

Al Sherooqi scores late winner

Muharraq come away with last-gasp victory against Al Najma in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League | P12

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Ministry of Labour to honour outstanding employees, establishments



Labour Minister

TDT | Manama

The 38th annual ceremony to recognise exemplary employees and exceptional establishments in the private sector will be organised by the Ministry of Labour on Wednesday, Under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This event aligns with the Kingdom of Bahrain's celebration of its national days, commemorating His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne and other associated national events.

The minister congratulated those who will be honoured this year.

MoH urges Pfizer - XBB 1.5 booster against new COVID variants

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health is encouraging citizens and residents, particularly those most susceptible to COVID-19 and its complications, to administer booster doses of the Pfizer (Pfizer - XBB 1.5) vaccine.

Dr. Basma Al-Saffar, Head of the Disease Control Department, clarified that the initial dose of the Pfizer vaccine is recommended for individuals who haven't received any COVID-19 vaccine previously. Booster doses are advised for those aged 12 and above. Individuals aged 50 and above and those with chronic conditions such as respiratory, cardiovascular, kidney, liver, blood, and metabolic diseases (including diabetes and neurological conditions). Additionally, individuals with obesity, immune deficiencies, pregnant women, and healthcare workers are identified as more susceptible to COVID-19 and its complications.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Midnight Mass marks Christmas



P2

Thousands of people in the Kingdom yesterday attended the Christmas Eve mass at churches all across the Kingdom celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The Midnight Mass, symbolizing the beginning of Christmastide, is observed on the night of Christmas Eve and traditionally starts at midnight as Christmas Day commences. The atmosphere was filled with festive joy as people engaged in carol singing, admired lively cribs, and enjoyed the sight of beautiful Christmas trees. Above, celebrations held at Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia - Awali, Bahrain

Bahrain extends Christmas greetings to friendly nations

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, extended heartfelt congratulations to the leaders of friendly nations on the occasion of Christmas. His Majesty the King conveyed wishes for their well-being, joy, and continued progress and prosperity. On this festive occasion, His Majesty expressed hopes for the global spread of security, peace, and prosperity for the benefit of all humanity.

Similarly, HRH Prince Salman sent congratulatory messages via cables to the Kings, Presidents, Crown Princes, and Prime Ministers of friendly nations, echoing the sentiments of good health, happiness, and ongoing advancement.

Spain will not join US-led Red Sea coalition

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spain said yesterday that it would not join a US-led coalition to protect Red Sea shipping from attacks by Yemen's Huthi rebels.

On Thursday, the Pentagon said 20 countries had joined the Washington-led coalition to protect the key shipping lane.

Spain's government has been ambivalent and on Sunday a spokesman for the defence ministry told AFP that Spain "will not participate".

While no reason was given, the Spanish press on Sunday said the decision not to participate was driven by domestic politics.

Netanyahu says Gaza war exacting 'heavy price' on Israel army

AFP | Tel Aviv, Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the Gaza war was exacting a "very heavy price" as the toll of soldiers killed in fighting with Hamas mounted.

"This is a difficult morning, after a very difficult day of fighting in Gaza," he said after the army announced 14 soldiers had been killed in the Palestinian territory since Friday. "The war is exacting a very heavy price... but we have no choice but to keep fighting," Netanyahu said in a statement.

No side gigs

Shura axes moonlighting of government workers

TDT | Manama

Government workers' dream of a side hustle just hit a major roadblock. The Shura Council, a key legislative body in Bahrain, has slammed the brakes on a draft law that would allow civil servants to engage in private business and obtain commercial licenses. Citing concerns about conflicts of interest, productivity dips, and social justice, the majority of council members voted against the proposal.

Their objections revolve around a potential clash between official duties and entrepreneurial pursuits. "This could negatively impact employee performance and raise conflict of interest flags," argued the council, adding that a side hustle might not exactly scream "public service dedication."

Furthermore, they raised the banner of fairness, stressing that allowing government employees to moonlight could tip the scales of economic opportuni-



Representative picture

ty in their favour, creating an uneven playing field for other aspiring entrepreneurs.

While the council unanimously agreed to shut down the moonlighting loophole, one lone voice dissented. Abdulaziz Abl, a Shura Council member, championed the bill as a step towards a more open economy. He believes allowing government workers to dabble in business aligns with national efforts to encourage entrepreneurial spirit. However, Mr. Adel Abdulrahman Al Ma'awda, Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, threw cold water on this argument. He emphasized

that Bahraini law views public service as a sacred duty, incompatible with freelance ventures. "Our Constitution considers it a national obligation, not a side project," he stated, highlighting the existing legal framework that prioritizes the integrity and focus of government employees.

Al Ma'awda further explained that the draft law clashes with the existing legislative policy established by the Civil Service Law. This policy, he asserted, aims to elevate the importance of public service and shield government workers from suspicions and conflicts. Allowing them to moonlight, he argued,

directly contradicts this established principle.

With the majority firmly against the proposal, the Shura Council returned the draft law to the House of Representatives, effectively putting the moonlighting dreams of government workers on ice. Whether the House will address the council's concerns and reintroduce the bill remains to be seen, but for now, it seems government work in Bahrain will stay a full-time gig.



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Gaza war rages on

War rages in Gaza, dimming Christmas lights in Bethlehem

AFP | Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories

Israel yesterday pressed on with its war on Hamas in Gaza, shifting focus to the besieged territory's south as a spiralling death toll has thrown a pall of gloom over Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

As the war rages on, Christians around the world celebrate Christmas Eve, and festivities are usually held in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem where they believe Jesus was born.



Injured men who were among Palestinians detained by the Israeli military during their operation in the northern Gaza Strip and recently released through the Kerem Shalom crossing, sit in the back of a pickup truck as they await treatment for injuries at al-Najjar hospital in Rafah

But this year the city is almost deserted, with few worshippers around and no Christmas tree erected, after church leaders decided to forego "any unnecessarily festive" celebrations, in solidarity with Gazans.

The Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, arrived Sunday at the Church of the Nativity, clad in the traditional black and white keffiyeh.

"Our heart goes to Gaza, to all people in Gaza but a special attention to our Christian community in Gaza who is suffering," he said.

HM King Hamad honours outgoing Saudi envoy with 'Order of Bahrain-First Class'

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday conferred the Order of Bahrain-First Class on HRH Prince Sultan bin Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the outgoing Saudi Ambassador.

The prestigious honour recognises Prince Sultan's outstanding contributions to fostering bilateral relations between the two nations.

During discussions at Al Safriya Palace, HM King expressed pride in the historically significant Bahraini-Saudi relations and commended the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in strengthening the fraternal ties.



HM King with Prince Sultan at Al Safriya Palace

The ambassador acknowledged HM King's efforts to enhance cooperation between the

two countries. In a separate meeting at Riffa Palace, HRH Prince Salman bin



HRH Prince Salman with Prince Sultan at Riffa Palace

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, held talks with Prince Sultan to

mark the conclusion of his tenure. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister praised Prince

Sultan bin Ahmed's efforts in solidifying the deep-rooted relations, wishing him success in his future endeavours.

