

Gerbekov nearly medals in judo
 Bahraini judoka bows to Japanese opponent in bronze medal contest at Hangzhou Asiad | P12

WORLD 6 Egypt to hold presidential vote on December 10-12



Emma Watson goes back to uni

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BUSINESS 5 Lulu expands further into Europe

Bahrain condemns tearing of Holy Quran copies
 TDT | Manama

Bahrain's tourism workforce hailed

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned and denounced tearing up copies of the Holy Quran by extremist groups in front of a number of embassies in the Dutch city of the Hague.

The Ministry reiterated its call to stop such hateful provocative actions, as they constitute incitement to hostility, religious and racial hatred, and contradict international efforts aimed at promoting the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between peoples and cultures.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting
 TDT | Manama

The Cabinet expressed its pride in the dedicated efforts of Bahrain's workforce in the tourism sector and its supporting sectors.

These industries include transportation, hospitality, restaurants, retail, entertainment and exhibition centres, culture, and conferences.

This comes as the Kingdom joins the international community in celebrating the World Tourism Day.

The global event is celebrated each year on September 27

to spread awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on our society.

The Cabinet, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, extended its congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to Bahrain's citizens and residents, and to the Arab and Islamic nations on the occasion of Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) date of birth.

The Cabinet affirmed the importance of the values and principles of Islam to society, which are based on compassion, peace,

tolerance, and co-existence.

The Cabinet discussed several memorandums during the meeting, approving the following: A memorandum submitted by the Government Executive Committee regarding priority draft laws aimed at keeping pace with the Kingdom's development needs; and a memorandum submitted by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding a memorandum on renewing the framework of the Kingdom's regional programme on cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2024-2029.



Storming of Al Aqsa Mosque denounced
 TDT | Manama

The Foreign Affairs Ministry strongly condemned and denounced the storming of the Al Aqsa Mosque by a group of extremists under the protection of Israeli police.

In a statement it issued yesterday, the Foreign Affairs Ministry called for de-escalation and respect for the historical context in Jerusalem in accordance with the rules of international law, and to refrain from any provocative actions that would provoke the feelings of Muslims and threaten security and stability.

Biden hails deal to end Hollywood writers' strike
 AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden welcomed yesterday a tentative deal for striking Hollywood writers to resume work after a months-long stoppage that paralysed the film and TV business.

Biden said the deal included "assurances" about the use of artificial intelligence, adding that it "did not come easily."

(Full report on World Page)

BDF soldiers killed while defending Saudi borders

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) mourned its two brave officers who lost their lives yesterday morning while defending the southern borders of Saudi Arabia as part of the Arab coalition forces.

Several others were wounded

in a terrorist unmanned attack carried out by the Houthis, who utilised unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs).

These attacks targeted the Bahraini taskforce stationed in the southern region, specifically along the borders of Saudi Arabia, despite the cessation of military operations in Yemen.



The fallen soldiers were part of the Arab coalition forces in Operation Decisive Storm and Restoring Hope.

The BDF expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the heroic martyrs. It also wished the wounded personnel a speedy recovery. A plane with a medical crew

has been sent to evacuate the wounded and fallen servicemen back to Bahrain.

The US Embassy in Manama extended its heartfelt condolences to the families and colleagues of the BDF personnel who lost their lives, and wished those who were injured a rapid recovery.

Heartbreaking scene



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinian Majdi Ghabayen, who died of wounds sustained in an explosion during a rally near the border fence with Israel on September 13, in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

Thousands flee into Armenia as Azerbaijan retakes enclave

AFP | Goris, Armenia

Thousands of refugees streamed into Armenia yesterday, as the leaders of Azerbaijan and ally Turkey hailed Baku's victory over the rebel enclave at a summit.

While Azerbaijan showcased its regional alliances, Russia hit back at embattled Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan after he blamed Moscow for the swift defeat of the breakaway territory.

Several days after the fighting, the first refugees arrived in Armenia on Sunday and 6,650 people have so far entered, Yerevan said yesterday.

Refugees crowded into a humanitarian hub set up in

a local theatre in the city of Goris to register for transport and housing.

"We lived through terrible days," said Anabel Ghulasyan, 41, from the village of Rev, known as Shalva in Azeri.

She arrived in Goris with her family by minibus, carrying her belongings in bags.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought two wars in the last three decades over Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority ethnic Armenian enclave within the internationally recognised border of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan launched a lightning operation on September 19 to seize control of the territory, forcing the separatists to lay down their arms under the terms of a ceasefire agreed the following day.



HM King, HRH Prince Salman condole with Kuwait Amir

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to His Highness Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

In the cable, HM the King and HRH Prince Salman extended



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



HH Shaikh Nawaf

their deepest condolences over the passing of Shaikh Mubarak Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent two similar cables to the Crown Prince, His Highness Shaikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, and to the Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Push for more global strategic cooperation to protect environment

TDT | Manama

Oil and Environment Minister Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina stressed the importance of further developing strategic cooperation with international institutions specialised in preventive and supportive projects to protect the environment in line with achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Dr. Bin Daina, who is also Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, was speaking as he met with Dr. Vania de Stefani, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).

The minister praised the OSRL's role in protecting the marine environment and responding to natural disasters on regional and international levels.

He underlined the keenness to continue developing capabilities and enhancing professional standards and speed of response in responding to oil spill incidents and protecting coasts and territorial waters.

OSRL is the largest international industry-funded cooperative specialised in dealing with oil spills by providing preparedness, response, and intervention services across 12 locations around the world.

Tourism industry boom

Bahrain sees 87% surge in Indian tourist arrivals in first half of 2023



Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob

Ashen Tharaka

Bahrain witnessed an 87% surge in the number of Indian tourist arrivals in the first six months of 2023, with over 500,000 Indians visiting the country during the period, compared to over 270,000 in the same period last year.

The data was revealed by In-



Ambassador Jacob with top businessmen from both India and Bahrain at the reception

dian Ambassador to Bahrain Vinod K. Jacob during a reception organised by the Bahrain-India Society at the Crowne Plaza Hotel yesterday. The event was attended by top businessmen from both India and Bahrain.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Jacob highlighted the importance of strengthening the economic and commercial ties

between the two countries.

"As of mid-September 2023, the embassy has issued a total of 3,904 visas, of which 64% were tourist visas. On the other hand, I would like to welcome more Bahraini friends to visit India for leisure, business, education, and cultural purposes," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Trib-

une, Abdulrahman Mohammed Juma, Chairperson of Bahrain-India Society, said that the Ambassador would support the Bahrain-India Society in its efforts to promote business between the two communities.

"We are interested in setting up businesses in Bahrain and attracting Bahraini companies or investors to set up businesses in suitable Indian areas. The main



Abdulrahman Mohammed Juma

aim of today's event is to welcome His Excellency the Ambassador and to slowly promote the benefit of business for both communities," he said.

The event was a success, and it is hoped that it will lead to increased cooperation and collaboration between the business communities of India and Bahrain.

EO Bahrain welcomes entrepreneurs to achieve full potential

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Bahrain, a global network of more than 18,000 influential business owners, welcomed entrepreneurs from Bahrain to achieve their full potential through life-enhancing connections that lead to infinite possibilities.

EO Bahrain has 44 members, with a median sales of \$2.11 million and 3,672 employees.

At a press conference held at the Gulf Hotel yesterday with the participation of board mem-



EO board members with entrepreneurs from Bahrain at yesterday's press conference

bers of EO Bahrain, Bob Thakar, President of EO Bahrain, said that EO is well-connected to other organisations and societies, and that its members are actively involved in the business community.

"We have four or five mem-

bers who are involved on the Chamber of Commerce committees. We have members who are in other societies as well. So, yes, we are well-connected and we can really be sharing knowledge and sharing information," he said.

Ahmed Shah, Learning Chair of EO Bahrain, highlighted the importance of learning within the organisation.

He said: "Every year we combine our calendar after June to see how many learning units we can have. This year we have

almost 18 learning units."

EO Bahrain offers a variety of events and programs to help entrepreneurs learn and grow, including keynote speakers, momentum speakers, wow events, workshops, ITP events, and EO Talks.

Osama Al Said, Acceleration Chair of EO Bahrain, highlighted the success of the organisation's acceleration programs.

"Last time 11 members in the exclusive programs graduated, which is 46%, that's higher than the global percentage, which is 16%," he said.

EO Bahrain is committed to helping entrepreneurs achieve their full potential and contribute to the growth of the Bahraini economy. The organisation provides its members with the resources, support, and connections they need to succeed.

Bahrain-Saudi historical ties hailed

TDT | Manama

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani praised the historical ties and strategic partnership between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The minister highlighted the progress and prosperity witnessed by the bilateral relations under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Dr. Al Zayani appreciated Saudi Arabia's strategic depth, leadership role in regional and global security, peace, prosperity, and combating extremism and terrorism.

He praised the role of Saudi-Bahraini Coordination



Dr. Al Zayani

Council, jointly chaired by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The minister hailed the council's six subcommittees for their efforts in enhancing coordination across political, security, economic, cultural, media, tourism, social, investment, and environmental sectors.

Dr. Al Zayani emphasised Bahrain's support for Saudi Arabia and its efforts to maintain regional security and stability, and wished Saudi Arabia and its people further progress and prosperity.

