

Ukraine out of Euro after Belgium draw

Belgium, Romania and Slovakia qualified for the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Wednesday as war-torn Ukraine were left heartbroken by a thrilling end to Group E. | P12

WORLD 6 Assange returns to Australia

THE DAILY **tribune**

South Africa ignore near-misses with eye on final **11 SPORTS**

BUSINESS 5 Mumtalakat to invest in Racing Force

Bahraini man to spend six years behind bars for citizenship fraud
TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini man to six years imprisonment for defrauding multiple individuals seeking Bahraini citizenship.

The court heard that the Bahraini man had falsely claimed on social media platforms that he had influence over the citizenship application process and could guarantee approval in exchange for money.

He contacted prospective victims, purporting to have insider knowledge and connections within the relevant government departments.

Through text conversations and video calls, the man misled several people into believing he was an official who could expedite their citizenship requests. He provided fabricated documentation and correspondence to support his deception.

In total, the victims transferred over BD370,000 to the man, with promises their applications would be approved. However, they later discovered he had no ability to influence the legal process.

Bahrain shines as ICT global leader
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has affirmed its position as a global leader in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, ranking fifth globally and third in the Arab world in the 2024 ICT Development Index (IDI) published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The Kingdom has topped the index for the second straight year.

220 fils (includes VAT)



On edge of chaos

Spread of Gaza war to Lebanon 'potentially apocalyptic': UN aid chief

Erdogan accuses West of backing Israeli 'plans to spread war'

AFP | Geneva

The UN humanitarian chief voiced alarm yesterday at the prospect of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza spreading to Lebanon, warning that it was "potentially apocalyptic".

As the war in Gaza nears its tenth month, Israel's top ally the United States has warned of the risk of a major conflict against the Iran-backed group Hezbollah in Lebanon, following an escalation in cross-border fire.

Israel's military said last week plans for an offensive in Lebanon were "approved and validated", prompting fresh threats from Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Martin Griffiths, the UN humanitarian coordinator, told reporters in Geneva that he saw Lebanon as "the flashpoint beyond all flashpoints", pointing to southern Lebanon in particular.



A smoke plume billows during Israeli bombardment on the village of Khiam in south Lebanon near the border with Israel. (AFP)

Griffiths said he had been discussing with colleagues in Jerusalem about the prospects of what might happen there.

Tragedy and deaths

"We are worried about the

potential for further tragedy and deaths," he said.

"It's potentially apocalyptic." Griffiths, whose term finishes this week, warned that a war involving Lebanon "will draw in Syria... it will draw in others".

And "it will of course have an impact on Gaza; of course it will have an impact on the West Bank.

"It's very alarming," he said. Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yester-



"We are worried about the potential for further tragedy and deaths. It's potentially apocalyptic."

- MARTIN GRIFFITHS, THE UN HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

day accused Western powers of backing what he said were Israeli plans to attack Lebanon and "spread war" throughout the region.

"Israel is now setting its sights on Lebanon and we see that Western powers behind the scenes are patting Israel on the back and even supporting them," he told lawmakers from his ruling AKP party.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Netanyahu's plans to spread the war to the region will lead to a great disaster," he said.

"It is ... pathetic that states that talk about freedom, human rights and justice are captives of a mentally-ill person like Netanyahu."

Tamkeen healthcare initiatives

Support boost for 700 Bahraini doctors and nurses

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), has announced the launch of the largest support bundle for the healthcare sector.

This comes following the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to increase support for the employment of Bahraini doctors.

The bundle, which aims to support over 700 Bahraini doctors and nurses, includes five main



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa chairs Tamkeen's second quarter board meeting

initiatives covering the cost of obtaining board certification for Bahraini doctors while supporting the wages of doctors working in the private sector during their training, and supporting international fellowship programs for Bahrainis wishing to obtain

specializations. The bundle also includes support for graduating Bahraini nurses with bachelor's degrees, in addition to supporting them to obtain various required specializations.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman

stressed the importance of investing in national talent working in the health sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain and creating quality opportunities for them through continuous training and development, and adopting and implementing plans and initia-

tives that contribute to the sustainability of the health sector and improving its services, as one of the important sectors that receives constant attention from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and HRH Prince Salman.

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'Remarkable achievement'

US Ambassador hails Bahrain's anti-trafficking success

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Steven C. Bondy, has praised the Kingdom's sustained success in combating human trafficking, noting its seventh consecutive year of maintaining a Tier 1 ranking in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.



in fortifying its anti-trafficking framework.

"This is a remarkable achievement and a recognition of Bahrain's ongoing efforts and the leadership's resolve in combating all forms of human trafficking," Ambassador Bondy stated.

He stressed the significance of the TIP Report in promoting global efforts and forging partnerships to eradicate this crime.