HRH Prince Salman underscored the Kingdom's commitment to advancing bilateral relations across all levels to fulfil mutual aspirations. The meeting also covered regional and global developments and issues of common interest. Prince Sultan expressed gratitude for HRH's support during his tenure in the Kingdom and acknowledged HRH's dedication to furthering Bahrain-Saudi relations, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain continued progress and prosperity. The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, was also in attendance at the meeting.

HRH CP, PM names 16 new directors at Mol

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, issued Edict (I15) of 2023, yesterday, announcing the appointment of 16 directors at the Ministry of Interior. These appointments were made based on a proposal submitted by the Minister of Interior.

The Minister of Interior will assign each director to one of the vacant directorates of the Ministry of Interior, taking into consideration the tasks, responsibilities, requirements, qualifications, and experience of each appointee.

The appointments are effective immediately.

Minister, Southern Governor open Al Hunainiyah spring development project



The project opening ceremony

TDT | Manama

Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, yesterday inaugurated the development project of Al Hunainiyah water spring in Block 903.

His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Southern Governor, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary, were present.

HM King opens command building at Safreh Camp

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, officially opened the command building and new facilities at Safreh Camp.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, featured a tour of the camp's new facilities and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by His Majesty.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa,

the Interior Minister, and other senior officials. His Majesty emphasised that these modern facilities underscore Bahrain's preparedness to safeguard the nation and effectively address challenges.

During the event, His Majesty recognised the Royal Police Academy's pace sticking team

for their remarkable achievement in winning the All Arms International Pace Sticking Competition for the tenth time since 2009. He praised the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), National Guard, and National Intelligence Service, acknowledging their

dedication to fulfilling their mission.

His Majesty affirmed Bahrain's commitment to remaining free, proud, and secure, expressing confidence in the nation's continuous progress and prosperity through the unwavering efforts of its people.



Christmas mass



Worshippers participating in the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia in Awali, Bahrain yesterday.



The Pars International Hotel Team gathered on the enchanting evening of December 24th, during the joyous occasion of Christmas Eve.

Designing a greener future

Bahraini Duo envisions sustainable urban transformation for Muharraq

TDI | Manama

Have you ever imagined what Bahrain would look like if it was more walkable, greener, and less car-focused? These two young Bahraini designers have reimagined Muharraq as the ideal urban city.

On Friday, Mohamed Dadabhai, a licensed LEED architect, along with Hamad Al Mannai, a practicing physicist gave a talk hosted by Design Majlis, as part of the Muharraq Nights programme, where they showcased



Hamad Al Mannai (right) and Mohammed Dadabhai (left)

their strategies for future urban design to improve traffic flow, pedestrianization, consumerism, well-being and much more.

The proposal, titled "Sustainable Build" is a manifesto for future

sustainable building techniques in Bahrain. Behind the presentation comes a year-long research, where the two young professionals studied urban precedents, zoning, street design and case

studies of cities where similar urban strategies are implemented. Hamad's interest stems from his extensive reading and experiences of interacting, walking and living in Muharraq. As a re-

sult, he focuses on a more theoretical approach, whereas on the other hand Mohamed brought in the technical aspects after studying architecture and sustainability. The architect earned

his LEED certificate during his Master's Degree, where he published his research on Net Zero Carbon Concrete. Mohamed went so far that he even walked across Bahrain in an attempt to better understand the walkability.

Together, Hamad and Mohamed make an efficient team of theory and practice, bringing together their experiences and backgrounds to focus on sustainable development in Bahrain. They hope to share their ideas and one day impact the urban development of Bahrain.

Inmate's jail term reduced on appeal in stolen ATM card case

TDI | Manama

The High Appeals Court has reduced the jail term awarded to an inmate convicted of stealing another inmate's ATM card by two years to a three-year term.

The accused was charged with pilfering the ATM card and subsequently used it to buy cigarettes and a phone credit recharge for BD 45. The incident was reported from the Centre for Correction and Rehabilitation.



Representative picture

According to court records, the suspects swiped the ATM card from the security depository while the victim was in a deep slumber. Each inmate at the centre is issued a bank card for receiving funds from their families to fulfill their needs.

Police told the court that the inmate, after obtaining the stolen card, proceeded to a store there, where he bought cigarettes and a phone credit refill totalling BD 45. The card was

later discarded in the building's courtyard.

Fortunately, another inmate discovered the discarded card and promptly returned it to the victim. Security camera footage captured incriminating evidence, confirming the defendant's guilt.

During the investigation, the defendant admitted to using the victim's card, citing a prior theft of his personal belongings by the victim as justification for

his actions.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with multiple offenses, including the unauthorized use of the victim's electronic signature and card PIN, the illegal appropriation of funds, and the theft of the victim's card.

Following the appeal, the Appeals Court has now reduced the defendant's sentence from 5 years to 3 years based on the revised judgment.

Higher Sharia Court confirms divorce; orders husband to pay BD3,500

TDI | Manama

The Higher Sharia Court has granted a divorce to a woman, while also instructing her husband to make a payment of BD3,500 to cover the deferred dowry and maintenance expenses.

The amount, the court said, is payable in instalments whenever financially feasible, until September 2026.

Details shared by the wife's lawyer, Alaa Adel, revealed that the couple married in June 2017 and had a child in 2019. However, unresolved disputes led to legal action, with the wife seeking alimony for their son and a divorce while the husband counter-sued, requesting her return to their marital home.

The reconciliation settlement ended their marital relationship, with the husband committing to monthly child support of BD100 and additional BD30 before Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adaha for the child's clothing. Moreover, he agreed to pro-



Representative picture

vide a separate residence for the wife and child, sharing half of the monthly rent. In return, the wife pledged to allow the husband to visit the child twice weekly and spend a night with him once a week.

Further terms of the agreement include a final payment of BD3,000 towards dowry to

the wife.

The husband is obliged to settle this amount within three years, either in a single payment or in instalments when financially capable. Additionally, he must cover the Iddah expense of BD500 within the same deadline set for the BD3,000 payment.

Tips for managing diabetes during Christmas Season

Zahra Ayaz
TDI | Manama

With the joyful Christmas season in full swing, many individuals find themselves facing the challenging task of maintaining a healthy diet while being surrounded by tempting sweet treats and indulgent festive food.

However, according to Coach Moayyed Feroze, Co-founder of The Healthy Conscience, prioritising and adhering to a diabetes management plan is crucial even amidst the holiday festivities.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, Feroze sheds light on the significance of staying committed to one's health and offers valuable insights on how to navigate the season without compromising diabetes control.

Feroze advises incorporating non-starchy vegetables into meals as they are low in carbs and provide a feeling of fullness. Broccoli, spinach, kale, and leafy greens can be excellent choices.

Additionally, he recommends consuming protein shakes be-



Representative picture

fore heading out to keep cravings in check and maintaining proper hydration by drinking plenty of water throughout the day.

Portion control is key during festive gatherings, and Feroze suggests using smaller plates, practicing mindful eating, and paying attention to your body's hunger cues to avoid overindulging.