He emphasised Bahrain's commitment to peaceful conflict resolution, including the Palestinian cause, and the Yemeni crisis.

The minister affirmed that Bahrain also supports economic unity, joint defense, and security systems, and endorses Saudi diplomatic initiatives.



Opening ceremony

Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Noaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), attended the opening ceremony of the third National Defence session, and the 16th Joint Command and Staff session, held at the Royal Command, Staff and National Defence College. Rear-Admiral Abdulla Said Al-Mansoori, Royal Command, Staff and National Defence College Commandant, delivered a statement on the occasion. A number of senior BDF officers also attended the ceremony.

Discussion session on Bahraini thinker's biography

TD | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) is continuing its "Book and Place" series of events, with the Bahrain National Museum set to host a discussion session tomorrow.

The event is centered around the book "The Word for Man: The Biography of the Bahraini Thinker Dr. Muhammad Jaber Al-Ansari."

The book was published by the Culture Authority and written by researcher Dr. Safaa Ibrahim Al-Alawi.

The session will feature Dr. Ali Fakhro, who will enrich the conversation about the biography of the Al-Ansari thinker, his renaissance intellectual project, and its influences at the local, Gulf, and Arab levels.

The book deals with the upbringing of Dr. Al-Ansari, shedding light on the stages in his life since he became involved in research, academic work, and the responsibilities he assumed.

The book highlights the literary side of Dr. Al-Ansari, including his narrative and poetic activity, interest in criticism, and relationship with the late writer Ghazi Al-Gosaibi. One of its chapters includes the intellectual and renaissance project adopted by Dr. Al-Ansari, which is considered the most important thing he presented to Arab thought.

How microchipping can help end dog dumping

New proposal a step towards more responsible and compassionate pet ownership in Muharraq

Zahra Ayaz
TD | Manama

In an effort to combat the growing issue of dog dumping in the local area, a member of the Muharraq Municipality has proposed the enforcement of microchipping by breeders or owners.

Musaab Al-Shaikh, an activist and dedicated member of the municipality, spoke to The Daily Tribune about the urgent need for microchipping dogs as a means to save the lives of countless stray dogs who are starving and on the brink of death.

Al-Shaikh emphasised the importance of microchips in making it easier to locate and rescue abandoned dogs. By implanting microchips, authorities can quickly identify the owners or breeders responsible for the abandoned animals.

However, Al-Shaikh expressed concern about the lack of individuals willing to take legal action against these negligent dog owners and breeders.

As an activist, he called upon someone to step forward and file a strong case against these individuals, highlighting the need for accountability and justice.

Another animal activist, Fathiya Al-Bastaki, stated that while it may not be possible to ban all breeders, there should be a distinction.

According to her, breeding goats, cows, and birds is accept-



Concerns are growing on social media about the issue of dog dumping

able in Islam as they are used for food production and their products. However, she believes that breeding cats and dogs should be avoided to prevent the issue of abandonment and stray animals.

The call for action comes in response to a recent social media post by The Daily Tribune, which shed light on the alarming increase in dogs being dumped.

This issue has prompted a wave of public concern and calls for solutions to address the distressing plight of these abandoned animals.

Roberta Kunzler, suggested that animals should be sold only after being sterilised, and breeders should be required to obtain expensive licenses. By implementing these measures, the



Fathiya Al-Bastaki

population of stray dogs could be curbed, reducing the likelihood of abandonment and neglect.

Mazen Saffar, another concerned individual, emphasised the need for increased public education to prevent harm to animals.



Musaab Al-Shaikh

Saffar highlighted the disturbing practice of people throwing stones at dogs on the streets and called for comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote empathy and responsible behavior towards animals.

Ummati proposed stricter



punishments for dog owners who abandon their pets. Suggestions included fines or even short jail terms for those caught dumping dogs.

Another social media user, Sudhij Nambiar, suggested the implementation of a registration system accompanied by proof of financial capability for prospective pet owners.

"This system would ensure that individuals are financially equipped to provide proper care for their pets, reducing the likelihood of abandonment due to financial difficulties."

The Muharraq Municipality, in collaboration with concerned activists and citizens, is actively considering these proposed solutions to tackle the issue of dog dumping.

NBB launches "It's All About Winning Back" campaign for credit cardholders

TD | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has kicked off its newest campaign, 'It's All About Winning Back', which rewards its MasterCard and VISA Credit Cardholders with cashback.

The campaign, which was launched on the 1st of September, will conclude on the 31st of December and gives NBB Credit Cardholders a chance to win their purchases as cashback every month by redeeming their Base Points on the Points by NBB App. Customers will also be able to redeem their purchases by transferring their cash points to their Credit Cards through the App.

A total of BD40,000 in Base



Points will be awarded to 42 lucky customers, with the cashback amounts increasing in value every month as sums of BD900, BD1,000, BD1,100, and BD1,200. Cardholders with a monthly spend of BD50 will be eligible to enter the raffle and increase their chances of winning with every additional BD50 that they spend.

The campaign forms part of the Bank's continued drive to provide its customers with rewarding and convenient bank-

ing solutions. Customers who are interested in participating in the 'It's All About Winning Back' campaign can apply for a wide variety of NBB Credit Cards through any of the Bank's branches or NBB's Digital Banking App. Furthermore, NBB Credit Cardholders are able to add and use their Cards on various digital wallets.

For more information about the campaign or for the terms and conditions, please visit NBB's website or call 17214433.

Bahraini engineer wins global award

TD | Manama

In a historic achievement for Bahrain, Aisha Al-Haram, a distinguished engineer at the National Space Science Authority (NASA), has won the "20 Young Leaders Under the Age of 35" award by the International Association of Experts and Professionals in the Field of Space and Satellites.



Aisha Al-Haram

Al-Haram is the first Bahraini woman to receive this prestigious award and the only Arab

woman among the winners in the 2023 edition.

Her victory highlights the excellence of Bahraini youth in space and satellite development, recognising her academic and practical excellence in designing and building satellites. Her contributions to the sector's development locally and globally have been acknowledged.



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New Millennium School stages 'Expressions 2023' art exhibition

TDT | Manama

The New Millennium School, Bahrain organised its Annual Art Exhibition 'EXPRESSIONS 2023', in the school premises on 16 September 2023.

It was an exhibition of drawings, sketches and paintings by the brilliant artists of the junior and senior school from Grade KG to XII. The special attraction was the 'Parents' Corner', which displayed canvas paintings and drawings contributed by the multi-skilled parent community of the school. The spectators were mesmerised by the colourful display of the creative talent.

The exhibition was inaugurated by School's Principal, Mr Arun Kumar Sharma, who in his inaugural speech remarked



Unique drawings, sketches and paintings are on display at the venue



that such exhibitions offer opportunities and provide a platform to the students to display their creative and artistic talents.

He also motivated the students to participate in such activities, in order to sharpen their skills and blessed each and every child

for success in their life.

The colorful display of talent, skill and creativity was highly appreciated by the School's

Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai. They acknowledged the efforts of the art teachers and

the parents who were instrumental in bringing out the best in each child and instilling in them the love for art.

Khalid bin Hamad Award for Graduation Projects launched

● For undergraduate students in IT and engineering majors

TDT | Manama

The Office of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Initiatives at the University of Bahrain (UoB) is preparing to launch the Khalid bin Hamad Award for Graduation Projects under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA) and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC).

Graduation projects of undergraduate students in engineering and information technology majors at various universities in Bahrain shall compete for the award.

The award seeks to provide material and moral support to university students by highlighting pioneering and innovative graduation projects that contribute to providing solutions to the problems of the industrial and business sectors, increase productivity, and improve services provided to society.

The Office of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Initiatives at UoB invited all universities to participate in the award and the accompanying exhibition by nominating outstanding graduation projects for the academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, by uploading the selected projects by the university to the website <http://hhsaward.uob.edu.bh/>.

NBB continues support for Smile Initiative

TDT | Manama

Representatives from the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently visited the Future Society for Youth's headquarters to support the launch of the Smile Initiative.

The launch was attended by a number of dignitaries as well as representatives from the media. The campaign's launch was arranged to coincide with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September), which provides an annual opportunity to raise awareness on the challenges that children with cancer face.

The Smile Initiative was launched in 2012 and supports children with cancer as well as their families, providing them with moral and social assistance to help them lead normal and fulfilling lives.

To date, around 250 children and their families have been supported by the Future Society for Youth's Smile Initiative from across the Kingdom. The initiative also helps to raise awareness about childhood cancers within society as a whole.



NBB employees, dignitaries and media representatives with children with cancer and their families



The Smile Initiative was launched in 2012 and supports children with cancer as well as their families.



NBB's contribution to the initiative has helped ensure that community events including 'Iron Kids' and the 'Super Talent Championship' are able to take place regularly. The bank also backs the Society's 'Kids' R' Golden' Initiative, where NBB employees wear a gold ribbon throughout the month of September to express their unity with the cause and children with cancer.

NBB is proud to continue supporting the Future Society for Youth's essential work which underscores the bank's sincere commitment to the community's social welfare.

Batelco opens three standalone telecom Digital Shops to serve customers 24/7

TDT | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, has unveiled new standalone Digital Shops at three key locations around the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Designed with the customer in mind, the Digital Shops give access to Batelco services around the clock to suit customers' busy lifestyles, enabling them to complete transactions conveniently in just a few minutes.