The Ambassador highlighted the Kingdom's comprehensive strategy, which includes prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships, and institutional collaboration, as crucial

He affirmed the US Embassy's commitment to continued cooperation with the Bahraini government, particularly the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, in this vital area.

The 2024 TIP Report, which assesses anti-trafficking efforts in 188 countries, commended Bahrain's progress in several key areas.

Increased efforts

The report noted the Kingdom's increased efforts to identify victims, including vulnerable groups, and provide them

"This is a remarkable achievement and a recognition of Bahrain's ongoing efforts and the leadership's resolve in combating all forms of human trafficking."

- HIS EXCELLENCY STEVEN C. BONDY, US AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

with extensive assistance, such as shelter, medical care, and legal aid.

Bahrain's proactive investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases were recognised, as well as its efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

Furthermore, the report highlighted the Kingdom's engagement with civil society organisations, international partners, and the private sector in addressing human trafficking.

Bahraini space engineer Al Haram makes history

TDT | Manama

A young Bahraini engineer has made history in space exploration.

Engineer Aisha Al Haram, overcoming significant odds and outperforming fierce competition, became the first Bahraini and Arab to win the esteemed "Young Space Leaders" award.

This accolade, organised by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), represents a



Eng. Aisha Al Haram is first Arab to win the prestigious "Young Space Leaders" Award

emerging space sector and inspires young minds throughout the region.

This marks the inaugural occasion in the award's 12-year history that a Bahraini or Arab has been honoured.

This highly competitive award recognises only six individuals globally between the ages of 18 and 35.

Eng. Al Haram emerged victorious from a pool of 5,200 competitors representing 77 countries.

Meeting residents' needs



His Highness the Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa received the Governorate's residents. Present were Deputy Southern Governor Brigadier Hamad Mohammed Al Khayyat and a number of officers and officials of the Governorate. HH the Governor asserted the importance of communicating with the residents and meeting their needs as per the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He also stressed the Governorate's keenness to reinforce the communication approach through continuing field visits and inspection tours, to meet the needs of citizens and follow-up on developments in a number of future projects.

Odisha State Tourism and ODOP walls inaugurated at Indian Embassy

TDT | Manama

Ambassador of India, His Excellency Shri Vinod K. Jacob, inaugurated the Odisha State Tourism and One District One Product (ODOP) walls at the Consular hall of the Embassy in the presence of members of Odiya Community living in Bahrain.

These walls highlight touristic attractions as well as exquisite products identified under ODOP scheme, of the state of Odisha. On the occasion, Ambassador Jacob spoke in Odiya and also thanked the Odiya community for assisting the Embassy in sourcing the ODOP items.

Under the 'focus state/union territory' initiative of Embassy of India, touristic and ODOP products of a particular state are being promoted in Bahrain



H.E. Indian Ambassador Shri Vinod K. Jacob at the event

during a period of around one month.

Odisha is the fifth focus state to be featured at the State/Union Territory Wall in the Consular hall, after Rajasthan, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

The Embassy had engaged the diaspora of Karnataka in procuring and displaying the ODOP items for the first time. Odisha is the second focus state featuring in the Consular hall, where the ODOP items are also displayed.

A short cultural presentation and "Taste of Odisha", culinary delicacies was arranged by the Odiya community on this occasion.

Several ODOP products of Odisha were exhibited at the Embassy. The ODOP items will be

displayed for a month.

ODOP initiative aims to select, brand, and promote at least one product from each district of the country for enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions.

Under this initiative, all products have been selected by States/UTs by taking into consideration the existing ecosystem on the ground, products identified under Districts as Export Hubs and GI-tagged products.

Magazine's inaugural Bahrain edition



The Oath Magazine (Niche Publishers) hosted the inaugural Bahrain edition of its successful legal event series The Oath GC Talk Series in association with the law firm Hassan Radhi and Associates at the Wyndham Grand Manama. Dr. Hassan Radhi, founder and senior partner of Hassan Radhi and Associates, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by the topic presentation led by experts Noora Janahi (Partner - Hassan Radhi and Associates), Farhad Chothia (Director, Head of Deal Advisory - KPMG Bahrain) and Abhijit Singh (Chief Strategy Officer - Solidarity Group Holding) on 'Public and Private M&As in Bahrain', offering legal, financial and industry perspectives to the corporate counsel audience. The event closed with the speakers leading an interactive Q&A session and discussion with the attendees. (Picture by Ashen Tharaka)

'Khatwa' document fraud case

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court in Bahrain heard testimony from two prosecution witnesses in a case involving three individuals accused of falsifying over 70 documents pertaining to the Ministry of Social Development's "Khatwa" programme.

The estimated total value of the alleged fraud is said to exceed BD266,000.