"Monitoring blood sugar lev-

els is crucial during this time, and checking them before, during, and after holiday meals can provide valuable insights into how specific foods affect your body. Adjusting insulin or medication as per your doctor's advice is essential," he added.

Additionally, Feroze encourages individuals to openly discuss their diabetes and dietary needs with family and friends.



Monitoring blood sugar levels is crucial during this time, and checking them before, during, and after holiday meals can provide valuable insights into how specific foods affect your body. Adjusting insulin or medication as per your doctor's advice is essential,
MOAYYED FEROCZE

Seeking support and understanding when making menu choices or navigating social situations can make a significant difference.

"Regular meal times should be maintained, and skipping meals in anticipation of larger feasts should be avoided, as sticking to a consistent schedule helps regulate blood sugar levels."

Holiday stress can impact

blood sugar levels, and Feroze recommends practicing relaxa-

tion techniques such as meditation, yoga, or deep breathing to effectively manage stress.

He lastly said: "Planning ahead is crucial for attending potlucks or parties, and bringing a dish that aligns with your dietary needs or contributing a healthy appetizer to share can ensure there are suitable options available."

"Indulging in holiday treats is acceptable, but moderation and awareness of their potential impact on blood sugar levels are important factors to consider."

By following these strategies, individuals with diabetes can navigate the Christmas season while maintaining stable blood sugar levels and prioritising their health.



Over time, diabetes can damage blood vessels in the heart, eyes, kidneys and nerves. People with diabetes have a higher risk of health problems including heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. Diabetes can cause permanent vision loss by damaging blood vessels in the eyes.

Seef Entertainment rings in National Day, New Year with unmissable 52% discount across five centres

TDI | Manama

Seef Entertainment, a leading family entertainment provider in Bahrain, is spreading festive cheer this National Day and New Year with an exceptional offer of 52 percent off all games at all five of its centres.

From the vibrant Magic Island in Seef Mall and Muharraq to the sprawling Yabeela, the adrenaline-pumping Jumpoline, and the unique inflatable wonderland Hawa Park, families can explore a world of fun and adventure at unbeatable prices.

This exciting campaign, running until January 2nd, 2024, reflects Seef Entertainment's commitment to fostering domestic tourism and celebrating



Bahraini culture, officials said. As CEO Ahmed Yusuf states, "We want to provide families and visitors with unforgettable entertainment experiences, and this discount is the perfect opportunity to create lasting memories together."

Whether it's diving into the magical world of Magic Island, conquering the bouncy challenges at Jumpoline, or exploring

the whimsical inflatable landscape of Hawa Park, Seef Entertainment offers something for everyone. This National Day and New Year, gather your loved ones and embark on

an adventure they won't forget, all at a fraction of the usual cost.

Seef Entertainment's dedication to family fun and national celebration extends beyond its

impressive discount campaign. Established in 2018, the company plays a key role in Bahrain's integrated real estate development landscape, focusing on commercial centres, hospitality, and, of course, entertainment. With its diverse portfolio of centres, Seef Entertainment continues to push the boundaries of family entertainment, offering unique and exciting experiences for all.

So, this National Day and New Year, skip the ordinary and embrace the extraordinary. Head down to your nearest Seef Entertainment centre and let the magic begin! With 52 percent off all games, you're guaranteed an unforgettable experience that will leave smiles on everyone's faces.

Winter is coming: Brace for the onset of wind chill



Picture for representation only

TDI | Manama

Brace yourself for some bone-chilling winds if you plan to unwind outdoors, especially during nights as the Kingdom slowly embraces winter season.

According to a reliable source from the Meteorological Direc-

torate at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, this phenomenon in the Kingdom is attributed to northwesterly winds.

Currently, Bahrain is experiencing southeast winds that are elevating daytime temperatures.

Quoting the meteorological source, our sister concern, Al

Ayam, reported that the southeast winds will gradually shift to northwesterly, bringing light to moderate winds starting Monday evening. This shift marks the onset of the winter season.

These winds will persist in the coming days, occasionally becoming active. Consequently, temperatures are expected

to decrease, creating cooler weather conditions, particularly during nighttime, with the possibility of some cloud formations.

People are advised to stay updated by following the latest bulletins and warnings through the official channels of the Meteorological Directorate.



As part of the National Days festivities, the Northern Governorate, in collaboration with the Capital Governorate, the Northern Governorate Police Directorate, the General Traffic Department, and the Bahrain Cycling Federation, orchestrated a bicycle tour. Commencing from Bahrain Fort, the tour traversed the farmers' market in Budaiya and culminated at Al Jasra House, with the enthusiastic participation of both professional and amateur cyclists. Governor Ali bin Sheikh Abdul Hussein Al-Asfour emphasized the event's significance, noting its connection to national history and cherished sentiments. The occasion also featured an art exhibition themed "Issa bin Salman, March, and Giving," with the involvement of artists and individuals with determination from the Micro Arts Training Centre.

Bahrain India Society honours Karnataka Speaker UT Khader



An honouring ceremony



Mohammad Mansoor



Abdulrahman Juma



Vinod Jacob

TDI | Manama

U.T. Khader, the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in India, was honoured by the Bahrain India Society on Thursday at a ceremony held at The Diplomat Radisson Hotel.

The ceremony, attended by Chief Guest Vinod K Jacob, Indian Ambassador, members of the Bahrain India Society, key figures from government bodies, private sectors, and respected businessmen, showcased a momentous occasion.

Mohammad Mansoor, a Board



During a group photo opportunity

Member of the Bahrain India Society and a native of the same

hometown as U.T. Khader, eloquently highlighted the Speaker's remarkable journey. From his days as a Student Union leader

er's remarkable journey. From his days as a Student Union leader

er to managing pivotal portfolios, including Health, Education, and Urban Development, Shri Khader's impactful trajectory has significantly contributed to societal betterment.

Abdulrahman Juma, President of the Bahrain India Society, warmly welcomed the Speaker, expressing gratitude to the House of Representatives, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and distinguished guests from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Juma emphasised Bahrain's business-friendly environment, citing financial incentives like the Tamkeen programme

that makes the country an attractive hub for international investments. He urged Speaker Khader to support investment promotion in Bahrain.

Vinod Jacob, the Indian Ambassador, shared valuable insights into India's achievements, highlighting the substantial economic contributions of Indian tourists and citizens in Bahrain. He emphasised Bahrain's status as a prime investment destination.

In response, U.T. Khader acknowledged the contributions of NRIs in Bahrain toward India's development. He pledged unwavering support to the visions of Bahrain and Karnataka, aiming to serve as a bridge for cultural, bilateral, and economic development between the two nations.

The Speaker extended an invitation for a high-level meeting between the Bahrain-India Society and the government of Karnataka, expressing his commitment to arrange for Bahraini delegates to witness the assembly proceedings in Karnataka.

Foreign Exchange Clearing Company vital to GCC economy: Sameer Nass

TDT | Manama

Establishing a Foreign Exchange Clearing Company is vital to enhance the markets of Gulf Cooperation Council nations, Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber and Chairman of the Union of Arab Chambers, said.