The Digital Shops give access to a wide range of Batelco services, including the ability to instantly register and activate a new Postpaid or Prepaid line and receive a new SIM card, as well as subscribe to Home Fiber Broadband services with just a few easy steps. Customers can also complete package upgrades, SIM/eSIM replacement, and check device availability. Everyday popular transactions are also part of the Digital Shop capabilities, such as paying bills and refilling vouchers.



Batelco's new Digital Shops, a first of its kind in the Kingdom's telecom sector

General Manager Consumer Division Aseel Mattar said, "We are proud that Batelco is

the first in the Kingdom to launch these standalone telecom digital shops, an exciting milestone in line with our commitment to innovation and customer-centricity. "With the rapid advancement of technology and the growing demand for digital interaction, Batelco recognises the need for accessible telecom services. The launch of these state-of-the-art digital shops aims to elevate the customer's digital experience by ensuring our customers can access Batelco's services at their convenience, with no time constraints.

"By leveraging cutting-edge technology and advanced user experience design, Batelco is creating a seamless and immersive retail experience that aims to exceed customer expectations. We look forward to delighting our customers and setting new industry standards," Mrs. Mattar added.

Batelco's Digital Shops are located in Al Alawi Complex Carpark, In & Out Petrol station in Hidd, and The Station in Janabiyah, all operating 24/7.

Nepalese Embassy holds Constitution Day celebration

TDT | Manama

Social Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor and Dr. Mohammad Ali Bahzad, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Consular and Administrative Affairs, attended the reception hosted by the Nepalese Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain marking Nepal's Constitution Day.

Dr. Bahzad congratulated Tirtha Raj Wagle, Ambassador of Nepal to Bahrain, lauding the Bahraini-Nepali relations and its development at all levels. He stressed the importance of promoting relations.

Lulu expands further into Europe

After Italy, Lulu Group launches operations in Poland

TDT | Manama

The UAE-based retail giant Lulu Group announced its plans to establish sourcing and export hub for the Central European region in Poland.

Lulu Group signed two different MOUs with the Poland government entities, Olsztyn Mazury Airport and Polish Investment & Trade Agency respectively, to this effect.

As per the first MOU Lulu will establish its latest facility at Olsztyn Mazury Airport, North-East of Poland, branded as the gateway to the Masurian Lake District to source, pack and export fresh produce especially apples, berries, cheeses, meat and other packed food products to MENA, India and Far East region.

The second MOU with Polish Investment & Trade Agency will facilitate smooth investment and operational process for Lulu Group in Poland.

This will also help scout for new opportunities in other related business sectors in different regions of Poland.

The first consignment was



Yusuffali MA after signing the MOU with Pawel Kurtasz, Chairman of Polish Investment & Trade Agency in the presence of Mohamed Al Harbi, UAE Ambassador to Poland, Jakub Slawek, Poland Ambassador to UAE, Senior Officials of Polish Investment and Trade Agency and other officials

flagged off by Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Governor of Warmińsko-Mazurskie region and Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group in the presence of Wiktor Wójcik, President of Olsztyn – Mazury Airport Management Board at Olsztyn Mazury Airport, Mohamed Al Harbi, UAE Ambassador to Poland, Jakub Slawek, Poland Ambassador to UAE, Senior Officials of Polish Investment and Trade Agency, Mohamed Althaf, Director of Lulu Group and other officials.

A B2B meet was also organised with the farmers' cooperative societies and other agro-producers to find new avenues of



Yusuffali MA meeting with Zdzislaw Sokal, Advisor to the president in the presence of Mohamed Al Harbi, UAE Ambassador to Poland, Jakub Slawek, Poland Ambassador to UAE, Mohamed Althaf, Director of Lulu Group Senior Officials of Polish Investment and Trade Agency and other officials



As part of “Food security” strategy we are keen to set up our own sourcing & food processing units around the world to ensure uninterrupted supply and stable price in the market. The government is very keen to boost investment here and they have also promised to allocate nine acres of land to further expand our processing unit

YUSUFFALI MA, CHAIRMAN OF LULU GROUP

cooperation.

In the first phase the group expects to export worth Euro 50 million, which is expected to grow significantly as new product lines are added.

Later Yusuffali MA and the delegation had high level meeting & discussions with key ministers and Polish Govt. officials.

During the meeting held at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Zdzislaw Sokal, Advisor to the president, appreciated the Lulu group's strategic move to invest in Poland and highlighted the many new reforms and initiatives the government is doing

to support and enhance investments into the country”

Robert Telus, Polish agriculture & rural development minister extended the fullest support to the projects of Lulu Group and stressed the importance of Arab market for Polish products. He has also accepted the invitation of Yusuffali MA to visit UAE to launch Poland Promotion Week later this year.

Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group said “We are very excited to sign this MoU with Olsztyn Mazury Airport Management to source and export polish agricultural produce to our hypermarkets across middle east and other regions. As part of “Food security” strategy we are keen to set up our own sourcing & food processing units around the world to ensure uninterrupted supply and stable price in the market. The government is very keen to boost investment here and they have also promised to allocate nine acres of land to further expand our processing unit.”

Yusuffali MA also held meetings with Janusz Cieszyński, Minister of Digital Affairs and Waldemar Buda, Minister of Development & Technology in Warsaw. Upon arrival, he was given a warm welcome at the Olsztyn Mazury Airport by the Airport Management and Region Administration.

Amazon steps up AI race with \$4 bn Anthropic investment

AFP | Paris

Amazon said yesterday it would invest up to \$4 billion in AI firm Anthropic, as the online retail giant steps into an AI race dominated by Microsoft, Google and OpenAI.

The success of OpenAI's ChatGPT, a chatbot released last year that is able to generate poems, essays and other works with just a short prompt, has led to billions being invested in the field.

Amazon had already announced it aimed to soup up its Alexa voice assistant with generative AI, which the firm said would allow users to have smoother conversations.

San Francisco-based Anthropic is seen as a leader in the field and has its own chatbot, Claude, a competitor to ChatGPT.

JOE & THE JUICE chain launches cafes in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

S&J Ventures has signed a franchise agreement with the Danish company “JOE & THE JUICE”, one of the most famous international juice, coffee and healthy food selling chains, to launch its cafes in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

S&J Ventures has signed a franchise agreement with the Danish company “JOE & THE JUICE”, one of the most famous international juice, coffee and healthy food selling chains, to launch its cafes in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The franchise agreement aims to introduce the “JOE & THE JUICE” brand to the Bahrain market as part of the two sides' efforts to enhance their prestigious position.

It will represent an ideal combination to achieve success in Bahrain due to the distinguished healthy lifestyle nature of the chain's customers and the growing focus on sustainability among generations of different ages.

S&J Ventures confirmed that as part of its interest in provid-



ing a broad and diverse range of healthy beverage and food options, it will provide contemporary and healthy experiences that express the preferred options of customers and focus on adventure and delicious foods.

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In a statement, S&J Ventures said they are confident that this partnership embodies an ideal choice that allows their group to continue their distinguished growth path by adding high-quality brands.

BisB launches Tejoori Al Islami promotional and interactive stand

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of Islamic digital banking services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced that it will be launching its Tejoori Al Islami promotional and interactive campaign.

Following the tremendous success and turnout of the previous campaign organized by the Bank in July, this edition will take place from 25 to 30 September 2023 at the Bank's activation stand in City Centre Bahrain.

Over the course of six days, visitors of BisB's stand will be able to open new accounts quickly and easily, while current customers can top-up their Tejoori Al Islami accounts to receive an SMS enabling them to participate in exciting games and activities for the chance to win instant cash prizes up to BD 1,000 in their Tejoori Al Islami accounts.

Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB,



Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB

said, “We have endeavoured to launch another interactive stand with an increased number of valuable prizes and a higher number of winners. We encourage everyone to open a Tejoori Al Islami account or top-up their existing account for more chances to win when visiting the stand. Customers will also have the chance to win monthly prizes worth USD 25,000, quarterly prizes worth USD 200,000, and a grand prize to one lucky winner worth USD 1,500,000.”

BENEFIT acquires Bahrain Fintech Bay in landmark partnership agreement

TDT | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions services, announced the signing of an agreement to acquire Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB).

This agreement seeks to accelerate the sustainable investment in Bahrain's fintech ecosystem thereby paving the way for a robust, future ready financial services sector.

The partnership brings together Bahrain's leading fintech market players to

“In line with our strategic plans, this partnership with Bahrain Fintech Bay marks a new chapter in our journey of success, as we aim strongly to contribute to establishing Bahrain as the R&D center of financial knowledge for the region

ABDULWAHED ALJANAHI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT BENEFIT

develop a more systematic and institutional framework for collaboration across the ecosystem.

It comes as part of the long-term roadmap and service expansion plan of BENEFIT, which embraces building key alliances and partnerships locally and across borders to further advance the national payment infrastructure to create a cashless society, boosting financial connectivity to the highest international security standards.

BFB will maintain its commitment to supporting impactful fintech initiatives across the sector by delivering bespoke

acceleration framework and innovation labs, future proofing local talent through securing leading international fintech education programs.

