

Bahrain capture double gold

Noora Salem Jasim, Bontu Rebitu clinch titles on day one of third West Asian Athletics Championships in Doha | P12

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Powerful Iranian cleric killed in attack at bank

AFP | Tehran

A powerful Iranian cleric, a member of the Assembly of Experts that selects the country's supreme leader, has been killed in an armed attack, officials said yesterday.

The attack is believed to be the most significant in years against a cleric in Iran.

"Ayatollah Abbas Ali Soleimani was killed this morning in an armed attack... the assailant was also arrested and is now being investigated," IRNA news agency reported, citing a security official for the northern province of Mazandaran where the killing occurred.

The attack took place inside a bank in Babolsar city, the official said.

"The motive of the assailant is not yet clear and will be announced after it is clarified," the official added.

The governor of Mazandaran, Mahmoud Hosseinipour, said the attacker was a local security officer of the bank.

Circular on Labour Day



HRH Prince Salman
 TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular on the upcoming Labour Day.

According to the circular, ministries and all other public institutions will close on Monday, 1 May 2023, marking Labour Day.

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HM King commends 'brave servicemen'

Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces visits Bahrain Defence Force General Command



BDF affiliates 'source of pride for everyone'

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday met senior Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) officers, and affirmed constant pride in its brave servicemen.

HM the King was speaking as he visited the BDF General Command.

He expressed thanks to all BDF affiliates for the tremendous efforts they are exerting to protect the gains and achievements of the kingdom and its people, stressing that they are a source of pride for everyone.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by the BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Royal Guard Special Force Commander, Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HM King Hamad was also welcomed by the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dheyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and a number of senior BDF officers.

Those present extended their deepest congratulations to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces on Eid Al Fitr.

HM the King congratulated them on the blessed occasion, and requested them to convey his greetings and congratula-



HM the King meets senior BDF officers

tions to all officers, non-commissioned officers and the brave personnel at various work sites, in Bahrain and abroad.

His Majesty affirmed that Bahrain always hopes that security and peace prevail across the region and the world, wishing

"Bahrain always hopes that security and peace prevail across the region and the world. I wish all BDF affiliates continued success in defending the homeland and enhancing its progress and prosperity."

- HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

all BDF affiliates continued success in defending the homeland and enhancing its progress and prosperity.

Repeated Israeli attacks

Bab Al Rahma Chapel in Al Aqsa Mosque 'vandalised'

Ramallah

Palestinians have condemned repeated Israeli attacks on the Bab Al Rahma Chapel in Al Aqsa Mosque, saying the site has been vandalised, while worshippers face daily threats and abuse.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said Bab Al Rahma was an integral part of Al Aqsa and only Muslims had the right to control its affairs.

Removal of items from the

chapel and its vandalisation by Israel were unacceptable, he added.

Ramzi Khoury, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee, said settler groups raised Israeli flags in the courtyards of Al Aqsa Mosque yesterday and performed religious rituals.

He described the Israeli actions as an "unprecedented aggression against the sanctity of Al Aqsa, a desecration of its re-



Israeli security forces walk next to settlers in Al Aqsa compound

ligious status, and a provocation to Muslims all over the world."

Israeli forces' repeated attacks on Bab Al Rahma would not give

Israel any sovereignty over Al Aqsa Mosque or Jerusalem, as "it is an occupied Palestinian city with its Islamic and Christian sanctities according to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions," he added.

Rawhi Fattouh, president of the Palestinian National Council, called on the international community to curb the "criminal madness" of the Israeli government and its National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

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Royal praise for doctorate degree

● **HM King receives copy of Major-General Ibrahim Ghanim Al Fadhala doctoral dissertation**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, received at the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) yesterday, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations at the BDF, Major-General Ibrahim Ghanim Al Fadhala.

Al Fadhala presented to HM the King a copy of his doctoral



HM the King with Major-General Al Fadhala

dissertation entitled “Future Vision for Crisis and Disaster Management in the Kingdom of Bahrain”, which he had obtained from the Nasser Military Academy for Postgraduate Studies in Egypt.

HM the King congratulated Al Fadhala on obtaining his doctorate degree with distinction and first class honours, commending the efforts he had exerted to compile his thesis.

HM King Hamad stressed that the thesis is a new and important scientific addition to all researchers in this field, affirming the BDF affiliates’ keenness to acquire the latest academic and military sciences in various disciplines to support the BDF efforts.

HM King appoints Ministry officials

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree (40) of 2023, appointing officials at the Parliament Affairs Ministry, following the approval of the Cabinet.

According to the decree, Deena Ahmed Isa Al Fayed was appointed as Coordinator-General for the Affairs of the Shura and Representatives councils at the Parliament Affairs Ministry, and Khalil Abdulrasool Hassan Bucheeri, as Undersecretary at the same ministry.

Parliament Affairs Minister shall implement the provisions



The royal decree names Deena Ahmed Isa Al Fayed and Khalil Abdulrasool Hassan Bucheeri to the ministry.

of the edict, which takes effect upon its issuance, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Bahrain greets Tanzania

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to Tanzania President Samia Hassan on her country’s Union Day.

HM the King extended his best wishes to the Tanzanian president on the occasion, and wished the people of Tanzania further development and prosperity.

Robbery suspect arrested in Nuwaidrat

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate Police Directorate has arrested a man, 35, for stealing money and valuable items worth BD10,000 from a flat in Nuwaidrat.

An investigation into the case led to identifying and arresting the suspect. Some of the stolen items and narcotics were seized.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Bahrain supports global cooperation, partnership

Peace remains strategic option to foster stability and prosperity in Middle East

New York

Bahrain has always been keen in its diplomatic stances to support international cooperation and partnership on the basis of fraternity, understanding, good neighbourliness and respect of the countries’ sovereignty.

This was emphasised by Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations, Ambassador Jamal Faris Al Rowaie.

The Ambassador was speaking during his participation in the Security Council’s meeting on “Effective Multilateralism through the Defence of the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations”, which was chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

He said the kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin



Ambassador Al Rowaie speaks at the UN Security Council

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, is firm in calling for dialogue and diplomatic solutions to settle conflicts as well as regional and international tensions.

Ambassador Al Rowaie underlined Bahrain’s commitment to peace as a strategic option to foster international cooperation, stability, peace and prosperity mainly in the Middle East re-

gion. He also pointed out the kingdom’s endeavour to back the international system that is based on the rules of law, international covenants, and the principles of human rights.

Al Rowaie noted the kingdom’s support to the efforts to build the international capacity to provide assistance and sustainable development, and

“The kingdom is firm in calling for dialogue and diplomatic solutions to settle conflicts as well as regional and international tensions.”

-AMBASSADOR JAMAL FARIS AL ROWAIE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

spread the values of peace, dialogue and peaceful coexistence, especially through the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence.

He underscored the pivotal role of the UN as a multilateral entity in fostering international peace and security, achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and protecting human rights.

Diverse challenges

Al Rowaie affirmed that diverse challenges facing the world, most notably the recent Covid-19 pandemic, have proved the need for concerted international efforts to handle them.

He underlined the importance of synergised work to achieve human welfare.

The Ambassador said: “This highlights the role of multilateralism, diplomacy and international cooperation as the most important and effective tools for achieving the goals of maintaining international peace and security and achieving sustainable development.”

The session coincided with the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, which was declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 127/73, which was co-sponsored by the Kingdom of Bahrain as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Financial and banking institutions key role hailed

London

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa stressed the pivotal role of international financial and banking institutions and their contributions towards supporting development efforts, affirming the importance of cooperation and exchange of best practices and expertise.

He shed light on the business-friendly environment in Bahrain, which is conducive to the growth of financial sectors.



Shaikh Salman with the Standard Chartered Group CEO

Shaikh Salman met Standard Chartered Group CEO Bill Winters and HSBC Group CEO Noel Quinn.

Bahrain-UK relations



Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa met with UK’s Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade, Lord Dominic Johnson. The meeting discussed investment cooperation and reviewed the latest international economic developments. The finance minister reviewed the historical Bahrain-UK relations. Bahrain Ambassador to the UK Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Central Bank Governor Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj and Prime Minister’s Office Director General Hamad Yaqoub Al Mahmeed were present.



Human resources cooperation

Labour Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, the Chairman of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), received Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Piyush Srivastava. They discussed ways of boosting cooperation between the two friendly countries and reviewed issues pertaining to developing human resources, protecting the labour force in the private sector, promoting investment and upgrading the labour market systems in line with the international labour standards.



Rescued at sea

The Coast Guard patrols responded to a distress call and rescued a person who had drowned at sea. They provided first aid as soon as the injured person was pulled out of the water. He was then transferred to the hospital. His health condition was declared stable.