Nass, who led Bahrain's delegation at the 63rd meeting of the Federation of GCC Commerce (FGCCC) in Doha, Qatar, emphasized that this initiative is crucial for strengthening the market resilience of GCC member states in the face of global challenges.

He expressed the Bahrain Chamber's commitment to fast-tracking the study and establishment of the Foreign Exchange Clearing Company, highlighting its potential to enhance economic integration among GCC countries, aligning with the



Nass with other GCC officials during the FGCCC meeting in Doha, Qatar

requirements of the common Gulf market and customs union. Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin

Mohammed Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatar Chamber, underscored the private sector's vital

role in achieving Gulf economic integration. He emphasized the need for increased economic,

trade, and investment cooperation among GCC countries in light of current economic change-

es and geopolitical challenges.

Rabah Al-Rabah, Director-General of the Kuwait Chamber, echoed the importance of launching the GCC Foreign Exchange Clearing Company, noting its facilitation of significant investment partnerships among member states.

Khaled Najibi, First Deputy Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, drew attention to the Gulf Commercial Franchise Law's direct impact on business development, fostering expansion into new markets, and increasing market activity rates.

The agenda of the 63rd meeting of the Gulf Chambers Union included approving previous meeting minutes, discussing economic policy proposals and developments, and addressing various topics aimed at promoting trade and economic cooperation among GCC countries.

Export of National Origin products reach BD299 Million in November

TDT | Manama

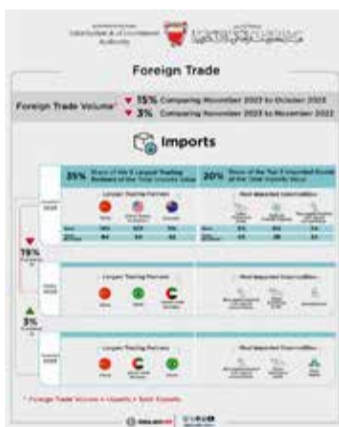
Bahrain experienced a 3% growth in imports, reaching BD454 million in November 2023 compared to BD440 m in the same month of 2022, as per the November 2023 Foreign Trade report published by the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA).

The top 10 countries collectively contributed 71% to the import total.

China topped imports to Bahrain with BD64m, followed by the United States of America at BD54m and Australia at BD42m.

The primary product imported was Other Aluminum Oxide, accounting for BD40m, with Parts for Aircraft Engines following at BD28m, and Non-Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Allied ranking third with BD24m.

Conversely, the value of exports of products with national origin decreased by 15% to BD299m in November 2023 compared to BD350m in the same month of 2022. The top



10 countries constituted 73% of the total export value.

Saudi Arabia secured the first position among countries for the exports of products with national origin, amounting to BD60m, followed by the United Arab Emirates with BD57m, and the United States of America with BD28m.

Unwrought Aluminium Alloys marked as the top products exported with BD68m, followed by Agglomerated Iron Ores and Concentrates Allied at BD48m,



and Aluminium wire not alloyed ranking third with BD19m.

Re-exports witnessed a 15% increase, totalling BD74m in November 2023 compared to BD64m in the same month of 2022. The top 10 countries in re-exports accounted for 85% of the re-exported value, with the United Arab Emirates taking the lead at BD16.9m, followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at BD16.8m, and Luxembourg at BD8m.

Turbo-Jets claimed the top



spot among re-exported products from Bahrain, recording a value of BD15m, followed by Machinery for Filling Closing Containers at BD5m, and Four Wheel Drive securing the third position with BD4.7m.

The trade balance, representing the difference between exports and imports, saw a deficit of BD82m in November 2023, compared to a deficit of BD26m in the same month of the previous year, reflecting a significant increase of 218%.

Tanker ship off India hit by attack drone 'fired from Iran': Pentagon

Washington, United States

A Japanese-owned chemical tanker struck Saturday off the coast of India was targeted by a drone "fired from Iran," the Pentagon said, a sign of expanding risks to commercial shipping beyond the Red Sea.

It was the first time the Pentagon has openly accused Iran of directly targeting ships since the start of Israel's war on the militant group Hamas, which is backed by Tehran.

The attack came amid a flurry of new drone and missile attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels on the vital Red Sea shipping lane since the start of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7, with the group claiming to act in solidarity with Gaza.

Saturday's Indian Ocean attack took place around 10 am local time (0600 GMT) and caused no casualties aboard the vessel, a Pentagon statement said, adding that a fire was extinguished.

The US military "remains in communication with the vessel as it continues toward a destination in India," it added.

The drone strike occurred 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) off the coast of India, it said, adding that no US Navy vessels were in the vicinity.

The Pentagon statement said the MV Chem Pluto ship flew under a Liberian flag and was operated by a Dutch entity, although the ship is owned by a Japanese company.

Ambrey, a maritime security firm, said the "chemical/products tanker... was Israel-affiliated" and had been on its way from Saudi Arabia to India.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Dutch company operating the MV Chem Pluto "is connected to Israeli shipping tycoon Idan Ofer."

The Indian navy said it had responded to a request for assistance.

"An aircraft was dispatched and it reached overhead the vessel and established safety of the involved ship and its crew," a navy official told AFP.

"An Indian navy warship has also been dispatched so as to provide assistance as required." There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the strike.

Derasat blazes trail in renewable energy with AI Lab launch

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies (Derasat) is charting a groundbreaking course for the Kingdom's renewable energy future with the upcoming launch of the Artificial Intelligence Renewable Energy Laboratory (AIRE) in 2024.

An intensive workshop on advanced modelling, gathering experts from across the public and private sectors, was held by Derasat recently.

Dr. Abdullah Isa Al Abbasi, Director of the Energy and Environment Programme at Dera-



Participants during a workshop

sat, emphasized the workshop's alignment with national goals

and global trends in renewable energy, paving the way for

collaborative research projects that will fuel innovation and de-

velopment.

These joint efforts, involving entities like the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs, the Electricity and Water Authority, Bahrain Polytechnic, and Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), are vital in achieving Bahrain's ambitious renewable energy targets - 5% by 2025 and 20% by 2035. The workshop actively supports these objectives by equipping participants with the latest advanced applications in power grid modelling, setting the stage for a future powered by clean energy, Derasat said.

One of the key takeaways from the workshop was train-

ing on cutting-edge technology that will be housed in the soon-to-be-launched AIRE Lab. This state-of-the-art facility, armed with artificial intelligence capabilities, promises to be a game-changer in supporting Bahrain's energy transition.

AIRE Lab's advanced simulations will provide invaluable insights into optimizing energy management, grid integration, and overall system performance. This data-driven approach will empower policymakers and industry leaders to make informed decisions, propelling Bahrain towards a sustainable and secure energy future, revealed Derasat.