Abdulwahed AlJanahi, Chief Executive at BENEFIT, said, “In line with our strategic plans, this partnership with Bahrain Fintech Bay marks a new chapter in our journey of success, as we aim strongly to contribute to establishing Bahrain as the R&D center of financial knowledge for the region. This step falls directly in line with the national direction of the Central Bank of Bahrain, Bahrain Economic Development

Board and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 that works towards the growth and diversification of the national economy through the development of key sectors.”

Bader Sater, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain FinTech Bay, said, “This is a pivotal moment for us at BFB. This new streamlined operating model charts the path to a more sustainable future, where we plan to build on our existing strengths and successes as we work as a collaborative front to serve Bahrain's wider fintech ecosystem, taking it to even greater heights.”

News in brief

US Abrams battle tanks arrive in Ukraine, Zelensky says

◆ Ukraine has received US Abrams battle tanks, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced yesterday, boosting Kyiv's forces as they seek to break through heavily-fortified Russian defensive lines. The announcement came just after Ukraine claimed it had killed the commander of Russia's Black Sea fleet in a missile strike on Moscow's naval headquarters in Crimea last week in what would be a major embarrassment for Russia. "Abrams are already in Ukraine and are preparing to reinforce our brigades," Zelensky said on social media.

Sicilian Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro, captured in January after three decades on the run, has died in hospital in central Italy, the ANSA news agency reported yesterday.

◆ Sicilian Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro is dead: Italian media
The 61-year-old had colon cancer, for which he had sought treatment while on the run -- a decision that brought him to the attention of the authorities, who arrested him at a clinic in Palermo. Messina Denaro was one of the most ruthless bosses in Cosa Nostra, the real-life Sicilian crime syndicate depicted in the Godfather movies. He was convicted by the courts of involvement in the murder of anti-Mafia judge Giovanni Falcone in 1992 and in deadly bombings in Rome, Florence and Milan in 1993.

Kosovo says six suspects linked to deadly clashes fled to Serbia

◆ Kosovo's interior minister yesterday said at least six suspected assailants accused of participating in deadly clashes in northern Kosovo on Sunday were now in Serbia and receiving treatment at a hospital. The accusation came a day after the killing of a police officer during an ambush and an ensuing firefight at a monastery near the border with Serbia marked one of the gravest escalations in Kosovo for years. "Six wounded terrorists are being treated in the hospital of Novi Pazar and we ask Serbia to immediately hand them over to the Kosovo authorities, so they can face justice," interior minister Xhelal Sveclja told reporters, referring to a city in southern Serbia.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

'Three, two, one, nothing': fake fireworks fizzle, fuddle at Games



The light show for the opening ceremony of 2022 Asian Games is pictured in the sky over the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium

AFP | Hangzhou

Fireworks at the climax are a highlight of any opening ceremony and they were too at the Asian Games in China, except for one thing -- they weren't real.

The computer-generated pyrotechnics fooled television audiences and disappointed onlookers after host city Hangzhou opted for a virtual display, citing environmental concerns.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the 19th Asian Games open at an extravaganza packed with foreign dignitaries on Saturday, but organisers ditched the traditional firework display.

Instead, they superimposed virtual "fireworks" that appeared to go off all over the city on the official live broadcast.

The decision left people who had gathered near the stadium scratching their heads at the anti-climactic finale, with comical videos from the night going viral on Chinese social media site Weibo.

In one video, an excited

group of local residents aim their phone cameras at the lotus-shaped Hangzhou Olympic stadium, counting down in unison.

"Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one... nothing?" voices can be heard saying in the video, before the crowd erupts into awkward laughter.

Another clip taken across the river from the stadium pans back and forth between the empty sky over the "Big Lotus" and the exuberant virtual firework display shown by state broadcaster CCTV on someone's phone.

The cameraperson shakes and shrieks with laughter, asking "what did we wait for?"

The virtual display was so convincing that some journalists were fooled by what they saw on TV, with one regional newspaper reporting that fireworks erupted around Hangzhou at the end of the ceremony.

Organisers had previously announced there would be no fireworks, citing the lower carbon footprint of a digital show.

Biden hails tentative deal to end Hollywood writers' strike



Actors, writers and other union members join SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikers on a picket line in front of the offices of HBO and Amazon

AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden welcomed yesterday a tentative deal for striking Hollywood writers to resume work after a months-long stoppage that paralyzed the film and TV business.

"I applaud the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers for reaching a tentative agreement that will allow writers to return to the important work of telling the stories of our nation, our world -- and of all of us," Biden said in a statement.

Biden said the deal included "assurances" about the use of artificial intelligence, adding that it "did not come easily."

But he added that it was a "testament to the power of collective bargaining" between employers and unions.

The president also used the

I applaud the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers for reaching a tentative agreement that will allow writers to return to the important work of telling the stories of our nation, our world -- and of all of us

JOE BIDEN

Hollywood deal to underscore his call for autoworkers to get a "fair share" of profits in their separate strike against the country's "Big Three" vehicle makers.

Biden is set to travel to the picket line in Detroit on Tuesday in solidarity with auto employees.

Russian media rhetoric could be 'incitement to genocide': UN investigators

AFP | Geneva

A United Nations investigation into human rights violations in Ukraine since Russia's invasion warned yesterday that some rhetoric transmitted by Russian media could amount to incitement to genocide.

Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council, the head of the investigation team, Erik Mose, voiced concern "about allegations of genocide in Ukraine".

"For instance, some of the rhetoric transmitted in Russian state and other media may constitute incitement to genocide," he said, adding that the team



Firefighters push out a fire as police experts look for fragments of missile at a crater on an industrial area in Kyiv

was "continuing its investigations on such issues".

The Norwegian judge heads a three-person Commission of

Inquiry (COI), which was created by the council to investigate violations committed since Russia's full-scale invasion of its

neighbour in February last year.

In its first full report in March, the team determined that Russian authorities had committed "a wide range of war crimes".

Mose said at the time that the commission was aware of accusations of genocide, including the forced transfer of Ukrainian children to areas under Russian control, and vowed to investigate.

In his update on the situation yesterday, he said the commission had "continued to investigate individual situations of alleged transfers of unaccompanied minors by Russian authorities to the Russian Federation".

Picasso masterpiece begins pre-auction tour in Dubai

AFP | Dubai

A Pablo Picasso masterpiece expected to fetch at least \$120 million at auction went on show yesterday in Dubai, kicking off a set of rare viewings outside the United States.

The 1932 portrait of Marie-Therese Walter, Picasso's mistress and "golden muse", is being exhibited for two days before heading to Hong Kong and London, a boon for the United Arab Emirates' bid to establish itself as a cultural powerhouse.

The viewing "marks the first time a painting of this calibre by the world-renowned artist has ever been exhibited in the UAE", Sotheby's Dubai said in a statement, noting it is the first time the portrait had been shown



A visitor looks at Pablo Picasso's painting 'Femme a la montre' displayed for viewing at Sotheby's Dubai, ahead of an auction in New York

rare Picasso is unveiled here," said UAE Culture Minister Sheikh Salem bin Khalid al-Qassimi.

The painting titled "Femme



la montre" will be sold in November as part of a two-day auction of late New Yorker Emily Fisher Landau's prestigious collection.

Walter met Picasso in Paris in 1927, when the Spaniard was still married to Russian-Ukrainian ballet dancer Olga Khokhlova, and while Walter was 17.

Walter, whose daughter with Picasso passed away last year, was also featured in "Femme assise pres d'une fenetre (Marie-Therese)", which sold in 2021 for \$103.4 million by Christie's auction house.

Fifty years after his death in 1973 at age 91, Picasso remains one of the most influential artists of the modern world, often hailed as a dynamic and creative genius.

Egypt to hold vote on Dec

● Experts suggest the election was moved forward to address potential economic crises

AFP | Cairo

Egypt will hold a presidential vote on December 10-12, election officials said yesterday.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, a former army chief in power for nearly a decade, has yet to formally announce his candidacy, but state-aligned media has already published messages of support from pro-government entities.

Sisi, 68, was first elected in 2014, the year after he led the ouster of late Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, and then won a 2018 vote in a landslide against one of his own supporters.

Only two other candidates have so far declared their intention to run this time, including opposition politician Ahmed al-Tantawi, who has for months denounced harassment by security forces.

The election had initially been expected in the spring of 2024.

Some experts have said it was



a view of vehicles and pedestrians at a street of Egypt's capital Cairo

moved forward to schedule it ahead of a possible switch to a flexible exchange rate that could exacerbate social tensions in the country of 105 million.

The vote will be held "on December 10, 11 and 12", said National Election Authority chairman Judge Walid Hassan Hamza.

Hopefuls can apply from October, with the candidate list to be finalised by November 9. The campaign period runs until November 29 and the winner will be announced on December 18.

The upcoming election is already fraught with accusations of repression and harassment of

1580

Francis Drake completes circumnavigation of the world, sailing into Plymouth aboard the 'Golden Hind'



1687

Acropolis in Athens attacked by Venetian army trying to eject Turks, damaging the Parthenon

1688

City council of Amsterdam votes to support Prince William of Orange's invasion of England, which became known as 'The Glorious Revolution' in the Netherlands

1801

Great Britain annexes the Ashanti Kingdom and places it under the governor of the Gold Coast (Ghana)

1 presidential debate September 10-12



Market in Attaba Square in the centre

candidate to lead Egypt out of the economic crisis".