Some companies 'misuse' Tamkeen program funds

Urgent call is out to address 'exploitation' issue, ensure Bahrainis will receive proper wage support and quality employment opportunities, and continue private sector growth

Tofoof AlMansoor
TDT | Manama

The Tamkeen wage support program was launched in 2006 with the aim of encouraging private sector companies to hire Bahraini nationals and to provide them with training and development opportunities.

The program provides financial support for the wages of Bahraini employees, with the amount of support varying depending on the employee's salary and the size of the company.

The program has been successful in increasing the employment of Bahraini nationals in the private sector. According to data from Tamkeen, the program has supported the employment of over 70,000 Bahrainis in various industries, including finance, hospitality, and construction.

However, there have been concerns about the misuse of the program by some companies.

70,000

The number of Bahrainis who have received Tamkeen program support.

Reports suggest that some companies have been using the program to access government funds without actually providing meaningful employment opportunities for Bahraini nationals. These companies allegedly pay low wages and offer no training or development programs, effectively using Bahraini employees as a means to access government funds.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a citizen said: "Me and my colleague were recruited by a construction company and we



Bahrainis benefit from Tamkeen program through wage support and training. (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

were terminated shortly after the wage support ended, and we were replaced by fresh graduates that were eligible for Tamkeen support."

The exploitation of the Tamkeen program has been a cause for concern for the Bahraini gov-

ernment, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has taken steps to address the issue.

In addition to conducting inspections and audits, the ministry has also launched a public awareness campaign to educate



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companies about the regulations of the program and the consequences of non-compliance.

Despite these efforts, some experts believe that more needs to be done to ensure that the program is being used for its intended purpose. This could include increasing transparency and accountability in the hiring process, as well as providing more support and incentives for companies that offer meaningful employment opportunities for Bahraini nationals.

Overall, the Tamkeen wage support program remains an important initiative in Bahrain's efforts to promote employment opportunities for its citizens.

By addressing the issue of exploitation and ensuring that the program is being used for its intended purpose, the government can continue to support the growth of the private sector while also providing meaningful employment opportunities for Bahrainis.

Court begins hearing drug dealer case

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court began hearing the case of a drug dealer accused of attempting to smuggle 97 shabu capsules into the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The defendant is said to have swallowed the capsules and kept them inside his guts in a bid to enter the Kingdom.

Customs officers suspected him upon his arrival as he looked nervous and confused.

"It was obvious that he was unstable and afraid. We asked him if he was carrying anything illegal, and he denied it," one of the customs officers who were on duty told prosecutors.

"Therefore, we manually inspected him and his luggage."

Six-month jail term upheld for GCC woman 'attacker'

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the six-month imprisonment sentence which was issued against a GCC woman who attacked a police woman and committed an obscene act on a public road.

According to the police records, the woman came to Bahrain for tourism purposes, but she heavily drank alcohol with her friend to the point that she went out of control.

Police officers were called to go to her after pedestrians spotted her on a public road laying down wearing revealing outfits. While they were trying to help her, she yelled and spit at them.

"I was on a patrol with a couple of my colleagues, and

we were requested to go and help her. I pulled a cover with me in order to cover her as we were told that she was laying down and wearing revealing clothes," the police woman told prosecutors.

"She immediately yelled at us, and spit on my face. She also swore at me before assaulting me physically," the policewoman added.

The police woman finally controlled the defendant and dragged her into the patrol car. Two witnesses who were at the scene testified before the Court and confirmed the events of the incident.

The woman was held guilty of attacking an on-duty police woman, causing her the wounds that were described in the medical report.

Kingdom provides quality care services and programs to elderly

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Senior citizens with a great sense of 'hope' are more likely to experience a better future, better physical health outcomes and better psychological and social well-being, according to a new study carried out by geriatric researchers.

Many of the people aged above 60 in Bahrain are suffering from various mental health problems, including depression caused by negligence and abandonment by family members.

Five per cent of the Kingdom's elderly population faces some or other form of abuse, according to a study.

The study carried out by Dr Nasser S, Dr Mallala H, Dr Jadeed and Dr Taraif revealed the situation regarding elderly abuse and elderly care in the Kingdom.

According to the study, the Kingdom is one of the first Arab countries which formed a National Committee for Elderly



The government protects the rights of the elderly population

in the year 1984 to protect the rights of the elderly population.

"Elderly abuse is considered a violation in the Kingdom according to Bahrain Act number 85 introduced in the year 2009," the study reveals.

"Those responsible for subjecting an elderly Bahraini to abuse that includes neglecting could be either fined or jailed or could face both, depending on the type of abuse."

The Ministry of Social Development supervises several

parental care homes, located in residential neighborhoods throughout the Kingdom which take care of the elderly during the day.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a social worker from Muharrag Social Welfare Centre, who wants to remain anonymous, said: "We provide all the facilities such as social, health, psychological and living. We help to develop suitable rehabilitation programs for the elderly and take advantage of their abilities and potential."

"We give personnel training and qualification to raise their efficiency and develop their abilities in the field of care for the elderly."

"The ministry covers all of their medical costs when they are ill, and some people even donate a certain amount."

There are two forms of care, he explained. "The first is permanent care, which is given to old people who do not have any one or their family circumstances do not allow caring for them."

Woman dies in Gudaibiya residential fire

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

An Asian woman died of suffocation after a fire broke out in a multi-story residential building in Gudaibiya yesterday.

The Civil Defense team arrived at the site around midnight to evacuate the residents.

As soon as the situation was reported to the Control and Control Room of the General Directorate of Civil Defense from the main operations room, eight vehicles and 26 officers



Firefighters arrive at the site

rushed to the location.

Investigations are under way to find out the cause of the fire.

An incident that occurred in Sehla and resulted in a 36-year-old woman suffocating to death in a house fire was pre-

viously reported by The Daily Tribune.

According to preliminary investigations, the fire was caused by a short circuit in one of the home's air conditioners.

The General Directorate of Civil Defense has registered 774 violations related to fire protection conditions against shops, restaurants and bakeries in the last two years.

The violations were reported during inspection campaigns conducted by the Protection and Safety Directorate to protect lives and property.

BDF-National Guard cooperation



Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshall Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received yesterday the Commander of the National Guard, General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa. They reviewed the aspects of the ongoing cooperation and coordination between the BDF and the National Guard.

Bahrain ideal place for a 'clean' solar energy

GCC countries have some of the highest solar exposures in the world

● Renewable energy leads countries to become more ecology-friendly

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

As the world faces catastrophic climate change and global warming, countries are beginning to invest in renewable energy, specifically solar energy, which plays a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change.

What is solar energy? Solar energy is a clean energy that creates no carbon emissions or other heat trapping greenhouse gases and avoids environmental damage associated with mining or drilling for fossil fuels. Another benefit of solar energy is that it uses little to no water.

Also, clean energies as such usually encompass energy in naturally occurring elements, by using wind, biomass, water, and the sun.

GCC countries like Bahrain are ideal when it comes to solar energy, as they have some of the highest solar exposures in the world. For instance, a solar-photovoltaic panel in a GCC produces twice as much output as it would in Germany or any similar European country, sources say.



“As Bahrain and other GCC countries are known for their hot and sunny weather, the region is the ideal place for solar energy. Private homes could save between BD370 and BD400 per KW annually, lessening their monthly EWA bills.”

- RABIE ABDALLA, FOUNDER AND CEO OF INTELLIGENT RENEWABLE TRADING

Furthermore, the more GCC countries invest in renewable energy, the more benefits they will receive such as major reduction in the solar electricity prices in the region, attracting more investors in the renewable energy business, the rise of innovative design of houses to utilise its structure in installation, and the rise of service and maintenance of solar technolo-



Solar panels offer great potential to save money on monthly utility bill

gy companies.

On top of this, renewable energy leads and encourages countries to become more environmentally friendly. Not only can renewable energy lead countries to become more environmentally friendly within a large-scale, but clean energy can also impact a country on the smaller scale, such as private homes.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Rabie Abdalla, founder and CEO of Intelligent Renewable Trading, said that homeowners are beginning to realise the advantage and immense monthly savings by investing in solar panels to power their homes. Many homeowners who invest in solar panels to power their homes are saving enormous amounts in terms of consumption.

“As Bahrain and other GCC countries are known for their

hot and sunny weather, the region is the ideal place for solar energy. Private homes could save between BD370 and BD400 per KW annually, lessening their monthly EWA bills,” Rabie said.

He noted that by using such types of green energy in the Kingdom, it helps to reduce the load from the electrical grid, whilst protecting the natural environment.

