seas Motorsport team members celebrate the victory

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahraini-British GT team 2 Seas Motorsport secured a stunning victory in the fifth round of the 2024 British GT Championship at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.

Kevin Tse and Maximilian Goetz, driving the #18 Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo from pole position, led the race from start to finish, completing 36 laps despite a red-flag interruption due to a multi-car incident.

The win marked a significant achievement for the team co-owned by Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa. "Victory was very important for us and the team," commented Goetz, emphasizing the strategic importance of their flawless race setup.

In a display of resilience,

teammates Phil Keen and Kevin Loggie recovered from an early setback to secure fifth place in 2 Seas' #6 Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo, demonstrating the team's depth and competitive edge.

As the 2024 British GT Championship progresses, 2 Seas Motorsport sets its sights on further success with upcoming races at Snetterton and Donington Park.

The team also anticipates a strong showing in the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup's CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa, as they look to make their mark on both national and international stages.

This victory solidifies 2 Seas Motorsport's position as a dominant force in the GT racing scene, setting the stage for an exciting continuation of the 2024 season.

South Africa beat West Indies to reach T20 World Cup semi-finals

AFP | Arlington

South Africa edged the West Indies by three wickets in a rain-affected Super Eights match on Sunday to reach the T20 World Cup semi-finals and eliminate the hosts.

Chasing a revised 123 off 17 overs, South Africa stuttered to 110-7 as Roston Chase took three wickets, but they reached their target when Marco Jansen hit the first ball of the final over for six.

Man of the match Tabraiz Shamsi took 3-27 after South Africa won the toss and restricted the West Indies to 135-8 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

All-rounder Chase top scored with 52, featuring in an 81-run third-wicket partnership with Kyle Mayers (35 off 34 balls) before giving the West Indies hope by taking 3-12 with his off-spin.

Jansen's unbeaten 21 saw the Proteas to victory at 124-7



South Africa's Marco Jansen plays a shot

Scorecard

South Africa 124 for 7 (Stubbs 29, Klaasen 22, Jansen 21*, Chase 3-12) beat West Indies 135 for 8 (Chase 52, Mayers 35, Shamsi 3-27) by three wickets via DLS method

when he smashed the final six off Obed McCoy.

"The last time I played here I went for 50 runs and there was a lot of chatter going around," said Shamsi.

"I was happy to come back and perform my role, but credit as well to the guys who bowled

"The last time I played here I went for 50 runs and there was a lot of chatter going around. I was happy to come back and perform my role, but credit as well to the guys who bowled before me because they set it up beautifully"

TABRAIZ SHAMSI

before me because they set it up beautifully."

Brought in for seamer Otneil Baartman, the left-arm wrist-spinner got excellent support from fellow slow bowlers Keshav Maharaj (1-24) and captain Aiden Markram (1-28).

Chase was dropped on 11 by Anrich Nortje and made the most of his luck, clearing the ropes twice and hitting three fours.