Opposition politician Hisham Kassem had also been "a potential presidential candidate", his Free Current political coalition said last week.

But he is barred from running by a six-month prison sentence for defamation and contempt of officials.

"The elections were likely brought forward for reasons related to the economic situation," according to Mustapha Kamel al-Sayyid, professor of political science at Cairo University.

Egypt has battled its worst-ever economic crisis since early last year.

The currency has lost half its value since March 2022 in a series of devaluations that have sent consumer prices spiralling in the import-dependent economy.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund approved a \$3 billion loan for Egypt conditioned on "a permanent shift to a flexible exchange rate regime".

"The IMF agreement had certain conditions that Egypt has not fulfilled, chief among which was the full flotation of the pound," Sayyid told AFP, adding that this led to "two IMF visits being postponed this year".

Farid Zahran, president of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, has also announced his intention to run.

He has called for "guarantees" to ensure "democratic elections that could help choose the right

other potential candidates.

At least 35 of Tantawi's supporters have been detained, rights groups say.

The former parliamentarian says his phone has been tapped since September 2021. The University of Toronto's Citizen Lab has attributed the attack to the Egyptian government "with high confidence".

Farid Zahran, president of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, has also announced his intention to run.

He has called for "guarantees" to ensure "democratic elections that could help choose the right

Philippine Coast Guard says 'successfully removes' barrier at disputed reef



Chinese coast guard boats intercept a Philippine fishing boat after it tried to enter Scarborough Shoal (file photo)

AFP | Manila

The Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday it had removed a floating barrier at a disputed reef that was allegedly deployed to stop Filipinos accessing the traditional fishing ground.

The statement was issued hours after Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano vowed to take "all appropriate actions" for the removal of barriers installed by the Chinese coast guard at Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

A 300-metre (328-yard) long floating barrier was found across the entrance of the shoal last week during a routine government resupply mission to Filipino fishermen plying the waters near the Chinese-controlled reef.

It was not clear from the Philippine statement if the entire barrier had been removed from the water.

A video released by the Philippine Coast Guard showed a man

wearing a mask, snorkel and fins using a knife to sever a rope attached to white buoys.

Another video showed an anchor being hauled from the water into a wooden outrigger boat.

The coast guard announced it had "successfully" removed the barrier "in compliance with presidential instruction".

"The barrier posed a hazard to navigation, a clear violation of international law," it added.

China, which seized Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines in 2012, deploys coast guard and other vessels to patrol the fishing ground.

The floating barrier prevents fishing boats from entering the shoal's shallow waters where fish are more abundant.

Philippine officials previously accused the Chinese coast guard of installing the barrier shortly before the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship arrived at the shoal last Wednesday.

Saudi Crown Prince launches master plan for Souda Summits project

TDT | Agencies

Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Soudah Development Company, launched the master plan for the development of Soudah and parts of Rijal Almaa, under the name "Soudah Summits", which aims to develop a luxury tourist mountain destination.

This destination is located on the highest peak in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at an altitude of up to 3015 meters above sea level, in a unique natural and cultural environment in the Asir region in the southwest of the Kingdom in line with the efforts of the Public Investment Fund in empowering promising vital sectors and supporting the development strategy of the Asir region "Qimam and Sheem".

The Crown Prince and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Soudah Development Com-



Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

pany stressed that the Soudah summits will reflect the new face of luxury mountain tourism by providing an unprecedented living experience, and the project will contribute to achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, developing the tourism and entertainment sector, and supporting economic growth by contributing to increasing the cumulative GDP by more than 29 billion riyals, and providing thousands of jobs

directly and indirectly.

The Crown Prince said: "The master plan confirms our endeavor to activate global efforts to preserve the environment and natural and heritage resources and preserve them for future generations, in a way that contributes to diversifying sources of income and building an economy that attracts international and local investments," quoting the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

He added: "The Soudah Peaks project will add quality to the tourism sector and highlight the cultural aspect in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and will contribute to making the Kingdom a global tourist destination, and the world will have the opportunity to explore the beauty of Soudah Peaks and learn about its unique heritage, authentic culture and hospitable society, and have unforgettable experiences in the lap of nature and on board the clouds."

Libya orders 8 officials arrested after flood disaster

AFP | Tripoli

Libya's prosecutor general Lhas ordered the arrest of eight officials as part of his inquiry into the recent flood disaster that killed thousands, his office said yesterday.

The flash flood, which witnesses likened to a tsunami, broke through two ageing dams on September 10 after a hurricane-strength storm lashed the area around Derna, a port city in Libya's east.

The officials are suspected of "bad management" and negligence, among other offences, a statement from the prosecutor general's office said, adding that seven of them served currently or previously in offices responsible for water resources and dam management.

"The mistakes that they made" and their "negligence in the matter of disaster prevention" contributed to the catastrophe, the statement charged.

Derna's mayor Abdulmonem al-Ghaithi, sacked after the flood, is among the detainees.

Almost 3,900 people died in the disaster, according to the latest official toll, and international aid groups have said 10,000 or more people may be missing.



Volunteers search for bodies of flood victims amid rubble and mud, in Libya's eastern city of Derna

After opening a probe, Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sur said more than a week ago that the two dams upstream from Derna had been cracked since 1998.

Years of conflict

But repairs begun by a Turkish company in 2010 were suspended after a few months when Libya's 2011 revolution flared, and the work never resumed, the prosecutor said, vowing to deal firmly with those responsible.

According to his office, the investigation is focused on a dam maintenance contract reached between the Turkish firm and Libya's water depart-

ment.

The 2011 NATO-backed revolt toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, leading to more than a decade of start-stop conflict in the oil-rich country.

Libya is now divided between an internationally-recognised Tripoli-based administration in the west -- to which Sur belongs -- and another in the flood-struck east backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

Eastern forces years ago launched a failed assault on the capital which ended in a 2020 ceasefire. Since then a period of relative stability has held and allowed war-ravaged Libya to try to rebuild.

Russia puts ICC president on wanted list

AFP | MOSCOW

Russia said yesterday it had replaced Piotr Hofmanski, the president of the International Criminal Court, which is seeking the arrest of President Vladimir Putin, on its wanted list.

"Hofmanski Piotr Jozef, Polish. Wanted under an article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation," said a notice in the Russian interior ministry database.

The ministry did not provide details of the allegations against



A general view inside the International Criminal Court

Hofmanski.

In March the Hague-based court announced an arrest warrant for Putin on the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children.

The ICC also issued a warrant

against Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, on similar charges.

Russia has earlier issued arrest warrants for ICC prosecutor Karim Khan and several judges.

Russia, which is not a member of the ICC, insists the warrant against Putin is "void".

In September, the ICC opened a field office in Ukraine, as part of efforts to hold Russian forces accountable for Moscow's offensive in the Western-backed country.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I want everyone to feel pride in the places they call home. Today we've announced 45 new projects across the UK as part of our Community Ownership Fund including the community centre here in Hertfordshire. We're investing in local areas to create jobs and grow the economy.

@RishiSunak

02



We need leaders with the courage to act -- and that's exactly what our Administration is doing. @POTUS and I are proud to establish the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

@VP

03



Mario Draghi is one of Europe's greatest economic minds. No-one is better placed to analyse what Europe can do to keep its competitive edge. Today we had a good discussion on his report on Europe's future competitiveness.

@vonderleyen

04



At #IAEAGC event by Australia I highlighted how shipment delays or denials impact efficient transfer of safe & crucial radioactive materials, incl those that save lives. @IAEAorg talks w/ stakeholders to address this situation, aiming to address misunderstandings & perceptions.

@rafaelgrossi

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

celebs

Anne Hathaway: 'It took me three years to recover after giving birth!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Anne Hathaway took "three years" to recover after giving birth.

The 40-year-old actress is mother to Jonathan, seven, and three-year-old Jack with husband Adam Shulman and reminded women that there is no rush to "snap back" after pregnancy as she urged them to avoid expectations and "take care" of themselves.

She told *People* magazine: "People don't talk about this and it really made me feel better when I found out about it. It takes three years for your body to fully recover from a pregnancy. I didn't snap back. I want to be very, very clear about that. With my second, it took every minute of those three years. Let your body be a body. There's nowhere to get



Anne Hathaway

to. It's just now. Be present and take care of yourself and don't set expectations."

Meanwhile, the 'Les Misérables' star decided to give up alcohol for good almost a decade ago in order to be able to "live the life [she] wanted to" and now she is enjoying being able to "support herself" with good nutrition as she admitted that she wants to be able to talk to her younger self about the health choices she made back then.

She said: "In my 30s, I had to give up alcohol. I couldn't do it anymore. I couldn't lead the life that I wanted while drinking. And in my 40s I'm finding I have to support myself differently nutritionally. I want to go back and talk to my 25-year-old self who felt like she didn't have to do anything and just be like, 'Oh honey, honey, there's a whole other world out there and it tastes like an avocado.'"

Emma Watson goes back to uni

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Emma Watson has gone back to university.

The 33-year-old actress - who graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in English literature in 2014 - has enrolled in a part-time Master's degree at Oxford.

A source told *The Sun* newspaper's Bizarre column: "The course is for older adults and can be done on a part-time basis, which is perfect for Emma's schedule."