The Bahrain government has been aiming its efforts towards designing energy efficiency policies and promoting renewable energy technologies that supports Bahrain's long-term climate action and environmental protection ambitions.

Bahrain's proposed renewable energy pipeline consists of solar, wind, and waste energy technologies, with plans to capture the majority of Bahrain's renewable energy mix from solar power.

Bahrain marks World Immunisation Week

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health Undersecretary, Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, opened a celebration marking World Immunisation Week, observed worldwide under the theme “The Big Catch-up”.

The event was organised by the Public Health Directorate under the patronage of the Health Minister, Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan.

World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean has recently commended the Kingdom's efforts to combat measles and rubella, reflecting the leadership's constant support for preventive programmes, Dr. Al Manea said.

The Undersecretary outlined Bahrain's efforts to address infectious diseases and control pandemics through vaccines, including its success story in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic which was ac-



Dr Al Manea speaks at the event

claimed by WHO.

Dr Al Manea said that in line with health strategies implemented by Bahrain, new vaccinations are added to the National Immunization Programme based on international and local scientific updates and recommendations. He added that there was a recommendation to add the HPV vaccine to the programme, giving it to females and males between the ages 12-13 years to protect them from cervical cancer in females and other cancers in males.

Internet and social media are dangerous for 'disinformation and fake news', say experts



Social media can be a source of misinformation and addiction

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

At the start of 2023, there were 1.46 million internet users in Bahrain, and as the Kingdom is home to around 1.46 million people, this figure indicates that a total of 98.7 percent of the population were active on social media, according to the latest report from DataReportal.

Why do so many people use social media?

The Global DataReportal report claims that “finding information” is the primary reason why people use the internet today.

Finding information accounts for 57.8 per cent, staying in touch with friends and family accounts for 53.7 per cent, staying up to date with news and current events accounts for 50.9 per cent, and watching videos accounts for 49.7 per cent.

Whilst the internet and social media can be an outlet or a positive thing for many, the

online world also poses grave dangers that users should be aware of. The risk of encountering disinformation or fake news across digital platforms is growing quickly, and it is also becoming more difficult to spot or identify fake news and misinformation.

According to data, more than 40 per cent of news shared on social media was found to be fake, which evidently harms a society. Fake news can affect societal values and change opinions on critical issues by reforming and redefining facts and truths that can ultimately divide a society.

Not only can social media be dangerous in terms of fake news, but many users use social media or the internet as an escape from reality. We live in a world where we are exposed to millions of people's lives, where individuals are choosing wisely what to post, meaning people are taking the best parts of their lives to social media and keeping the negative hidden.

Manama Souq offers 'international' bazaar-like shopping experience

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The Manama Souq is one of the busiest and noisiest streets where you can experience a typical bazaar-like shopping experience while watching cars struggle to maneuver through crowds of people shopping.

Even if you are not looking for anything to buy, it is worth walking around the souq. From the colourful and most artistic way in which spices are kept, endless rows of brightly coloured clothes, and dimly lit cafes, the souq keeps surprising you



The Manama Souq is a shopper's paradise offering a wide variety of goods and a unique bazaar experience

at every turn you take.

One of the things the Kingdom doesn't lack is modern malls featuring many of the

same popular retailers found in the US or Europe. But in souq here, ancient traditions meet modern lifestyles.

It's chaotic with intense smells good and bad, coming from all directions; the trash bins in all alleys; Arabic sweets shops; bins of spices. Vendors spray potent perfume into the air as we pass, hoping to tempt us to enter their shops.

The Kingdom is known for its gold and pearls and within the souq there is the Gold Souq, a building with dozens of jewelry stores.

The Daily Tribune explored the souq and discovered that it has evolved into a sort of international bazaar as well, with goods from Egypt, Pakistan, and India.

NOTICE

With regard to the license cancellation

of “AF Willis Bahrain E.C.”

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (20) of 2023 pertaining to the cancellation of the Insurance Brokers license of “AF Willis Bahrain E.C.” issued on 15th Ramadan 1444H, corresponding to 6th April 2023, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Insurance Brokers license of “AF Willis Bahrain E.C.” issued on 30th May 1981, registered under commercial registration No. 11386 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

Note: It is worth noting that during December 2021 all business portfolio of AF Willis Bahrain (E.C.) was transferred to AF Willis Bahrain (W.L.L.), which currently provides its services in the Kingdom of Bahrain as usual.



Royal Guard honoured

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has conferred the State Medal and Order of Supreme Sacrifice on the search and rescue taskforce of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF)'s Royal Guard. The honouring ceremony was held in recognition of the tremendous efforts exerted by the Royal Guard's taskforce during the “Arms of Relief” mission to support those affected by the devastating earthquake that had struck Turkey and Syria, carried out in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister.

Bahrain's TRA to host Global 6G Summit in May

TDT | Manama

On the 3rd and 4th of May, Bahrain's Telecommunications and Regulatory Authority (TRA) is hosting the Global 6G Summit in conjunction with Forum Global, bringing together representatives from many industries and global policy makers to discuss the next generation of mobile technology.

Panel discussions and keynote speeches will involve experts from Bahrain, the UAE, Jordan, Thailand, China, Europe, UK, Canada, and other countries on a wide range of 6G subjects, including research and development, cybersecurity, new business models, and sustainability.

Commenting on the event, TRA General Director, Philip Marnick said: "The advancement of 6G technology is projected to usher in a new era of communications that will have a profound impact on industries, from healthcare and transportation to education and entertainment."

The advancement of 6G technology is projected to usher in a new era of communications that will have a profound impact on industries, from healthcare and transportation to education and entertainment

TRA GENERAL DIRECTOR, PHILIP MARNICK

jected to usher in a new era of communications that will have a profound impact on industries, from healthcare and transportation to education and entertainment. It will also enable consumers to have a fully immersive on-line experience. The Global 6G Summit is a unique opportunity for stakeholders to share their knowledge and insights, exchange ideas, and collaborate on the development of this ground-breaking technology. Bahrain's hosting of this international event highlights its leadership in communications and commitment to staying at the forefront of innovation."

Launched in 2022 as a virtual event, the Global 6G Summit brings together top-level industry and policy representatives from around the world to explore the path to 2030 and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The official website provides detailed information about complimentary registration and panel sessions for this year's event.



Launched in 2022 as a virtual event, the Global 6G Summit brings together top-level industry and policy representatives from around the world to explore the path to 2030 and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead

Lulu's popular Italian food fest 'Let's Eatalian' returns

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket is launching its annual "Let's Eatalian" gastronomic festival, which features Italian food and products, as well as gourmet culinary traditions, as it brings the wholesome goodness of Italy's delightful cuisine to all LuLu shoppers.

From today to May 6th, the festival will be held at all 9 LuLu Hypermarkets in Bahrain.

The event showcases a wide range of Italian specialities, with excellent cheese, Italian chocolate, fruit jams, sweet and savoury puff pastries, and Italian apples available at reduced prices.

Italian kitchen staples such as balsamic vinegar, olive oil, organic pasta, and ready-to-go pesto and tomato sauces will be available.

Adriano Laureti, who is known for playing Italian music, will perform a Saxophone concert at the inauguration ceremony on April 27th at Lulu Atrium Mall in Saar.

Shoppers can learn from the culinary expertise of Italian

The inauguration today at Lulu Atrium Mall Saar will feature a Saxophone concert of Italian music By Adriano Laureti and a cookery demo of by Italian speciality Chef Simona Girelli from The Domain Hotel

speciality Chef Simona Girelli from The Domain Hotel, who will provide a cookery demonstration.

High-quality premium ingredients such as olives, peeled tomatoes, and cakes are also sold under LuLu's in-house label.

They also sell organic pasta, infused extra-virgin olive oil, and high-quality sea-salt, amongst other cupboard essentials.

Hungry customers can also indulge in various Italian cuisines made by LuLu Hypermarkets' kitchen, cooked with the finest ingredients.

The festival is one that celebrates Italy's food, food products, and gourmet culinary traditions.

Demand for electric cars 'booming': IEA

AFP | London

In its annual report on electric vehicles, the IEA said it expects annual sales to rise 35 percent this year to reach 14 million.

It projected that to be a market share of 18 percent, up from four percent in 2020. The IEA said the overwhelming majority of electric car sales are concentrated in three markets: China, Europe and the US.

UK blocks Microsoft's Activision takeover

Britain blocks Microsoft's \$69-bn bid for 'Call of Duty' games giant

UK argues it would harm competition in cloud gaming

AFP | London

Britain yesterday blocked Microsoft's \$69-billion takeover of "Call of Duty" video games giant Activision Blizzard, arguing it would harm competition in cloud gaming.