QUOTE OF THE DAY - SANTA CLAUS HAS THE RIGHT IDEA - VISIT PEOPLE ONLY ONCE A YEAR VICTOR BORGE

TODAY IN HISTORY 1st Christmas, according to calendar-maker Dionysus Exiguus

800 Pope Leo III crowns Charles the Great (Charlemagne), Roman Emperor

1066 William the Conqueror is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey, completing the Norman conquest of England

1741 Astronomer Anders Celsius introduces Centigrade temperature scale

News in brief

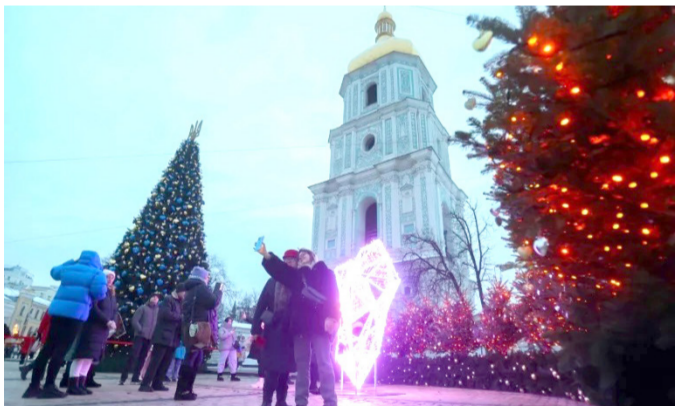
Flights delayed as Geneva airport workers go on strike. Dozens of ground staff at Geneva airport went on strike yesterday over a wage dispute with their employer, the Dubai National Air Travel Agency, delaying flights during the busy holiday season.

The United Nations called Saturday for the urgent rescue of 185 people, mainly women and children, on a distressed boat last heard to be near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean.

At least 19 die in Nicaragua bus accident. At least 10 children were among 19 fatalities Saturday when an overcrowded bus overturned on a bridge in a town north of Nicaragua's capital Managua, a government website said.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Ukrainians defy Moscow with first Dec. 25 Christmas



Christmas trees and decorations outside Saint Sophia's Cathedral in Kyiv

Many Ukrainians will today celebrate Christmas Day on December 25 for the first time, after the government changed the date from the Orthodox Church observance of January 7 in a snub to Russia.

The date change is part of hastened moves since the invasion to remove traces of the Russian and Soviet empires, such as renaming streets and removing monuments.

US-Canada military 'tracks' Santa for 68th year

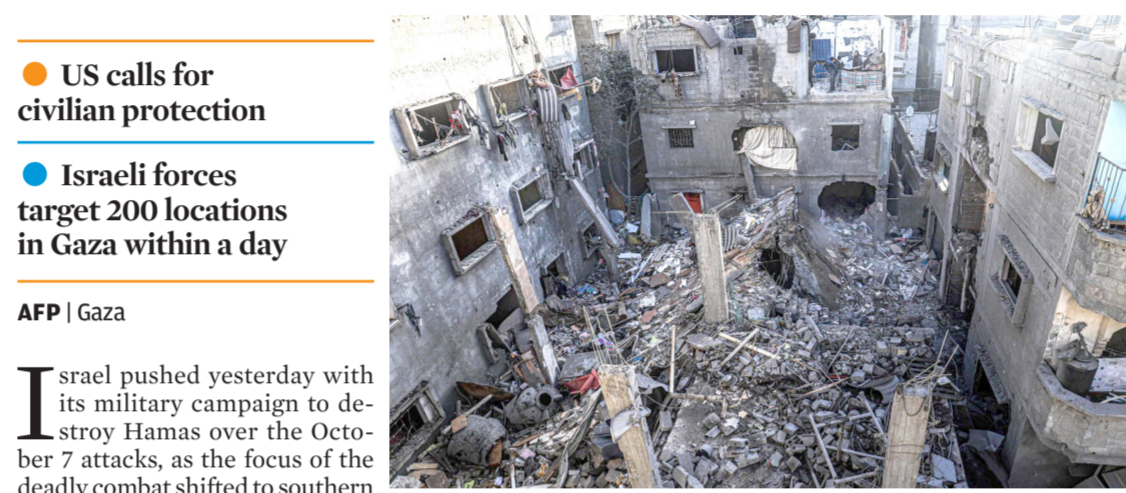


A model of a flying Santa is displayed at a park (file photo)

To avoid disappointing the little ones, NORAD's director of operations at the time, Colonel Harry Shoup, ordered his staff to check the radar to see where Santa might be and update the children on his location.

The joint US-Canadian military monitoring agency has continued its decades-long tradition of tracking Santa's whereabouts, helping children around the globe find out when his reindeer-powered, present-filled sleigh is coming to town.

Gaza war rages on Christmas Eve as Biden urges caution



People inspect the rubble of a building destroyed by Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

- US calls for civilian protection
Israeli forces target 200 locations in Gaza within a day

Israel pushed yesterday with its military campaign to destroy Hamas over the October 7 attacks, as the focus of the deadly combat shifted to southern Gaza where most displaced Palestinians are trapped.

and its 2.4 million people have endured dire shortages of water, food, fuel and medicine due to an Israeli siege, alleviated only by the limited arrival of aid trucks. Eighty percent of Gazans have been displaced, according to the UN, many now shielding against the winter cold in makeshift tents and forced into the south of Gaza even as ground fighting comes closer.

13 dead, 46 injured in explosion at nickel-processing plant in Indonesia

AFP | Jakarta



Workers using excavators during an exploration for nickel ore on Wawonii Island in southeast Sulawesi

At least 13 people were killed and 46 injured in eastern Indonesia yesterday in an explosion at a Chinese-funded nickel-processing plant, the owner of the industrial park that hosts the facility said.

Indians held in France over trafficking fears questioned

AFP | Paris

Four French judges yesterday began questioning more than 300 Indians travelling on a plane detained near Paris over suspicions of human trafficking.

India's Jaishankar warns UN Security Council losing grip as 'old club' resists change

ANI | New Delhi



Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

Taking a sharp dig at the United Nations Security Council, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that it is like an 'old club' where member nations are unwilling to admit new members as they perceive it as losing the grip.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Boilerplate 'Force Majeure' Clauses



DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA GHALIB AWARSAMA@WARSAMALC.COM

TOP 4 TWEETS 01. As we look forward to tomorrow, let's take a moment to thank everyone working over the holidays in the service of others. Merry Christmas everyone. @RishiSunak

02. The decimation of the #Gaza health system is a tragedy. But in the face of constant insecurity and inflows of wounded patients, we see doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and more continue striving to save lives. @WHO and our health partners will continue working side by side with you, delivering supplies, supporting the provision of care, and transferring the seriously wounded. And we persist in calling for #CeasefireNow. @DRTedros

03. #Christmas is a moment for compassion & reflection. All of us can draw inspiration from this season, and bring more empathy & solidarity into the world. My best wishes to everyone celebrating. @antonloguterras

04. The cold. The constant air raid warnings. Remembering friends & family lost to Russian terrorism. This is the reality for Ukrainians this Christmas. We can't forget or dripfeed support. We must be all in, for them. #StandWithUkraine @guyverhofstadt

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

A 'force majeure' clause is a contract provision that relieves the parties from performing their contractual obligations when certain circumstances beyond their control arise, making performance inadvisable, commercially impracticable, illegal, or impossible.