"She only has to be on site for four or five days a year because she can do the rest of the course online from home."

And, Emma is expected to have a security team with her when she does attend the university, because she has suffered some safety scares recently.

The insider said: "Because she's a famous actress, she'll have a security team looking after her whenever she has classes to go to."

"There have been a few incidents recently and she is taking every precaution necessary to ensure her safety."

A man was arrested during a Ralph Lauren fashion show in New York this month on suspicion of attempting to gain access to her dressing room and Emma has been feeling concerned.

The source added: "She flew to Milan with a specialist team from the UK, and Prada provided another security detail to guard her room overnight."

"There were lots of famous models and celebrities staying at the Palazzo Parigi where Emma stayed. She was worried the people who had been messaging her could be among the fans outside."

The man has denied criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and will return to court next month.



Emma Watson

Emma is expected to have a security team with her when she does attend the university, because she has suffered some safety scares recently

Lana Del Rey reveals why she rarely performs on TV: 'I don't feel confident!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Lana Del Rey struggles to feel "confident" on TV.

The 38-year-old pop star performed on 'Saturday Night Live' during the early days of her career in 2012 but it was infamously called one of "the worst performances" in the history of the show and she has now explained that she has appeared on television so rarely because there has "never been a right time" to do so since.

She told *The Hollywood Re-*

porter: "The offers are there. I think I've done two [TV performances]? Maybe that's something else I'll grow into more, like touring. And don't get me wrong. I toured for nine years of my life. It was nonstop. It was tough. "But you know in your heart



Lana Del Rey

when it's the right time. And it's never been the right time. Maybe now, even if I didn't feel confident, I would do it anyway. But there was a reason not to feel confident."

The 'Video Games' hit-maker went on to add that she never thought such a performance would be "received well" but admitted that these days there are more ways to promote things differently and is flat-

tered that the biggest stars of today have cited her as an inspiration.

She said: "I didn't know if it would be received well. But there's a lot of weirdos out there now, so we're fine. We're in good company. I started at a time when things were very much one way. Little by little, there's a lot more room for storytelling and saying different stuff. You're seeing a lot more good girl songwriters, too. Well, who am I to say that? I like a lot of the singers out right now."

'That's not how I would drop the news': Zendaya denies she is engaged to Tom Holland

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Zendaya has denied she is engaged to Tom Holland.

The 'Euphoria' star has been dating her co-star for three years now, and fans speculated that the couple might have taken their relationship to the next level when she appeared to be wearing an engagement ring on that finger.

In a since-deleted post on her Instagram Story, she clarified: "I can't post anything, you guys."

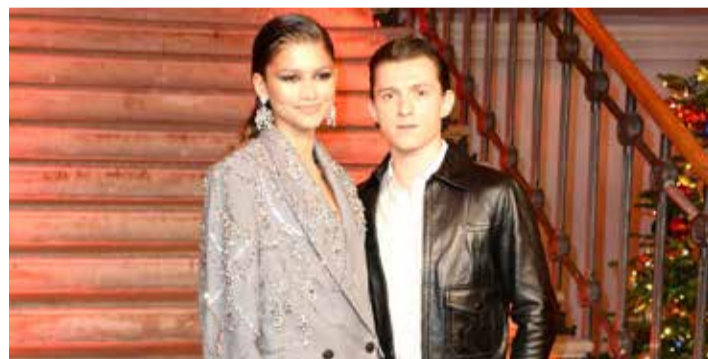
"I posted it for my hat. Like not for the ring on my right hand, you guys, seriously."

"You think that's how I would drop the news? You think, like, what?"

She had captioned the original picture with a prominent ring on show: "Let me just put the full body back so y'all can relax lmao."

Tom recently admitted he is "lucky" to have found a partner who works in the same industry because they can talk about their respective experiences with mutual understanding.

Speaking on the 'SmartLess' podcast, Tom said: "I'm lucky that I have someone like Zendaya in my life. It's interesting



Zendaya and Tom Holland

being in a romantic relationship with someone that is in the same boat as you.

"You can share your experi-

ences and all that sort of stuff — and that's worth its weight in gold."

The 27-year-old actor recently

joked he has no "rizz", referring to charisma, so had to rely on on-screen chemistry to get Zendaya to fall for him.

He told *BuzzFeed*: "I'm happy and in love, so I've got no need for rizz."

"I have no rizz whatsoever; I have limited rizz."

"I need you to fall in love with me, really, for it to work. So, long game. Probably making a movie with each other — it definitely helps when the characters are falling in love with one another; you can sort of blur the lines a little bit."

And Tom also claimed Zen-

daya, also 27, fell for him thanks to his carpentry skills.

Asked about being a "trained carpenter from a long line of carpenters", he told *UNILAD*: "Carpentry is something I just really enjoy. I love it."

"I made my mum's kitchen table, I made my mum's office. I built all the cupboards in my bedroom. I built a little birdhouse with my granddad."

"I fixed my girlfriend's door once really early on in our relationship. I was hanging out at her house and her door was broken."

SUDOKU

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How to play

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Across

1- Molecular component; 5- Remain; 10- Low in pitch; 14- Meadow mouse; 15- Sophia of the screen; 16- Official records; 17- Mild oath; 18- Representative; 19- Gusto; 20- Roe of sturgeon; 22- Convulsion; 24- Dot follower; 25- Submarine; 26- Medieval church; 30- Every other person, approximately; 35- Before; 36- Actor Beatty; 37- Coeur d'Alene; 38- Dizziness sensation; 41- Authorization; 43- Taken in; 44- Are we there? 45- Tool of a fisherman; 46- Atty.-to-be exams; 47- Furniture wood; 50- Charles Lamb's nom de plume; 53- Pasture used for grazing; 54- Premier player; 58- Establishes; 62- So long; 63- Angry with; 66- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 67- National competitor; 68- Maker of Pong; 69- Victor's cry; 70- Change the decor; 71- Museum piece; 72- Lump of earth;

Down

1- Opposite of sans; 2- Garment of ancient Rome; 3- Norwegian saint; 4- Famed Florentine family; 5- Frightening; 6- Peat source; 7- Rage; 8- Compact; 9- Computer key; 10- Folk singer Joan; 11- Rights org; 12- Toronto paper; 13- All there; 21- "You've got mail" co.; 23- Herbert Hoover, for one; 25- Taken in; 26- Miter joint; 27- Zones; 28- Simmons rival; 29- Boardroom bigwig; 31- On in years; 32- Funny Anne; 33- Composer Bruckner; 34- Wanting; 39- Hanoi holiday; 40- Atlas feature; 41- Give break; 42- Physically active; 44- Peruvian singer Sumac; 48- Done, to Donne; 49- Irish tongue; 51- Truman's birthplace; 52- Beside oneself; 54- Rent; 55- As it happens; 56- Put down; 57- Indifferent; 59- Monk's hood; 60- Small combo; 61- Convey; 64- Indian dish; 65- Urus hero;

Yesterday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | I | R | A | S | A | P | B | A | S | S | |
| T | I | D | A | L | S | K | Y | E | O | G | E | |
| A | L | O | H | A | P | E | E | R | U | R | G | E |
| R | E | I | T | R | E | E | T | U | R | E | E | N |
| A | T | T | E | S | T | S | O | I | L | | | |
| R | A | N | A | T | B | A | N | I | S | T | E | R |
| A | C | U | T | G | O | O | D | S | P | A | L | O |
| M | O | T | H | E | R | L | Y | F | E | L | L | A |
| S | O | U | N | D | S | T | I | E | S | | | |
| N | A | S | S | A | U | O | O | P | S | T | O | U |
| O | B | I | E | A | S | T | O | T | E | N | D | S |
| S | E | E | R | T | O | O | L | A | E | R | I | E |
| E | R | R | S | E | Y | E | S | S | E | E | S | |

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REHC launch new online service

TDT | Manama

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) have launched a state-of-the-art online registration service for owners, trainers and jockeys.

The new facilities enable applications to be processed and paid for digitally and include a new system for trainers to enter their horses and confirm race day runners. In addition, from 2024 owners will be able to design and customize their own racing colours online.

Ahead of the new racing season, which gets underway on 27 October, participants can now apply to renew their licences or submit new applications without having to present themselves in person at the Bahrain Turf Club's offices.

Aysha Al Nasser, Finance Director of the Rashid Equestri-

an and Horseracing Club, said: "We are delighted to launch this new online service for the sport's participants, the initiative represents a major step forward in improving our efficiencies.

"Previously owners, trainers and jockeys had to physically come to the office to submit and pay for their registration or licence, consequently, the implementation of the digital services will also reduce our carbon footprint.

"The opportunity for owners to design their set of racing colours online will be an exciting addition to our digital offering and will be available from next year."

The Club have also introduced a video to assist all parties in the transition to the new registration process. The deadline for new applications for the coming season is 12 October.

Swimming ace Qin breaks Games record as skateboarder, 9, has 'fun'

AFP | Hangzhou

Swimming sensation Qin Haiyang added another title to his name to inflate China's already bulging gold-medal haul on Monday at the Asian Games, while a nine-year-old skateboarder melted hearts.

The hosts enjoyed success in gymnastics, fencing, rowing, shooting, taekwondo and mountain biking to top the medals table in Hangzhou with 39 golds at the end of the second full day of action.