The ruling will be appealed by both US companies -- but analysts warned it could spell game over for the gigantic takeover of Activision, whose hit titles also include "Candy Crush" and "World of Warcraft".

Xbox-owner Microsoft launched its audacious bid for Activision in early 2022 to create the world's third biggest gaming firm by revenue after China's Tencent and Japan's PlayStation maker Sony, triggering antitrust concerns.

Following its lengthy probe, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority announced yesterday it has prevented the deal "over concerns... (it) would alter the future of the fast-growing cloud gaming market, leading to reduced innovation and less choice for UK gamers over the years to come".

Both firms said they will ap-



The logo of Microsoft is seen at an exhibition (file photo)

Microsoft already enjoys a powerful position and head start over other competitors in cloud gaming and this deal would strengthen that advantage, giving it the ability to undermine new and innovative competitors

MARTIN COLEMAN, CHAIR OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL OF EXPERTS CONDUCTING THE CMA PROBE

peal and expressed deep disappointment over Britain's decision regarding the gigantic takeover.

Activision threatened to

reassess its growth plans for Britain amid chances that the deal could now be blocked elsewhere, although it has been approved in Japan.

'Game over?'

"If the competition appeal tribunal (in Britain) confirms the decision, it's Game Over for Microsoft," said Anne Witt, a professor of anti-trust law at EDHEC business school in France.

"If Microsoft is in the UK market, it has to abide by the rules. It's the price you pay to be a global player," she told AFP.

Microsoft is seeking to further tap into booming demand for cloud services that stream gameplay over a range of devices like mobile phones and tablets.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Microsoft is seeking to further tap into booming demand for cloud services that stream gameplay over a range of devices like mobile phones and tablets

But it already accounts for between 60 percent and 70 percent of cloud gaming services, according to a CMA analysis.

"The deal would reinforce Microsoft's advantage in the market by giving it control over important gaming content such as Call of Duty, Overwatch, and World of Warcraft," it said.

"The evidence available to the CMA indicates that, absent the merger, Activision would start providing games via cloud platforms in the foreseeable future."

In addition, the CMA said Microsoft's proposed remedies over cloud gaming contained "significant shortcomings" and would require further regulatory oversight instead of allowing the market to decide and the industry to shape its own future.

Boeing reports another loss in Q1, but confirms forecast

AFP | Washington

Boeing reported a bigger-than-expected quarterly loss yesterday due to persistent quality control problems with its jets, but shares rallied as it maintained key medium- and long-term targets.

The company reported a loss of \$425 million, compared with a \$1.2 billion loss in the year-ago period, reflecting the continued drag from supply chain issues across its commercial and defense businesses.

Boeing's revenues came in at



A Boeing 737-A during the presentation of Boeing's ecoDemonstrator program

\$17.9 billion, up 28 percent from the year-ago period and topping analyst expectations, but under the level of the pre-pandemic 2019 first quarter.

The planemaker affirmed its

Boeing's commercial plane program has been beset with various manufacturing and quality control issues that have limited deliveries for its top-selling jets, the 737 and 787

full-year outlook for operating cash flow, a key metric, and for 737 plane deliveries in 2023.

Boeing executives also expressed hope of a resumption

of new plane deliveries to China after regulators in the huge market released an aircraft evaluation report for the 737 MAX.

"We are progressing through recent supply chain disruptions but remain confident in the goals we set for this year, as well as for the longer term," said Chief Executive Dave Calhoun.

"Demand is strong across our key markets and we are growing investments to advance our development programs and innovate strategic capabilities for our customers and for our future."

Bahrain Bourse announces direct subscription for Government Development Bond Issue 32 today

TDT | Manama

Bahraini and non-Bahraini investors will be able to directly subscribe to the Government Development Bond Issue 32 through Bahrain Bourse today, according to an announcement by Bahrain Bourse.

The bond, worth BHD 200 million, was issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) on behalf of the Government of Bahrain.

Investors can place their orders through registered brokers at Bahrain Bourse between 9:30am and 11:00am, with a minimum subscription size of 500 bonds per subscriber.



A general view inside Bahrain Bourse

The first 10,000 bonds will be allocated on a first-come,

first-served basis, with any remaining quantity allocated on a

pro-rata basis.

The bond has a par value of BHD 1 and a fixed annual return of 5.875%.

It will mature on May 3rd, 2025, after a two-year term.

Payments will be made bi-annually on May 3rd and November 3rd each year throughout the bond's term.

The bond is expected to be listed on the secondary market at Bahrain Bourse starting from May 10th, 2023.

The Government of Bahrain has directly guaranteed the bond securities, and the CBB issued the bond on behalf of the government.

News in brief

Ten Indian police killed in Maoist rebel attack



Ten police and their driver were killed in India's central Chhattisgarh state yesterday when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, an attack police blamed on Maoist rebels. India's long-running Maoist insurgency began in the 1960s and has cost thousands of lives in the decades since, although violence has died down considerably in recent years. Yesterday's deaths were the worst casualties for security forces in more than two years and claimed the lives of police reservists returning from a mission to investigate rebel movements in remote Dantewada district.

Germany and Britain intercepted three Russian military reconnaissance aircraft over the Baltic Sea, the German air force said yesterday.

Russian military aircraft intercepted over Baltic Sea: Germany



Reconnaissance flights intercepted. German and British Eurofighters were alerted to identify three military aircraft. The two SU-27 Flankers and a IL-20 from Russia were flying again without transponder signals in international airspace over the Baltic Sea," said the air force on Twitter. As a NATO member, Germany participates in monitoring the air space over the Baltic states. Security has been heightened for the Baltic states after Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

American Samoa declares measles emergency



The US Pacific territory of American Samoa has declared a measles emergency, prompting its nearest island neighbour to announce travel restrictions yesterday. After one confirmed and 31 probable cases of the viral infection, American Samoa's governor Lemanu Mauga declared a public health emergency, fearing a potentially deadly outbreak. The Pacific territory is home to about 50,000 people, including a sizable contingent of US military personnel. The suspected cases include children who have been hospitalised, but are under six months old and ineligible for the vaccine, the government has said.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Milky Way's fate? Astronomers reveal what ignites quasars



An artist's impression of how the distant quasar P172+18 and its radio jets may have looked

AFP | Paris

Astronomers said yesterday that for the first time they have confirmed what ignites quasars, the brightest and most powerful objects in the universe, which put galaxies in their "death throes".

These celestial behemoths form when two galaxies smash into each other, the astronomers said, warning that this could be the Milky Way's fate in a few billion years.

Quasars are one of the most extreme objects in the universe, some shining with the brightness of a trillion stars despite being packed into the space of our Solar System.

They sit in the heart of galaxies, powered by supermassive black holes, requiring a huge amount of gas to be so staggeringly bright.

But exactly what creates quasars has been a matter of debate since their discovery in the 1950s.

In a new study, an international team of researchers said they have "clear evidence" that quasars are triggered by two galaxies colliding, which releases the vast amounts of energy needed.



Quasars are one of the most extreme objects in the universe, some shining with the brightness of a trillion stars despite being packed into the space of our Solar System

Clive Tadhunter, an astrophysicist at the University of Sheffield in the UK and one of the study's authors, told AFP that this could be the fate of the Milky Way one day.

The nearby Andromeda Galaxy is "coming directly towards us at about 200 kilometres (125 miles) a second," he said.

It will collide with the Milky Way in roughly five billion years, and "we could get a quasar" as a result, he said.

Quasars push out all the gas from a galaxy, preventing any new stars from forming, he added.

Fighting mars Sudan's war as ex-regime members

Sudanese war crimes suspect, other members of ousted regime escape prison

Fuel shortages, the soaring cost of food and a growing number of hospitals bombed out of service are worsening the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Sudan

AFP | Khartoum

A Sudanese war crimes suspect has escaped jail amid heavy battles that have rocked the country, along with other members of the Islamist regime ousted in 2019, heightening fears for a fragile ceasefire amid new clashes yesterday.

Anti-aircraft guns targeted fighter jets over Khartoum's sister city of Omdurman, witnesses told AFP, after the army launched air strikes against rival paramilitary forces in the capital late Tuesday.

Amid the chaos -- which has killed hundreds, sparked a mass flight of terrified foreigners and



Sudanese army soldiers, loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, man a position in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan

Sudanese citizens, and deepened a humanitarian crisis -- Ahmed Harun, a leading figure of the regime of deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir, said he had escaped prison.

Harun, who led the regime's infamous counter-insurgency campaign in the western Darfur region in the mid-2000s and is wanted for war crimes by the In-

ternational Criminal Court, said he had broken out of the capital's Kober prison.