It is common to find boilerplate force majeure language in contracts limiting excuse of the parties' performance obligations only when it would be 'impossible' to perform due to the unexpected circumstances

Other covered events may include war, terrorism or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, labor strikes or disruptions, fire, disease or medical epidemics or outbreaks, and curtailment of transportation facilities preventing or delaying acts. However, I believe that such events depend on the merits of each case. Don't cut and paste as you need to be careful when negotiating such events, as some may not apply to the concerned contract in your hands.

Classifieds



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INEOS's Ratcliffe agrees deal to buy 25 percent of Man Utd

Billionaire aims for club resurgence; Glazers maintain majority ownership

● Football operations handed over, Ratcliffe promises long-term commitment

● Ratcliffe to oversee club's football operations

AFP | London

British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe has agreed a deal to buy a 25 percent stake in Manchester United for a reported £1.25 billion (\$1.6 billion) and will take control of the Premier League club's football operations.

Ratcliffe, the chairman of petrochemicals giant INEOS, will also provide substantial funds for future investment in the club's Old Trafford stadium.

A club statement said Ratcliffe "will acquire 25 percent of Manchester United's Class B shares and up to 25 percent



A view outside Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium

of Manchester United's Class A shares and provide an additional \$300 million intended to enable future investment into Old Trafford".

"As part of the transaction, INEOS has accepted a request by the board to be delegated responsibility for the management of the club's football operations,"

it added. Ratcliffe said he wanted to see the struggling 20-time English champions back on top of European football and committed himself for the long term.

"As a local boy and a lifelong supporter of the club, I am very pleased that we have been able to agree a deal with the Man-

chester United board that delegates us management responsibility of the football operations of the club," he said.

"Whilst the commercial success of the club has ensured there have always been available funds to win trophies at the highest level, this potential has not been fully unlocked in recent times.

"We will bring the global knowledge, expertise and talent from the wider INEOS Sport group to help drive further improvement at the club."

The agreement ends more than 12 months of speculation over the ownership situation and heralds a new era at a club that has fallen well behind cross-town rivals Manchester City.

Unpopular owners the Glazers, who bought the club for £790 million in 2005, announced in November 2022 that they were considering "strategic alternatives" to help United grow, sparking a protracted process.

Ratcliffe and Qatari banker

Ratcliffe and Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani made rival offers in the region of £5 billion for a complete takeover, but that fell short of the Glazers' valuation

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Sheikh Jassim withdrew from the process, while Ratcliffe continued to pursue a minority shareholding.

Commercial experience

Executive co-chairmen and directors Avram Glazer and Joel Glazer said Ratcliffe and INEOS "bring a wealth of commercial experience as well as significant financial commitment into the

club.

They added: "Through INEOS Sport, Manchester United will have access to seasoned high-performance professionals, experienced in creating and leading elite teams from both inside and outside the game."

Ratcliffe's group have extensive involvement in sport, owning French Ligue 1 club Nice and Swiss side Lausanne-Sport, as well as the INEOS Grenadiers cycling team.

United have not been crowned Premier League champions since Alex Ferguson's final season in charge, in 2013.

They languish eighth in the Premier League, 12 points behind leaders Arsenal, and have been knocked out of the League Cup and the Champions League.

Manager Erik Ten Hag's position is also likely to come under close scrutiny after the Dutch coach failed to build on ending United's six-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup last season.

Pistons slump to record-equalling 26th NBA defeat



Detroit's Cade Cunningham reacts in a Pistons defeat

AFP | Los Angeles

The Detroit Pistons matched an NBA single-season mark for futility on Saturday, slumping to a 26th straight defeat in a 126-115 loss to the Nets in Brooklyn.

As the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a four-game skid behind 40 points from LeBron James and reigning champions Denver and Eastern Conference contenders Boston and Milwaukee posted comfortable victories, the Pistons matched the league's longest single-season losing streak -- set by the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers and the 2013-14 Philadelphia 76ers.

Detroit, an iconic franchise that won NBA titles in 1989, 1990 and 2004 -- hasn't won since October 28.

Mikal Bridges scored 29 points with six rebounds and seven assists to lead the Nets -- who had seven players score in double figures.

Jaden Ivey scored 23 points

and Cade Cunningham added 22 for the Pistons, who coughed up 14 turnovers leading to 22 Nets points.

Brooklyn out-scored Detroit 62-42 in the paint and held an 18-9 edge in second-chance points and never trailed after the first quarter.

The Pistons were in the hunt, down by six late in the third quarter, when the Nets put together a 15-0 scoring run to pull away.

Detroit will try to turn the tables when they play the Nets in Brooklyn again on Tuesday, when a defeat would land them with the single-season record -- and put them one away from matching the longest losing streak ever, the 28-game slide of the 76ers that spanned the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons.

Pistons coach Monty Williams said he'd seen some good things from his team, and he praised their continuing determination in the midst of the morale-destroying slide.

Khawaja denied permission to have peace symbol on bat: reports

AFP | Melbourne

Australia's Usman Khawaja has been denied permission to place a peace symbol on his bat and shoes for the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan, reports said yesterday.

A sticker showing a black dove and the words 01:UDHR -- a reference to Article One of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- was on his bat and shoes during training in Melbourne yesterday.

The star batter had multiple meetings with Cricket Australia over recent days to find a message that would be appropriate for the second Test this week, local media said.

But his latest humanitarian gesture has been turned down by the International Cricket Committee, The Australian and Melbourne Age newspapers reported.

The ICC were not immediately available for comment.

Khawaja, a Muslim, was stopped from wearing shoes em-



Australia's David Warner (R) and teammate Usman Khawaja leave at the lunch break during a match (file photo)

blazoned with the hand-written slogans "Freedom is a human right" and "All lives are equal" during the first Test in Perth.

The 36-year-old had wanted to show his support for the people of Gaza.

But he was told they flouted ICC rules on messages that relate to politics, religion or race.

He wore a black armband during the match and was reprimanded by the ICC, but insisted afterwards it was for a "personal bereavement" and vowed to contest the ruling.

Khawaja spoke on Friday about how the Israel-Hamas conflict had affected him, saying he despaired at seeing how

YOU KNOW WHAT

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many children had been killed.

"When I'm looking at my Instagram and seeing innocent kids, videos of them dying, passing away, that's what hit me the hardest," he said.

"I don't have any agendas other than trying to shine a light on what I feel really passionately, really strongly about."

England's Curran loses appeal over intimidating umpire

AFP | London

England bowler Tom Curran lost his appeal yesterday over a four-match Big Bash League ban for intimidating an umpire, with Cricket Australia saying it was essential that officials were respected.

The Sydney Sixers' Curran, who has played 30 T20 games for England, was slapped with the punishment following a pre-match incident against the Hobart Hurricanes this month.

It involved the umpire having to move to avoid a collision with



Tom Curran during a practice run.

"Umpires are part of the lifeblood of cricket and it is essen-

tial they are respected and appreciated by players at all levels of the game," said CA general manager Alistair Dobson.