South Korea and Japan are their closest competitors with a distant 10 and five golds respectively.

China romped to all seven titles on the opening day of swimming on Sunday in an ominous display ahead of next summer's Paris Olympics, but they did not have it all their own way a day later.

South Korea's Ji Yu-chan set a new Asian Games record in the men's 50m freestyle of 21.72secs in a shock win ahead of Hong Kong's Ian Ho (21.87) and teen-



Mazel Paris Alegado was in action

age Chinese star Pan Zhanle (21.92).

Olympic silver medallist Siobhan Haughey clinched Hong Kong's first Asian Games swimming gold ever with an emphatic victory in the 200m freestyle in a sizzling 1min 54.12sec, another Games record.

South Korea's night got even better when they took gold ahead of the hosts in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay in another surprise.

The other four races all went the way of China's swimmers, with the hulking 24-year-old Qin adding Games 100m breaststroke gold to his recent world title.

Qin, also the 50m and 200m world champion, romped home in a new Games-record time of 57.76secs, a gaping 1.33sec ahead of teammate Yan Zibei.

The hosts rounded off another dominant day with gold ahead of Japan in the women's

team event of the artistic gymnastics.

'So fun!'

World records fell in shooting with India and China both displaying pinpoint precision.

The Indian trio of Divyansh Panwar, Rudranksh Patil and Aishwary Tomar blew away the field with a new world best to win the men's 10m air rifle team event.

It was India's first gold of these Games and they doubled it in the afternoon when they defeated Sri Lanka in the women's final by 19 runs on their Games cricket debut.

"It's a gold medal for the whole of India," said batter Richa Ghosh.

In skateboarding, Mazel Paris Alegado probably ought to have been in primary school, but instead she was in the "women's" park final. Thought to be the youngest athlete at the Games and representing the Philippines, she just about avoided the wooden spoon by coming seventh out of eight.

Krueger crashes out of Pan Pacific Open after Osaka win

AFP | Tokyo

U.S. teen Ashlyn Krueger crashed out of the first round of the Pan Pacific Tennis in Tokyo Monday, just over a week after grabbing her first WTA victory in Osaka.

Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina, world 28th, overwhelmed Krueger 6-3, 6-1, ending the 19-year-old's five-match winning streak.

Kalinina will face world number 10 Caroline Garcia in her second-round match.

The Japanese tournament also features French Open



Ashlyn Krueger

winner Iga Swiatek and world number four Jessica Pegula.

Australian Open finalist Elena Rybakina has however withdrawn, organisers said Monday.

Miami draw with Orlando without ex-Barca trio

AFP | Miami

Inter Miami, without Lionel Messi, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, battled to a 1-1 draw at Orlando City in Major League Soccer on Sunday.

The result leaves Miami five points adrift of the last playoff spot with five games of their regular season campaign remaining.

Miami can win their second trophy of the Messi era on Wednesday when they look to add the U.S. Open Cup to the League Cup they won last month

and with that goal in mind head coach Gerardo Martino took no risks with his line-up.

As well as Messi and Alba, both ruled out for fitness reasons, Martino opted to rest Spanish mid-fielder Busquets who had been ever-present since joining the club in July.

With homegrown youngsters Noah Allen and David Ruiz brought into the side, Miami fielded a line-up similar to the ones that had seen the team fall to the bottom of the Eastern Conference before Messi's arrival.



David Ruiz #41 of Inter Miami CF celebrates a goal as Pedro Gallese #1 of Orlando City SC looks on

HH Shaikh Nasser receives wrestling world champion

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, has lauded the landmark achievement of Bahraini wrestler Akhmed Tazhudinov, who bagged a gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships 2023 in Belgrade in the men's freestyle 97kg category and booked a spot at the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

HH Shaikh Nasser was speaking while receiving wrestling world champion, Tazhudinov, in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Au-



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials with Akhmed Tazhudinov, centre, at the reception

thority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

HH Shaikh Nasser congratulated Tazhudinov on his historic exploits, praising his distinguished performance, which enabled him to achieve impressive results with wins against notable

names, and confirm his readiness for the Paris Olympiad.

His Highness also commended HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad's efforts and support for various sports, including combat ones, which have made a quantum leap.

He paid tribute to the Bahrain Bahraini Combat Sports Council and the Bahrain Wrestling Federation for their efforts to prepare Bahraini athletes for external sporting competitions, wishing them continued success.

Bangladesh name Najmul captain for third New Zealand ODI

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh on Sunday named batsman Najmul Hossain Shanto captain for the third one-day international against New Zealand and brought several senior players back.

Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, and Shoriful Islam join Najmul for the must-win contest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday.

New Zealand are leading the three-match series 1-0 thanks to their 86-run win in the second match on Saturday, the side's first win against Bangladesh in the country in nearly 15 years.

The first match was washed out by rain.

The Kiwis last beat Bangladesh in their own backyard in October 2008.

They then lost the next two series in 2010 and 2013, respectively, by 4-0 and 3-0.

Over that period, New Zealand's only ODI victory in Bangladesh came against South Africa in the 2011 World Cup quarter-final.

Bangladesh rested Liton Das, Tamim Iqbal, Khaled Ahmed, Soumya Sarkar, Mustafizur Rahman, and Tanzim Hasan, who all played in the second match against New Zealand.

Regular captain Shakib Al Hasan did not play any part of the series.

Race fans set for ultimate track thrills

Bahrain International Circuit offers adrenaline-pumping activities with Orange Media Open Track and Track Experiences

● **First Orange Media Open Track day to be held 6 October**

● **Track Experiences thrills to first be available on 7 October**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced yesterday details for the new season of the hugely popular Orange Media Open Track and Track Experiences, both of which are scheduled to kick off in the next two weeks and continue until March of next year.

As part of BIC Season-Launch Week, "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" continues to drum up excitement and give motor racing fans the opportunity to mark their calendars and plan for the circuit's most thrilling fan experiences.

Orange Media Open Track is one of the most popular driving activities for speed lovers at BIC. It gives participants the chance to take their very own cars or motorbikes out for a spin along the world-renowned Sakhir track, while pushing them to their limits within a safe and controlled environment.

Track Experiences, meanwhile, offers adrenaline-pumping drives and passenger rides in three ultra-quick cars, including the Renault Clio Cup and the



Drivers take part in the Orange Media Open Track

Radical SR1 and SR3.

Both the Orange Media Open Track and Track Experiences are part of BIC's fantastic array of activities for the general public to enjoy.

More information on all that is on offer is available on bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

Orange Media Open Track

In Orange Media Open Track, a huge variety of cars, supercars and sports bikes are regularly seen hitting the tarmac at BIC, and those taking part certainly get to satisfy their need for an adventure.

BIC holds Orange Media Open Track activities both during daytime hours and at night.

This season, there will be nine Orange Media Open Track days, beginning on 6 October. The other

dates are 10 and 24 November, and 15 December this year; as well as on 13 January; 3, 15 and 17 February, and 8 March in 2024.

BIC has also scheduled four Orange Media Open Track nights for participants to enjoy the spectacle of driving under BIC's bright, state-of-the-art floodlights. These will be available on 29 December, 26 January and on 16 and 29 March.

The cost of an Orange Media Open Track day activity, when booked in advance, is BD82,500 for the full day, BD55 for the half day and BD22 for a single session. Prices for booking on the day itself are BD93,500 for the full day, BD66 for the half day and BD27,500 for a single session.

For Orange Media Open Track nights, booking in advance costs BD99 for the full night, BD71,500 for the half night and BD33 for a



Clio Cup cars in action during Track Experiences

single session. On the evening itself, the full night price is BD115,500, the half-night cost is BD82,500, and the single-session price is BD44.

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

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

Track Experiences

The excitement is non-stop at BIC and Track Experiences offers some of the most engaging drives and passenger rides that

will get the heart racing.

Fans can get an awesome introduction to the high-octane world of motorsports in the Clio Cup Experiences, where they can step into a 1.6 litre, Turbocharged Renault Clio Cup sports car either for a drive or a passenger ride. The driving experience takes the participant onto the track behind a professional instructor in a lead-follow manner, while the passenger experience requires those taking part to simply buckle up and enjoy the rush!

Supreme thrills can also be enjoyed in the Radical SR1 Driving Experience, which is ideal for amateurs and racers alike as the car's 185bhp engine roars like no other. Interested participants are required to complete a Clio Cup Drive in order to take part in this activity. In the Radical SR3

Passenger Experience, fans will be taken from zero to 100kph in about 3.4 seconds, making for a memorable number of laps around the circuit.

There will be eight days in which to enjoy BIC's Track Experiences this season. These are on 7 and 28 October, 18 November, 9 and 30 December, 20 January, 10 February and 9 March.

The price for the Clio Cup Driver Experience is BD121 and the Clio Cup Passenger Experience is BD27,500. For the Radical SR1 Driver Experience, the cost is BD132 while the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is BD38,500.

For more information on the Orange Media Open Track, Track Experiences, or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.



As part of BIC Season-Launch Week, Bahrain International Circuit calls on motor racing fans to mark their calendars and plan ahead for the circuit's most thrilling fan experiences

Ajax-Feyenoord to be replayed without crowd: federation

AFP | The Hague

The remaining 35 minutes of the 'Klassieker' between Ajax and Feyenoord will be played Wednesday behind closed doors, the Dutch football federation said, after the referee abandoned this weekend's match due to flares fired onto the pitch.