After being trapped in the empty jail in "the crossfire of this current battle", Harun said in a recorded TV address that he and fellow ex-regime members had taken "our protection in our own hands".

The fighting has pitted army

chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which emerged from the Janjaweed militia that Bashir unleashed in Darfur.

The Darfur conflict left some 300,000 dead and 2.5 million displaced, according to the UN.

It was unclear which side may have helped to free the former regime members, but an RSF statement early yesterday claimed the conflict was "a cover" by "coup leaders" to "get the leaders of the deposed regime out of prison".

Multiple foreign governments have frantically organised road convoys, aircraft and ships to get thousands of their nationals out of Sudan, and citizens have fled overland to neighbouring countries.

The UN said it has "received reports of tens of thousands of people arriving in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan".

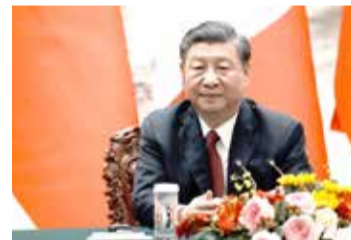
China's Xi holds call with Ukraine's Zelensky

AFP | Kyiv

Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky by phone yesterday, the first known call between the two leaders since the start of Russia's invasion.

The nearly one-hour discussion, which reportedly included Xi advocating for peace negotiations, was met by Russian accusations that Ukraine was undermining efforts to end the fighting.

Beijing says it is neutral in the Ukraine conflict and Xi has never condemned the Russian invasion, but the Chinese leader has come under increased pressure from Western nations



Xi Jinping

to step in and mediate.

A 12-point "position paper" published by China in February was seen by many Western governments as skewed towards Russia, and a friendly Moscow visit in March by Xi to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin led to widespread criticism.

"I had a long and meaningful phone call with President Xi Jinping," Zelensky said on

Twitter.

"I believe that this call, as well as the appointment of Ukraine's ambassador to China, will give a powerful impetus to the development of our bilateral relations," he wrote.

Zelensky's spokesman Sergiy Nykyforov said on Facebook that the two leaders had "an almost one-hour-long telephone conversation".

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that during the call -- which was initiated by Kyiv -- Xi told Zelensky that "talks and negotiation" were the "only way out" of the war.

"On the issue of the Ukraine crisis, China has always stood on the side of peace and its core position is to promote peace



I believe that this call, as well as the appointment of Ukraine's ambassador to China, will give a powerful impetus to the development of our bilateral relations

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

talks," CCTV reported Xi as saying.

According to a readout of the call, Xi said China "will neither watch the fire from the other side, nor add fuel to the fire, let alone take advantage of the crisis to profit".

Hard landing: Japan firm fails in historic Moon bid

AFP | Tokyo

Japanese start-up ispace conceded yesterday its ambitious attempt to become the first private company to land on the Moon had failed but pledged to move ahead with new missions.

The unmanned Hakuto-R Mission 1 lander had been scheduled to arrive on the Moon's surface overnight but communications were lost during its descent and had still not been reestablished 25 minutes after the scheduled landing.

"It has been determined that there is a high probability that the lander eventually made a hard landing on the Moon's surface," ispace said in a statement.



Hakuto-R Mission 1 lander stored in the fairing of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket

The company said its engineers were working to establish why the landing had failed.

"Although we do not expect to complete the lunar landing at this time, we believe that we have fully accomplished the significance of this mission, having acquired a great deal of data and experience," ispace CEO



So far, only the United States, Russia and China have managed to put a spacecraft on the lunar surface, all through government-sponsored programmes

and founder Takeshi Hakamada said.

"What is important is to feed

this knowledge and learning back to Mission 2 and beyond," he said.

Hakamada said the firm is developing two further attempts to land on the lunar surface and the setback would not change that.

Still, the apparent crash marks a frustrating end to a mission that began with the lander's launch last December aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

The vessel was carrying payloads from several countries, including a lunar rover from the United Arab Emirates.

Chief technology officer Ryo Ujiie became emotional as he addressed reporters, describing the attempt as a "very precious experience".

1565

1st Spanish settlement in the Philippines forms at Cebu City

1865

Steamboat "SS Sultana" explodes in the Mississippi River, killing up to 1,800 of the 2,427 passengers in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history



1904

The Australian Labor Party under Prime Minister Chris Watson becomes the first Labor government in the world

1945

Italian partisans capture Benito Mussolini at Dongo (Lake Como)

2005

The superjumbo jet aircraft Airbus A380 makes its first flight from Toulouse, France

Shaky truce flee prison



A US-brokered cease-fire between Sudan's warring generals enters its second day but remains fragile as witnesses report continuing air strikes and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group says it has seized an oil refinery and power plant

But the army said he and others had been transferred to a military hospital before fighting erupted on April 15 "due to their health conditions", and that they remained under judicial police guard.

The military toppled Islamist-backed Bashir in April 2019 following civilian mass protests that raised hopes for a transition to democracy.

Burhan and Daglo seized full power in a 2021 coup, but have now fallen out and gone to war, hurling Sudan into deeper turmoil.

The fighting, which has involved air strikes and artillery exchanges, has killed at least 459 people and wounded more than 4,000, UN agencies report, and reduced some districts of greater Khartoum to ruins.

The UN representative to Sudan, Volker Perthes, told the UN Security Council that "both of the warring parties have fought with disregard for the laws and norms of war".

'Disregard for norms of war'

Bashir, 79, who was ousted by the military in 2019 in the wake of mass pro-democracy protests, had himself been held in Kober prison.

US, Philippine troops fire rockets at ship in largest-ever drills



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos (C) waves to photographers after inspecting a high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS)

AFP | Manila

US and Philippine troops fired a salvo of rockets at a warship representing an enemy vessel in the disputed South China Sea yesterday, in the final exercise of the allies' largest-ever military drills.

It was the first time the countries had conducted a joint live-fire exercise in the hotly contested waters, which China claims almost entirely.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who has sought stronger defence ties with the United States, sat in an observation tower with US and Philippine officials watching the event north of Manila.

"No Hollywood effects this morning, this is old-fashioned training," said Lieutenant Colonel Nick Mannweiler, a US Marine Corps public affairs officer.

The live-fire drill kicked off with the US HIMARS precision rocket system launching a series of rounds at a decommissioned Philippine Navy corvette an-

The live-fire drill kicked off with the US HIMARS precision rocket system launching a series of rounds at a decommissioned Philippine Navy corvette anchored about 22 kilometres (14 miles) off the coast

chored about 22 kilometres (14 miles) off the coast.

The ship, which represented an enemy vessel approaching the Philippine shore, was sunk by guided bombs dropped by US Marines F-35B Lightning II fighter aircraft, a US military spokesman said in an email.

Artillery units also lined up along a grassy field to fire rockets at floating drums 10 kilometres offshore.

F-16 Fighting Falcons, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and Philippine Air Force FA-50 fighter jets also took part.

Taliban forces kill airport bombing planner

AFP | Washington

Taliban government forces have killed the Islamic State mastermind of a devastating suicide bomb attack at the Kabul airport during the chaotic withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in 2021, the White House said.

The bomber detonated a device among packed crowds at the airport's perimeter as they tried to flee Afghanistan on August 26, 2021. The blast killed some 170 Afghans and 13 US troops who were securing the airport for the traumatic exit.

It was one of the deadliest bombings in Afghanistan and prompted a wave of criticism of President Joe Biden for his decision to pull American forces out of the country nearly 20 years after the US invasion.

The leader of the Islamic State cell that planned the attack has since been killed by Taliban authorities, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

"He was a key ISIS-K official directly involved in plotting operations like Abbey Gate, and now is no longer able to plot or conduct attacks," Kirby said, referring to the spot outside the airport where the attack took place.

ISIS-K refers to Islamic State Khorasan, the branch of the group operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"He was killed in a Taliban operation," Kirby added without giving any details of it.

Taliban government officials have so far not responded to AFP requests for comment.



A Taliban security personnel talks with a flag vendor (file photo)



He was a key ISIS-K official directly involved in plotting operations like Abbey Gate, and now is no longer able to plot or conduct attacks

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY SPOKESMAN JOHN KIRBY

The pullout, ending on August 30, 2021, saw Taliban fighters sweep aside Western-trained Afghan forces in just weeks, forcing the last US troops to mount the desperate evacuation from Kabul's airport.

An unprecedented military airlift operation managed to get more than 120,000 people out of the country in a matter of days.