"We acknowledge the remorse Tom's shown following the appeal and look forward to seeing him back in Sixers colours."

Curran was charged with "intimidation or attempted intimidation of an umpire, match referee or medical personnel whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a match".

He appealed the charge with

the head of the Sixers Rachael Haynes saying he "did not knowingly or intentionally intimidate a match official".

But she said yesterday the club accepted the punishment.

"We sought to appeal the original decision based on previous code of conduct cases," Haynes said.

"Whilst not disagreeing that Tom had breached the code through his conduct, we felt that the charge was inconsistent with other offences. Following the ruling, we respect that not to be the case."

Wolves inflict Christmas misery on Chelsea

Chelsea's struggles continue; Wolves capitalize in a thrilling Christmas Eve clash

● Wolves secure a crucial 2-1 victory over Chelsea at Molineux

AFP | London

Wolves condemned Chelsea to a fourth defeat in six league matches yesterday, winning 2-1 in the first Christmas Eve Premier League match since 1995.

Mauricio Pochettino's men dominated possession at Molineux but wasted chances in an incident-packed game littered with careless defensive errors by the visiting side.

Wolves appeared to be cantering to victory after goals from Mario Lemina and Matt Doherty but they were made to sweat when Christopher Nkunku pulled one back deep into stoppage time on his Premier League debut.

The defeat means Chelsea are stuck in 10th in the Premier League, with Wolves behind them only on goal difference.

No side have lost more Premier League matches in 2023



Thomas Doyle (centre) launches a Wolves attack against Chelsea

than Chelsea's tally of 19, while only three sides have lost more across the big five European leagues during the calendar year.

Pochettino bemoaned his team's missed chances after a frustrating afternoon.

"We feel very disappointed because I think we deserve much more," the Argentine told Sky Sports. "This competition

wounds you when you are not clinical enough.

"We created chances. That is why it is so disappointing. We conceded after a few corners and it was really difficult."

He added: "We were talking a lot at the beginning of the season. We are young in age. It is a young team. We have players playing for the first time in the



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MAURICIO POCHETTINO

league. They need to adapt. It is confidence and about quality."

Missed chances

There were chances at both ends early in the game.

Nelson Samedo burst forward but could not find Matheus Cunha on the left before Armando Broja stumbled on the ball in the box at the other end when well placed.

Chelsea's Nicolas Jackson was also guilty of failing to make the most of some good openings. The visitors wasted a gilt-



This was the first Christmas Eve Premier League match since 1995, bringing a nostalgic touch to the Wolves vs. Chelsea encounter

edged opportunity to take the lead shortly after the half-hour mark when Raheem Sterling caught Joao Gomes in possession 40 yards out and drove forward.

The England forward was one-on-one with Jose Sa, with two team-mates to his right, but he opted to shoot rather than pass and it was saved by the Wolves goalkeeper.

Wolves had a chance to break the deadlock in the closing moments of the half when Hwang Hee-chan burst through but he

blasted over from an angle.

The home side started the second half brightly and came within a whisker of taking the lead when Chelsea's Lesley Ugochukwu deflected Gomes's shot onto the outside of the post.

But Wolves broke the deadlock in the 51st minute when Lemina did not even need to get off the ground to head home a Pablo Sarabia corner.

Substitute Nkunku came close to equalising when his shot was hacked off the line by Toti.

Instead, Wolves doubled their lead in stoppage time.

Substitute Hugo Bueno crossed and Chelsea were only able to block the ball as far as the waiting Doherty, who finished calmly from close range in the 93rd minute.

France international Nkunku pulled one back when he headed home three minutes later but Gary O'Neil's side hung on to take all three points.

Goalscorer Doherty praised the fans for creating a crackling atmosphere.

"Our record against top-six teams is good," he said. "We've beaten most of them here and away. We're doing really well."

Rangers beat Motherwell to close on Celtic

AFP | Glasgow

Rangers beat Motherwell 2-0 at a wet and wild Fir Park yesterday to return to within two points of Scottish Premiership leaders Celtic.

Kieran Dowell started and finished the move for the opening goal in the fourth minute before fellow midfielder Todd Cantwell doubled the lead 12 minutes later.

The game should have brought more goals, but in a wind-affected encounter the strikes proved enough for Philippe Clement's men.

Rangers are now on 43 points after 18 games -- two behind champions Celtic with a game



Action from the match

in hand.

They face Ross County on Wednesday, with a crucial en-

counter at Celtic Park on December 30 looming large.

Clement has gone 16 games

unbeaten since taking over from Michael Beale in October.

"The players put their egos aside and only focused on the team," Clement told the BBC.

"That is the mentality I want to see. It is important that players are ready for that but also that everyone in every position knows what to do.

"I know where the danger is when success is there. I am going to be very strict on the message that it is all about the team."

Rangers took the lead early in the match when Dowell robbed Harry Paton at the edge of the penalty area and played a one-two with Cyriel Dessers before blasting the ball home.

Liverpool's draw with Arsenal marred by Tsimikas injury: Klopp



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp stands over injured defender Kostas Tsimikas

AFP | London

Jurgen Klopp admitted Liverpool's gripping 1-1 draw against Premier League title rivals Arsenal was marred by the serious injured suffered by Kostas Tsimikas when the Reds defender collided with his manager.

Klopp's side hit back to stay within one point of leaders Arsenal as Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah's blistering strike cancelled out Gabriel Magalhaes' early header at Anfield.

But the Liverpool boss was left to rue a bizarre incident that led to Tsimikas being ruled out for a lengthy spell with a broken collarbone.

The Greek left-back collided with Arsenal forward Bukayo Saka late in the first half and

went sprawling into Klopp, who was right in front of him on the touchline.

Klopp went flying but it was Tsimikas who stayed down before being helped to the tunnel holding his shoulder.

It is a setback for Liverpool, who were already without first-choice left-back Andrew Robertson, with a shoulder problem.

"It was massively overshadowed by Kostas Tsimikas' collarbone issue, definitely broken, so he is out for a long time," Klopp said.

While Klopp was frustrated by Tsimikas' injury, he took heart from the way his team went toe to toe with Arsenal.

"Arsenal has the better start, with a corner and a free kick, they do that really well. We could have done better with the goal," Klopp said.

Pakistan injury woes mount with Ahmed out of second Australia Test

AFP | Melbourne

Pakistan's injury woes went from bad to worse yesterday with off-spinner Abrar Ahmed the third player in as many days to be ruled out of the second Test against Australia.

Ahmed missed their 360-run defeat in Perth with leg discomfort, and while improving, he has not recovered sufficiently to take part in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne.

"Considering the nature of the injury and the workload required from a spinner in a Test match, Abrar is not yet ready and will therefore not be available for the second Test," the



Pakistan's players celebrate a wicket (file photo)

Pakistan Cricket Board said.

"He will undergo a preliminary fitness test on December 25, which will determine his probable return-to-play date."

It follows fellow spinner Noman Ali being hospitalised with acute appendicitis and ruled out of the rest of the three-match series.

Mohammad Nawaz has been drafted as a replacement, the PCB said.