The KNVB association said it had been guided by the principle that in such cases "a match should preferably be decided on the field... the match must then be resumed as soon as possible."



Players react after game is paused after flares land on the pitch

Dutch giants Ajax were 3-0 down after 55 minutes on Sunday, as their bitter rivals from Rotterdam humiliated them in front of their home fans, taking an unprecedented first-half lead.

Some of the hardcore Ajax

fans lobbed flares onto the turf at the Johan Cruyff arena in Amsterdam. The game had already been suspended twice and the referee had no choice but to abandon the match.

The violence spilled out of the ground, as furious Ajax fans smashed the entrance to the stadium and fought running battles with mounted police armed with tear gas to disperse the crowd.

The rescheduling of the match sparked immediate anger from Ajax and from FC Volendam, who were supposed to be playing Ajax that night.

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Bahrain delegation head to the 19th Asian Games and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited the Kingdom's sports heroes at the Athletes' Village in Hangzhou yesterday. He was accompanied by BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, Bahrain Handball Association President Ali Issa, the national delegation's Chef de Mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar, and other officials. Above, HH Shaikh Isa and other officials with the Bahrain athletes during his visit

Gerbekov nearly medals in judo

Bahraini judoka bows to Japanese opponent in bronze medal contest at Hangzhou Asiad

● **Biaslan Hajali loses round of 16 contest in men's judo under-73kg class**

● **Azat Makhmetov bows out in round of 32 bout of men's boxing 46-51kg**

● **Moaz Ebrahim Ahmed defeated in round of 32 men's taekwondo under-58kg**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain narrowly missed out on securing its first medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, yesterday.

Judoka Askerbii Gerbekov came up just short in his men's under-81kg bronze medal B contest against Yuhei Oino of

Japan. Gerbekov lost by ippon, the highest score a fighter can achieve in the martial art, to place fifth overall while preventing him from making an appearance on the podium.

Somon Makhmadbekov of Tajikistan took the category's gold medal, while Joonhwan Lee of South Korea was the silver-medallist and both Abylaikhan Zhubanazar of Kazakhstan and Oino the two bronze-medallists.

Earlier in the competition, Gerbekov had a bye in the round of 32 before winning by ippon against Mehdi Fathipoorardal of Iran in the round of 16, to set up a quarter-final showdown with Zhubanazar. The Bahraini lost that contest but had another chance to medal in the repechage.

There, he first beat Asad Masabirov of Kyrgyzstan by waza-ari, the second-highest score awarded in judo, to advance to his bronze medal B tie with Oino.

Meanwhile, in the men's under-73kg category, Bahrain's Biaslan Hajali lost his

round of 16 contest to Murodjon Yuldoshev of Uzbekistan by ippon.

The judo competitions in Hangzhou continue today, and three Bahrainis are set to take to the mat.

Sulim Maraev will be going up against Davlat Bobonov of Uzbekistan in the men's under-90kg round of 16, Zelimkhan Yakub will be facing Nurlykhan Sharkhan of Kazakhstan in the men's under-100kg round of 16, and Azamat Chotchaev will be taking on China's Ruixuan Li in the men's over-100kg round of 16.

Should any of the Bahraini judokas advance, their ensuing elimination rounds will also take place today.

In other combat sports yesterday at the Hangzhou Asiad, Bahrain's Azat Makhmetov lost his round of 32 bout in men's boxing, and Moaz Ebrahim Ahmed also suffered defeat in the same stage



Bahraini Olympian Danis Latypov will be getting into the boxing ring today for his men's over-92kg round of 16 bout against Mohammad Mlaibes of Syria



Azat Makhmetov looks to land a blow against Chonryong So

of his men's taekwondo competition.

Makhmetov was eliminated from further medal contention in men's boxing's 46-51kg group by Chonryong So of North Korea, who won their three-round fight on points 4-0. The judges scored 30-27, 30-27, 30-27, 29-28, 28-28 in So's favour.

Today, fellow-Bahraini boxer Danis Latypov will be competing

in the men's over-92kg round of 16, where he will take on Mohammad Mlaibes of Syria.

For Ahmed yesterday, he lost his men's taekwondo under-58kg contest to Seiya Higashijima of Japan.

Ahmed was the only Bahraini taking part in taekwondo at this year's Asian Games.

Askerbii Gerbekov in action during his contest with Mehdi Fathipoorardal

Janahi powers into top three twice in sailing

● **Veteran Bahraini sailor ranks third, second in men's dinghy races eight, nine**

● **Bahrain's shooters have solid performance in men's 10m air rifle competitions**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Abdulla Janahi had a pair of impressive results yesterday in his men's dinghy competition at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The veteran sailor was classified third and second, respectively, in races eight and nine in his fleet, propelling him to eighth place on the overall rankings, with his concluding races to go.

Janahi led the fleet's eighth event briefly yesterday before finishing behind only Nicholas Bezy of Hong Kong and Jun Han Ryan Lo of Singapore. He then fought back from mid-fleet in race nine to contend for the win with Jeemin Ha of South Korea, finishing marginally behind as the runner-up.

Janahi's results yesterday at Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Centre allowed him to climb to eighth in his fleet with 53 net points with the 10th and 11th races remaining today, plus the medal round tomorrow.

Lo is the fleet leader with 19 net points, followed by Ha on 26.

Also on the water yesterday, Bahrain's Khalifa Al Doseri finished eighth in the boys' dinghy ninth race but did not start race 10. He remained ninth overall in his fleet with 80 net points. Weka Bhanubandh of Thailand leads with 11 net, with one more race to sail in the competition today.

Shooters

Elsewhere yesterday at the Hangzhou Asiad, Bahrainis Mahmood Haji, Khalid Al Doseri and Husain Abduljabbar Ali were in action in shooting.

In the men's 10m air rifle qualification round, Haji finished 33rd from 54 competitors with a score of 622.4, while Al Doseri was 39th on a 620.5 score. Ali ranked 45th with a score of 616.7. All three national team members did not advance to the final.

In the men's teams' 10m air rifle competition, the Bahraini trio were 11th overall with a total score of 1,859.6. They were the top-ranked Arab side, finishing ahead of Saudi Arabia in 12th and Kuwait in 14th.

Meanwhile, in table tennis, Bahrain's pairs of Alyas Alyassi and Amruta Phadke, along with Rashed Rashed and Maryam Alaali, were given byes yesterday in the round of 64, and will today compete in the round of 32.

Alyassi and Amruta will play Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha of China, while Rashed and Maryam will face Ho Kwan Kit and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong.

Bahrainis rank 12th in Asiad men's volleyball

● **Kingdom's spikers bow to Chinese-Taipei 1-3 in final classification contest**

● **Bahrain begin men's basketball medal bid today against the Philippines**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national volleyball team signed off from the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China yesterday with a 1-3 (20-25, 18-25, 25-22, 19-25) loss to Chinese-Taipei.

The result placed the Bahrainis 12th overall on the final classification of the 19-nation men's volleyball competition.

Mohammed Yaqoob was Bahrain's top scorer in the game with 18 points, including three blocks, while Sayed Hashem Issa added 14 markers. Hussain Ehsan chipped in with seven, while Mohammed Jassim



Bahrain's Mohammed Jassim hits a smash against Chinese-Taipei

had six and Hussain Mahdi four.

For Chinese-Taipei, Yu-Sheng Chang paced his side with 20 points, while Hsiang-Ming Tseng added 18.

It was a tough result for the Bahrainis, who began their campaign in Hangzhou with a Pool B win over Nepal, but then fell in three straight games to Iran, Qatar, South Korea and lastly Chinese Taipei.

The nationals were coached by Ruben Adrian Wolochin from Argentina.

They had a 12-player squad at the Asian Games, including Yaqoob, Issa, Ehsan, Jassim, Mahdi, Naser Anan, Ali Ebrahim, Ayman Haroona, Mahmood Alafyah, Abbas Sultan, Ali Habib and Abbas Al Khabbaz.

Basketball

Meanwhile, Bahrain tip off their medal bid today in the men's basketball tournament at the Hangzhou Asiad.

The nationals take on the Philippines in their opening Group C fixture of the pre-

liminary round. The contest is scheduled for an 8.30am start, Bahrain time.

The Bahrainis are coached by Spaniard Ricard Casas. The team includes Maitham Jameel, Mustafa Hussain, Ali Hussain, Ali Jaber, Ali Shukrallah, Wayne Chism, Alwethaq Ali, Muzamil Ameer, Sayed Mohammed Hameed, Ali Aqeel, Mohammed Buallay and Mohammed Ameer.

Bahrain and the Philippines are in Group C along with Jordan and Thailand. Following the nationals' opener today, they take on Jordan on Thursday at 6am, Bahrain time; and then complete group play against Thailand on Saturday at 12.30pm, Bahrain time.

There are 16 nations in all competing in men's basketball at Hangzhou. After a single round-robin, the top teams in each group will qualify directly for the quarter-finals on 4 October. Meanwhile, the second and third-ranked sides will play each other in a play-off round on 2 October for the right to determine the four other quarter-finalists.