Biden has long defended his decision to leave Afghanistan, which critics have said helped cause the catastrophic collapse of Afghan forces and paved the way for the Taliban to return to power two decades after their

Thai woman accused of killing nine people with cyanide

Investigators believe money was the motive in the killings

AFP | Bangkok

Thai police have arrested the wife of a senior officer on suspicion of murdering nine people by poisoning them with cyanide, officials said yesterday.

The woman, aged in her 30s, was arrested in Bangkok on Tuesday over the killings, which took place over several years.



The suspect went to have dinner with (a woman), who threw up but survived. She is also the wife of a policeman

SURACHATE HAKPARN, THE DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

Investigators believe money was the motive in the killings, Royal Thai Police spokesperson Archayon Kraithong told AFP.

Surachate Hakparn, the deputy national police chief told reporters that a 10th victim had

survived after vomiting.

"The suspect went to have dinner with (a woman), who threw up but survived. She is also the wife of a policeman," Surachate said.

Police said the woman denies all the allegations against her.

"The autopsy has found out that there is cyanide in the bodies," Surachate told reporters.

"So it means that the victims have taken the poison by mouth."

Police initially suspected the woman of murdering her friend in Ratchaburi province, west of Bangkok, about two weeks ago.

Russia's Navalny says he could face life in prison

AFP | Moscow

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny said yesterday he could face life in prison on "terrorism" charges.

Navalny's team says authorities are preparing a major new trial against the arch-foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"They have brought absurd charges against me, according to which I am facing up to 35 years," said Navalny, who wore his prison uniform and appeared gaunt but defiant.

Navalny, 46, said that within the framework of the new extremism case he was told he would be separately judged by



Alexei Navalny is seen on a screen via a video link

a military tribunal over "terrorism" charges.

He said he could face life in prison.

Last October, Navalny said that investigators had launched a new criminal case against him on allegations of "extremism" and "terrorism" and "rehabili-



They have brought absurd charges against me, according to which I am facing up to 35 years

ALEXEI NAVALNY

tating the Nazi ideology".

The court gave Navalny until May 5 to read the 196 tomes of materials comprising the extremism case, his team said.

Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said a new major trial against the opposition politician was expected to begin "before the end of May."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The conflict in Sudan will not, and must not, be resolved on the battlefield. Sudanese leaders must put the interests of their people front and centre, and silence the guns.

@antoniogetterres

02



#Climate was a central topic during the @WorldBank #SpringMeetings. We need advocacy, analytical work such as thru our #CCDRs & financing, and increased mobilization of the private sector. Despite the enormous needs, I am an optimist, and I know together we can make it happen!

@AxelVT_WB

03



To come out of today's economic & social challenges stronger, we need all stakeholders aboard. @EU_EESC & civil society play a determining role. Looking forward to fruitful cooperation with new President @oliverroepke. Heartfelt gratitude to @ChristaSchweng for your hard work.

@EP_President

04



In 2019 we promised to recruit 20,000 additional police officers in England and Wales to make our streets safer and protect communities. Today, I'm pleased to say we have delivered that promise.

@RishiSunak

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

Classifieds



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Kazakhstan MotoGP cancelled



Sokol International Racetrack
Reuters | London

The Kazakhstan MotoGP, scheduled for July 9, has been cancelled and will not be replaced on this year's world championship calendar, organisers announced yesterday.

"Ongoing homologation works at the circuit, paired with current global operational challenges, have obliged the cancellation of the 2023 event," the international motorcycling federation (FIM) said in a statement.

"MotoGP looks forward to visiting Sokol International Racetrack in 2024 to welcome a new region to the calendar. The event will not be replaced in 2023."

The cancellation means the world championship will now be contested over 20 Grand Prix races.

Three have already been staged, with the next race slated for the southern Spanish city of Jerez on Sunday.

Karunaratne, Madushka hit tons as Sri Lanka pile on runs

● **Mendis' 96-ball 83* help hosts put on 276 runs in 59 overs on rain-curtailed day**

AFP | Galle

Dimuth Karunaratne and Nishan Madushka both hit centuries as they amassed a record Sri Lankan opening stand in Galle of 228 in the second Test against Ireland yesterday.

The hosts were 357 for one at the close, still 135 runs behind but with nine wickets in hand.

Madushka was unbeaten on 149 at stumps, alongside Kusal Mendis, approaching a century of his own on 83, after Karunaratne departed for 115 -- the only wicket to fall on the third day of the match.

The first Test ended inside three days with Sri Lanka's spinners dominating, but the pitch in the second encounter has offered the spinners little assistance and the batsmen dominated proceedings.



Sri Lanka's Nishan Madushka (R) and Kusal Mendis run between the wickets

Captain Karunaratne reached the 16th century of his test career, and his second consecutive ton, in just 116 balls.

But the left-hander mistimed a pull shot off Curtis Campher and was caught at deep fine leg in the last over before lunch, two balls after he was hit on the helmet.

Madushka had already brought up his maiden Test century, pulling a Harry Tector full toss for six.

Their 228 was a record Sri Lankan opening partnership at the ground, eclipsing the 193 between Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya against South Africa in 2000.

Mendis and Madushka continued the run-fest, with the number three racing to his 83 off 96 balls with seven fours and five sixes, including three in a row off debutant left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys, who was rapidly taken out of

the attack.

Bad light interrupted play before tea, before the rains came down and it was called off for the day.

The prospect of a draw loomed large but Sri Lanka batting coach Naveed Nawaz insisted his side could still win the game "although rain has played havoc".

"There's a total of 180 overs left in the game now," he told reporters. "If we bat for another 90 overs, we'll be able to take a decent lead as our deficit is now

only 135.

"We have wickets in hand and this is still a good batting pitch."

Play will resume 15 minutes early on the final two days to make up for lost time.

Sri Lanka lead the two-match series 1-0.

Ireland fast bowling coach Ryan Eagleson conceded his team's bowlers "are still learning and are less experienced in Test cricket".

"So you have got to give them time and be patient," he said.



Captain Karunaratne reached the 16th century of his test career, and his second consecutive ton, in just 116 balls



There's a total of 180 overs left in the game now. If we bat for another 90 overs, we'll be able to take a decent lead as our deficit is now only 135. We have wickets in hand and this is still a good batting pitch

SRI LANKA BATTING COACH NAVEED NAWAZ

Magic's Paolo Banchero named NBA's Rookie of the Year



Paolo Banchero #5 of the Orlando Magic dunks during a game (file photo)

AFP | New York

The Orlando Magic's Paolo Banchero was named NBA rookie of the year on Tuesday after a dazzling debut season in the league.

Banchero, the No.1 pick in last year's draft, earned 98 out of 100 first place votes in the preferential ballot to determine the award.

The 20-year-old averaged 20 points, 6.9 rebounds and 3.7 assists in his maiden season and was a key figure in Orlando's resurgence.

Banchero made an immediate impact in the league, scoring 29 points with nine rebounds and five assists in his first game for Orlando last October.

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“It was just a goal I've always had, something I had my eye on from the second I got drafted. I'm glad I was able to do it

PAOLO BANCHERO

in an interview on Tuesday he had targeted winning rookie of the year as soon as he was drafted.

"It was just a goal I've always had, something I had my eye on from the second I got drafted," Banchero said. "I'm glad I was able to do it."

Banchero's season also saw him score 20 or more points across 40 games -- matching the tally LeBron James set in his rookie year.

Banchero is the 22nd player chosen with the first pick in the draft to win rookie of the year.

Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams was second in the voting for the award, while Utah's Walker Kessler placed third.

Young stunner as Hawks beat Celtics while Nuggets, Suns advance

AFP | New York

Trae Young nailed a last-gasp three-pointer as the Atlanta Hawks stunned the Boston Celtics 119-117 to keep their Eastern Conference postseason campaign alive on Tuesday, while Denver and Phoenix booked their places in the next round with series-clinching victories.

A nerve-jangling game in Boston was settled when Young drained a 29-footer with 1.8 seconds remaining to silence the Celtics' TD Garden crowd and set up a game six in Atlanta on Thursday.

Young, who finished with 38 points, 13 assists and four rebounds, said the Hawks had been determined to extend the series following the suspension of key guard Dejounte Murray.

Murray was suspended for one game after a clash with a referee after game four on Sunday.

"We were missing a big piece of ours and we want him to play game six, so we want to go back home and have him with us," Young said of Murray.

"I didn't feel there was any pressure on me. Obviously we were without (Murray) but we all had to step our game up another level -- not just me, we all did tonight. Total team win."

Hawks coach Quin Snyder praised his team's refusal to buckle in a game that the Celtics had controlled for long periods.



Trae Young #11 of the Atlanta Hawks shoots the ball against Robert Williams III #44 of the Boston Celtics

"We were tough-minded," Snyder said. "It's tough to be down through the whole game. We were hanging in there and hanging in there. We just didn't capitulate."