Pace bowler Khuram Shahzad is another injury casualty, sidelined for the last two Tests with a stress fracture in the ribs along with an abdominal muscle tear after impressing on his debut in Perth.

Al Sherooqi scores late winner

Muharraq come away with last-gasp victory against Al Najma in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● **Sufyan Mahrouq, Edimar Ribeiro Da Costa Jr on target for respective sides before Ahmed Al Sherooqi's late winner**

● **Facundo Agustin Tobares fires in brace to help lift Manama to 2-0 triumph against struggling Hidd in another game**

TDT | Manama

Ahmed Al Sherooqi fired in a stoppage-time winner to help lift Muharraq to a late 2-1 victory over Al Najma last night in a thrilling week 10 encounter in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Al Sherooqi supplied the stunner after both teams appeared to be headed for a share of the points.

In another game yesterday, Manama powered past Hidd 2-0, with Facundo Agustin Tobares scoring both goals.

The 10th week of league play



Al Najma's Alan Damian Gimenez looks to make a play as Muharraq's Ali Al Banna approaches to defend

wraps up tonight with another two matches on schedule. Al Ahli will look to return to the top of the table when they lock horns with Al Shabab, while Riffa will see if they can challenge for the lead on the standings when they take on bottom-ranked Busaiteen.

Both fixtures are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs. In Muharraq's late win, Al

Sherooqi was able to separate his team from Najma with the deciding strike in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time.

Following some brilliant passing that ended with Al Sherooqi unmarked on the right of penalty box, he coolly slotted the ball in from an acute angle past Najma goalkeeper Ashraf Waheed Al Sabaei. Teammate Waleed Al

YOU

KNOW WHAT

With their late victory last night, Muharraq rose to fourth on the table after improving to 16 points following their fourth win in 10 tries. They are behind only defending champions and league leaders Al Khaldiya, Al Ahli and Riffa

Kuri supplied the assist.

Earlier in the contest, Sufyan Mahrouq and Edimar Ribeiro Da Costa Junior converted a goal apiece for their respective sides in the first half.

Mahrouq opened the scoring for Muharraq in the 11th minute following a corner-kick. He sent in a left-footed effort from inside the box which flew past four Najma defenders and past Al Sebaei.

Their celebrations were short lived, however, as Najma would

Standings

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Al Khaldiya	10	4	5	1	10	17
Al Ahli	9	5	2	2	0	17
Riffa	8	5	1	2	6	16
Muharraq	10	4	4	2	3	16
East Riffa	10	4	3	3	1	15
Manama	10	4	2	4	2	14
Sitra	9	3	4	2	0	13
Al Najma	10	3	3	4	2	12
Al Hala	10	4	0	6	-8	12
Al Shabab	9	2	2	5	-5	8
Hidd	10	2	2	6	-6	8
Busaiteen	9	1	4	4	-5	7

need just a few minutes to get back on level terms. They were awarded a penalty in the 15th minute after Hamza Al Jaban brought down Da Costa Jr with a wild tackle in the area. Da Costa Jr stepped up to take the spot kick himself and calmly slotted home into the bottom-left of goal.

Neither team were able to add another goal through the remainder of regular time, which set the stage for Al Sherooqi's end-game heroics.

With the result, Muharraq rose to fourth on the table after improving to 16 points following their fourth win in 10 tries. They are behind only defending champions Al Khaldiya,

Al Ahli and Riffa. Najma suffered their fourth loss and stayed on 12 markers.

In last night's other game, Manama scored in just the second minute of the match when Tobares was released for a one-on-one with Hidd goalkeeper Ali Khalifa Abdulla, and he converted with a clinic shot. Tobares then doubled their advantage in the 19th minute, scoring from the face of goal off a short cross from teammate Isa Abdulla Ghuloom.

Manama went on 14 points following their fourth win, which put them in the top six, while Hidd suffered their sixth defeat as they stayed amongst the bottom three.

Najma hold on for tough win against Nabih Saleh

● **Victors survive marathon match with either team capable of taking each of the three sets**

TDT | Manama

Al Najma defeated a battling Nabih Saleh in a tough three sets last night to come away with their first victory of the Top Six round in the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

The game, played at Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa, was tightly contested throughout, and both teams had their chances to win each of the three sets.

But it was Najma who were able to convert their chances when it mattered most, and they posted their hard-earned triumph with a 3-0 (25-23, 29-27,



Al Najma players celebrate after scoring a point during their match against Nabih Saleh last night

39-37) score line.

Nabih Saleh put in a valiant effort. They lost a pair of set points in the second frame and in the third would not go away, extending the affair as much as they could. But Najma finally sealed their win after a mar-

athon back-and-forth with a spike by Swedish professional Jacob Link, which was followed by the game-winning double block on a Nabih Saleh attack.

Also playing key roles for Najma in the game were Fadhel Abbas, Hassan Dhahi, Hussain

Mahdi and Mahmood Hassan, among others. For Nabih Saleh, they relied heavily on Nigerian import Oyewale Oyedepo, Bahrain senior men's national team stars Sayed Hashem Isa and Mohammed Jassim, and Hussain Ashoor, to name a few.

Najma finally got on the win column after losing their two previous matches to Muharraq and defending champions Dar Kulaib. Nabih Saleh, on the other hand, conceded their second contest in three tries after bowing to Al Ahli in their last outing which followed an opening win against Al Nasser.

Week four of the Top Six is scheduled to take place on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, Nasser will be going up against Muharraq while Najma will be back in action against Ahli. That will be followed on Saturday by Nabih Saleh looking to bounce back but have a mammoth task against undefeated Dar Kulaib.

Batelco Fitness on Track to continue festive cheer with fun family activity at BIC



A participant cycles on the track at BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) joins in on the festive cheer with a fun, physical activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" hosts tomorrow night its latest edition of Batelco Fitness on Track.

Participants will get a chance to partake in a unique workout within BIC's safe and unique setting, either on foot or on a bicycle. And with the event taking place just a day after Christmas, it is the perfect way to continue the season's merriment together with family members or friends, or even as an individual looking to stay fit.

Tuesday's Batelco Fitness on Track is scheduled for 6pm to 10pm, making for a cool evening's outing under the bright lights of BIC's state-of-

the-art floodlights.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

BIC's Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass is still also available. At just BD15, it is ideal for regular participants as it grants access to all Batelco Fitness on Track events throughout the season. The pass is thus a great way to save money over the course of the year. Season Passes can be purchased by contacting the BIC Hotline.

KHK team clinches third place in Al Maktoum International Traditional Rowing Race

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's KHK team clinched the third place in the Al Maktoum International Traditional Rowing Race for 30-foot boats, organised today by the Dubai International Marine Club.

Oman's "Bel 'Arab" and UAE's "Dubai Police" teams won the first and second two places, respectively.

The KHK boat topped the



KHK team celebrates their win

participants in the open water category by three points, after winning the first and second rounds of the Dubai race.

The KHK team, owned by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and captained by Nakhuda Ahmed Nasser Al Busmait, won the 2020 and 2021 editions of the Al Maktoum International Traditional Rowing Race.