The Celtics, leading the series 3-1, had looked to be cruising to victory after dominating for most of the second half to lead by 13 points midway through the fourth quarter.

But with Boston poised to wrap up a 4-1 series victory, Young and the Hawks took over with a startling late rally in the closing minutes that whittled away the Celtics lead.

Young nailed back-to-back three-pointers to level the scores at 111-111 with 2:42 remaining and then hit three free throws to help Atlanta take a 114-113 lead.

Robert Williams handed Boston a one-point advantage to make it 115-114 to the Celtics with 25.6 seconds left on the clock.

But a rash foul by Boston's Marcus Smart presented Young with two more free throws to edge the Hawks into a 116-115 lead.

Young then had a nervous moment after conceding a foul on Derrick White, who shot two free throws to put the Celtics 117-116 ahead with 7.3 seconds left on the clock.

Young however responded superbly, calmly bringing the ball up court before launching a pullup three-pointer to give Atlanta a 119-117 lead before Boston's final desperate last attack fizzled.

While Boston were left ruing



I didn't feel there was any pressure on me. Obviously we were without (Murray) but we all had to step our game up another level -- not just me, we all did tonight. Total team win

TRAE YOUNG

a wasted opportunity to wrap up their series, there were no such concerns in the Western Conference for the top-seeded Denver Nuggets and fourth seeds Phoenix.

The Nuggets squeezed home 112-109 against the Minnesota Timberwolves to complete a 4-1 series win while the Suns wrapped up their series with the Los Angeles Clippers by the same margin with a 136-130 victory in Arizona.

The Nuggets, who will face Phoenix in the conference semi-finals, were made to work hard for their win by a Timberwolves team who jumped out to an early 15-point lead in the first quarter before gradually being reeled in.

Jamal Murray led the Nuggets scorers with 35 points while reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic bagged his second triple-double of the series with 28 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists.

Raducanu hit by another injury pulls out of Madrid Open

AFP | Madrid

Emma Raducanu is set to drop out of the top 100 less than two years since her shock win in the US Open after pulling out of the Madrid Open yesterday with a hand injury hours before her

first match.

The 20-year-old Briton, currently world number 85, was poised to face Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova in the Spanish capital, ahead of a potential clash with world number one Iga Swiatek in the second round.

The Briton was replaced by Austrian lucky loser Julia Grabher. Raducanu has been beset by health problems this year, suffering from a wrist injury during her first round defeat by Bianca Andreescu in the Miami Open in March.



Emma Raducanu

Loeb grabs superb stage victory to give BRX rally lead in Mexico

Sebastien Loeb Bahrain Raid Xtreme star keeps grip on world title race as Prodrive Hunters dominate in Sonora Rally

● **Sebastien Loeb grabs a slender three seconds overall advantage over Nasser Al Attiyah**

TDT | Manama

Sebastien Loeb took the outright lead in the Sonora Rally with a superb stage victory for Bahrain Raid Xtreme as Prodrive Hunters dominated second day proceedings in Mexico.

Partnered by Fabian Lurquin in his BRX Prodrive Hunter, Loeb secured a 2 mins 45 secs victory on the 162-km second stage from overnight leader Nasser Al Attiyah, to grab a slender three seconds overall advantage over his chief rival in the World Rally-Raid Championship.

The result means the nine-time World Rally Champion still has control in the WRC title



Sebastien Loeb and Fabian Lurquin in their Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter - winners on Stage 2 in Mexico

race, in which he led Al Attiyah by 16 points heading into the third round in Mexico.

It was an outstanding day for the Prodrive Hunters, which set four of the five fastest times on a stage guarded by giant cacti, and

it could have been better.

Guerlain Chicherit and Alex Winocq, last year's Rallye du Maroc winners, finished the day holding third place overall in their Hunter, despite losing front wheel drive over the last

“It was a good day and we took the win for Bahrain Raid Xtreme and for Prodrive. No problem at all. I tried to take a good pace from the start, even though the first kilometres were really tricky, a bit dangerous even, so I was a little cautious

SEBASTIEN LOEB

45 kilometres to be fifth on the stage.

Brazilian brothers Marcos and Cristian Baumgart powered the two other Hunters to the third and fourth fastest times, also securing top ten overall positions on only their second full competitive stage in the car.

Loeb benefited from a cautious approach early on as he



Loeb benefited from a cautious approach early on as he plotted his path through the cacti, which leaves troublesome spikes in the spare tyres on side of the Hunter, forcing the BRX technicians to handle with care at the bivouac

plotted his path through the cacti, which leaves troublesome spikes in the spare tyres on side of the Hunter, forcing the BRX technicians to handle with care at the bivouac.

“It was a good day and we took the win for Bahrain Raid Xtreme and for Prodrive,” he said at the finish. “No problem at all. I tried to take a good pace from the start, even though the first kilometres were really tricky, a bit dangerous even, so I was a little cautious.

“But after that it was a nice stage. Very narrow in some places and not easy to get through the cactus with a big car, but at the end we kept that pace right to the finish. We took the stage so now we open tomorrow, but for today it's a great result.”

Chicherit, who had set a scorching early pace, commented: “We had a good start, the speed was right there and we were really pushing until we stopped at the neutralisation.

“When we re-started, we lost the front wheel drive, so we did the last 45 kms on rear wheels drive. There was nothing we could do but just try to not lose too much at the end.”

Bahrain take part in Hangzhou Asian Games seminar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) officials Lounes Madene and Hassan Abdulrahim participated in the Chefs de Mission Seminar of the Hangzhou Asian Games, taking place later this year in China.

The two-day meeting was held yesterday and Tuesday in preparation for the 19th edition of the multi-sport competition, which is scheduled for September 23 to October 8.

During the conference, many topics were reviewed, including the number of sports, participants' registration in each,



Lounes Madene, left, and Hassan Abdulrahim during the seminar

anti-doping, training, housing, food, transportation, logistics, finance, media services, and all other issues.

The event's organising committee also organised field inspections of the facilities and stadiums, as well as the Olympic Village and Media Village.

Preparations for the Asian Games have stepped up and are in the final stages. There are 40 sports, including 61 disciplines and 483 events, expected to be held.

It will be the third time China are hosts, with the previous occasions in Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010.

Ten Hag tells Man Utd to expect 'mad' Tottenham



Manchester United's manager Erik ten Hag (C) looks at Facundo Pellistri (L) as Diogo Dalot prepares for a throw-in (file photo)

AFP | London

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag expects to face a “mad” Tottenham on Thursday following Spurs' humiliating 6-1 defeat by Newcastle but has insisted no opponent can be “hungrier” than we are.

Spurs' embarrassing loss to the Magpies led to the sacking of acting head coach Christian Stellini, with the 48-year-old spending less than a month in charge after replacing Antonio Conte.

Tottenham have now appointed Ryan Mason as their caretaker boss.

United are currently fourth in the Premier League, six points clear of Spurs and with two games in hand.

They travel to north London

United are currently fourth in the Premier League, six points clear of Spurs and with two games in hand

“It's obvious they (Tottenham) had a really bad defeat. Of course, then they are mad. That can be fuel for bouncing back. But it's about us. An opponent can never be more hungry than we (are), so that is how we have to prepare the game

ERIK TEN HAG

still eyeing a Cup double, after Sunday's FA Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out win over Brighton at Wembley, having already lifted the League Cup this season.

But United themselves have had to recover from some disappointing results this season, with Ten Hag telling a pre-match news conference yesterday: “We had some, not so often, that we have to bounce back.

Newcastle boss Howe weighing up Gordon role against Everton

AFP | London

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe will have no qualms over fielding Anthony Gordon at former club Everton on Thursday as the Magpies continue their quest for Champions League qualification.

Gordon, 22, left Goodison Park for Newcastle in the January transfer window, for a fee that could rise to £45 million (\$56 million), with his move from his native city of Liverpool sparking an angry response among some Everton fans.

The winger has had to wait for his chances at St James' Park and was clearly frustrated when substituted at Brentford earlier this month, having started just two games for his new club.

Howe, asked at a pre-match news conference yesterday if he was concerned about a hostile reception Gordon could receive at Goodison, replied: “You don't want to have or do anything that impacts the team, which is the most important thing.



Newcastle United's Anthony Gordon (L) vies with Manchester City's Phil Foden (R) (file photo)

“This is something surrounding the game, but is not influencing the game in terms of tactical preparation.”

“There is nothing I can do to change that. It's something we need to be mindful of, but I'm not too sure -- other than concentrating on how we play -- what we can do.”

When the Toffees announced

Gordon's exit, Everton said the player, confronted by angry fans as he left Goodison following a 2-1 defeat by Southampton in January, had submitted a formal transfer request.

He has since said the situation regarding his departure from the club was “misconstrued”, but Howe said Gordon had to play the game rather than the

“I am really pleased with him and I know he will be a high-quality player for us in the future and I know he is going to be the right signing for us because of the way he has reacted to the move

ANTHONY GORDON

occasion.

“It's staying very present and not thinking too much, just play the game -- which is easier said than done in that environment where probably all eyes will be, he'll feel, focused on him,” explained Howe. “I don't want it to become a big talking point in the game.

“For me, it's not important. It's important for Anthony and it's important that he comes through the game in a good way, but what's important is that the team functions and we show our best selves.”

Bahrain capture double gold

Noora Salem Jasim, Bontu Rebitu clinch titles on day one of third West Asian Athletics Championships in Doha

TDI | Manama

Bahrain struck gold twice last night on the opening day of the third West Asian Athletics Championships, being held at Suheim bin Hamad Stadium at Qatar SC in Doha.

Bahrainis Noora Salem Jasim and Bontu Rebitu each came away with the gold medals in their respective events. Noora captured the title in the women's shot put, while Bontu won her crown in the women's 10,000 metres.

The pair were the only two Bahrainis in action yesterday at the Qatari capital, where Bahrain are one of 12 national teams from across the region taking part.

In the women's shot put, Noora was dominant in clinching first place, registering a best throw of 15.05 metres. The silver-medallist from the UAE had a mark of 11.91m, while the



Noora Salem Jasim celebrates on the podium with Bahrain national team official and former international sprinter Faten Abdulnabi

bronze-medallist from Kuwait put in a top throw of 11.39m.

In the women's 10,000m, Bontu was also in a class of her own, completing the race in a total time of 34 minutes 43.84 seconds. The runner-up from Iraq finished far behind in 44:46.27. With the women's 10,000m

gold secured, Bontu will be looking for a long-distance double when she competes in the women's 5,000m final tomorrow.

Bahrain have an eight-athlete squad in Qatar.

Set to compete today are Dawit Fikadu and Abdulghani Mohammed Hameed in the men's



Bontu Rebitu celebrates with her gold medal alongside Bahrain officials

10,000m final, while Abdelrahman Mahmoud will be going for gold in the men's shot put.

Amongst the women today, Fatima Mubarak Issa will be contesting the women's long jump, while Marta Hirpato Yota will be running in the women's 800m final.

Also in the West Asian event

for Bahrain is Tigest Mekonen, who will be running the women's 1,500m.

The other countries taking part in Doha are Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Palestine, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen and hosts Qatar.

The meeting is scheduled to

conclude on Saturday.

Juniors

Meanwhile, Bahrain's youth national athletics team kick off their participation today in the fifth Asian U18 Athletics Championships, being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Four of the Kingdom's five up-and-coming athletes are set to take to the track in their respective races. They include Maysa Al Tamimi and Laila Kamal in the girls' 100m, and Abbas Mohammed in the boys' 100m, who will each begin their medal bids in the heats.

Abdulaziz Mohammed will also be in action. He will be going for gold in the boys' 1,500m final, which will feature 13 athletes in all.

Bahrain's athletes are among 524 boys and girls, representing 40 countries, taking part in the event.

Khaldiya keep title hopes alive

● **Al Khaldiya edge past Al Hala 2-1, move one point behind league leaders Manama**

● **Riffa beat East Riffa 1-0, stay with mathematical chance to retain league crown**

TDI | Manama

Al Khaldiya moved to just a single point behind leaders Manama last night at the top of the table in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League following a crucial 2-1 victory over Al Hala in their week 20 match.

Ismaeel Abdullatif and Samy Frioui were both on target within a three-minute span in the first half to help lift Khaldiya to their win.

Abdullatif supplied their first goal with some brilliant individual skill, lobbing the ball over the Hala goalkeeper and tapping it into an open net. Frioui then



Ismaeel Abdullatif looks to evade the Hala goalkeeper en route to scoring his team's first goal

doubled their advantage with a volley in the face of goal, with Abdullatif this time providing the assist from the right wing.

Hala got a goal back through Yahya Anfahi in the 44th minute. He overpowered his defender and sent the ball home from the six-yard box.

With the result, Khaldiya claimed their 11th win and improved to 38 points for second

place on the standings. They are one point behind Manama, one ahead of third-placed Sitra and two in front of Muharraq in the top four, with only two matchdays remaining.

Hala suffered their ninth loss and stayed on 21 points.

Meanwhile, also last night, defending champions Riffa stayed with a mathematical chance to retain their title with a 1-0 win

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	20	11	6	3	19	39
Al Khaldiya	20	11	5	4	16	38
Sitra	20	10	7	3	12	37
Muharraq	20	9	9	2	20	36
Riffa	20	9	6	5	8	33
Al Ahli	19	7	7	5	1	28
Al Shabab	19	7	3	9	-4	24
Hidd	19	6	5	8	-10	23
Al Hala	20	5	6	9	-7	21
East Riffa	20	4	8	8	-6	20
Bahrain Club	19	3	6	10	-9	15
Budaiya*	20	1	2	17	-40	-1

(*Budaiya deducted six points due to a decision by the Bahrain Football Association)

over East Riffa in a derby. Amin Al Shanaina fired in the game's lone strike in the 19th minute from close range, off a fine through-pass by Komail Al Aswad.

Riffa claimed their ninth win to go to 33 points in fifth place with two games to play. East Riffa suffered their eighth defeat and stayed on 20 markers.

Week 20 action concludes tonight with Al Ahli facing Al Shabab and Hidd taking on Bahrain Club, both at 6.45pm.

Dar Kulaib through to Crown Prince's Cup volleyball final



Al Nasser's Ebrahim Mohammed looks to attack the net against Dar Kulaib last night

● **Recently crowned league champions to go for title double after advancing to gold medal contest with two-game sweep of Al Nasser**

TDI | Manama

Dar Kulaib punched their tickets last night to the final of the 2023 Crown Prince's Cup volleyball tournament.

The recently crowned Isabin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League champions and three-time title-holders in the tournament secured their spot after battling past Al Nasser 3-2 (25-16, 19-25, 25-17, 23-25, 15-12) to complete a two-game sweep of their best-of-three semi-final series.

Dar Kulaib had earlier won their first meeting in four sets and yesterday closed out the match-up. They will now play the winner of the other final four series between Al Najma and Al Ahli.

The single-game final has yet to be scheduled by the Bahrain Volleyball Association.

Dar Kulaib, coached by Brazilian Leandro Kakaroto, were led in last night's win by star players Mohammed Yaqoob, Mahmoud Abdulwahed and Argentinian professional Juan Barrera, while getting key contributions from Abdulla Mohammed, Ali Habib, libero Hussain Sultan, Hassan Alaiwi and Ayman Isa.

Yaqoob supplied the winning spike to seal their victory after a tightly contested, see-saw affair.

Nasser, guided by Brazilian tactician Sergio Luis Cunha, relied on Yousef Khalid, Younes Abdulkarim, Mohammed Omar, Hussain Mahdi, Mohammed Jassim, Jassim Al Turki and Ebrahim Mohammed. Dar Kulaib have won the last three editions of the Crown Prince's Cup. They will be looking to claim an unprecedented fourth straight title and a league-and-cup double in this year's competition.

Andreeva, 15, stuns Fernandez with Madrid landmark win

AFP | Madrid

Mirra Andreeva yesterday became only the third 15-year-old to win a WTA 1000 main draw match as she defeated US Open 2021 runner-up Leylah Fernandez at the Madrid Open.

The Russian wildcard triumphed 6-3, 6-4 against the Canadian in the opening round, emulating the achievement of Coco Gauff in 2019 and CiCi Bellis in 2015, both in Miami.



Mirra Andreeva

Playing without a flag because of Russia's war on Ukraine,

Andreeva is the youngest player in the top 300, recently cracking the top 200 for the first time

Andreeva saved five of the six break points she faced against world number 49 Fernandez.

The Russian also became just the second 15-year-old to beat a top 50 opponent at WTA 1000 level, after Bellis beat Zarina Diyas, who was ranked 32nd at

the time.

World number 194 Andreeva, who turns 16 on Saturday, will face 26-year-old Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia in the second round Thursday.

Andreeva is the youngest player in the top 300, recently cracking the top 200 for the first time.

She is playing in only her second tour-level main draw in Madrid, after losing against compatriot Anastasia Potapova in October in Monastir, Tunisia, at a WTA 250 event.