The first witness, a captain in the Anti-Corruption General Directorate, stated that the first defendant had been contracted to train beneficiary families and was responsible for issuing records to applicants of the programme upon submission of supporting documentation. However, the first defendant could offer opinions on applications without authorisation to approve them.

After the first defendant rectified errors in inaccurate programme statements, she re-approved them and utilised the electronic signature of the third defendant without her knowledge.

Car import scam

39-year-old arrested for BD250,000 theft, embezzlement and fraud spree

TDI | Manama

The Capital Governorate Police arrested a 39-year-old man accused of deceiving victims into agreeing to import cars from outside the Kingdom at reduced prices.

The suspect accepted money from the victims without delivering the vehicles and forged insurance documents for fictional cars.

He was apprehended for fraud, embezzlement of funds from multiple individuals, and the theft of approximately BD250,000.

A statement issued by the Capital Governorate Police explained that, upon receiving complaints regarding the matter, police initiated investigations to gather evidence.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the suspect convinced victims to send him money by claiming he could source cars at low cost through overseas contacts.

However, he never provid-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ed the cars after receiving payments, which collectively amounted to around BD250,000 from various people.

The Capital Governorate

Police Department stated that legal proceedings are underway as required by law.

The case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

NBR fines 69 tax violators



Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

The National Bureau of Revenue (NBR) has expressed its determination to improve the level of compliance among commercial establishments, ensuring adherence to all relevant systems and legislation, including the digital stamp system.

The Bureau conducted 296 inspection visits across local markets in various governorates of the Kingdom of Bahrain during April and May of this year.

These efforts aim to safeguard consumer rights and combat tax evasion, while

also raising awareness about the necessary procedures to follow.

The Bureau reported that effective market monitoring has led to the identification of several establishments violating laws related to value-added tax and selectivity.

A total of 69 violations were identified, resulting in administrative fines. These breaches included failing to issue proper value-added invoices, not displaying commodity prices inclusive of value-added tax, and not prominently displaying the value-added certificate.

Additionally, some selective goods were found to be traded without valid digital stamps.

'Death in the Snow' novel launched



Sarah Sabt talks about the book

TDI | Manama

The literary scene in Bahrain welcomed a promising new voice with the launch of the English-language novel "Death in the Snow" by 13-year-old Gulf

writer Sarah Sabt. This captivating book, rich in imagination and drama, marks a significant step forward in Bahraini literature.

The launch event took place at GFH House, drawing a diverse crowd of prominent writers, in-

tellectuals, media professionals, as well as the young author's family, friends, and teachers.

Sarah expressed heartfelt gratitude to her supporters, particularly her teachers at St. Christopher's School. The en-

thusiastic and diverse attendance added an atmosphere of excitement and admiration for Sarah's remarkable talent.

The novel is currently available for purchase on Amazon and in several bookstores across Bahrain.

The agent, under the watchful eye of a witness, contacted

the suspect by phone and arranged to purchase drugs for BD200.

A time and location for the exchange were agreed upon.

The witness photographed the marked money and handed it to the undercover agent. The agent, accompanied by a police team, proceeded to the designated location, where a trap was set for the suspect.

Upon arrival, the suspect contacted the agent, confirming his presence. The agent handed over the agreed-upon sum and received the drugs in return, all under the watchful eye of the witness.

CPISP orientation lecture organised

TDI | Manama

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP), under the Court of the Crown Prince, organised an orientation lecture for students awarded scholarships in 2024 and their parents.

The lecture aimed to inform them about the programme's regulations and procedures, its role in preparing and supporting its scholars, and the best educational and cultural opportunities available to them.

Additionally, the lecture covered the requirements for studying abroad until they obtain their university qualifications.

The programme provides students with the freedom to choose their desired specialisations.



Shrimping ban violator

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini defendant to three months imprisonment with immediate effect and confiscation of the seized goods, for selling and trading shrimps during the ban season. The defendant was found in possession of eight boxes containing 300 kilograms of fresh shrimps in his vehicle. The Public Prosecution immediately commenced investigations upon being notified of the incident, interrogating the defendant who admitted to illegally selling and trading shrimps.

Asian drug dealer arrested

TDI | Manama

Bahraini police have successfully apprehended an Asian man suspected of drug trafficking and possession.

The arrest was made possible through a well-executed sting operation involving an undercover source and meticulous evidence gathering.

Acting on a tip from a confidential informant, the Anti-Narcotics Department deployed an undercover agent to establish contact with the suspect.

The agent, under the watchful eye of a witness, contacted

the suspect by phone and arranged to purchase drugs for BD200.

A time and location for the exchange were agreed upon.

The witness photographed the marked money and handed it to the undercover agent. The agent, accompanied by a police team, proceeded to the designated location, where a trap was set for the suspect.

Upon arrival, the suspect contacted the agent, confirming his presence. The agent handed over the agreed-upon sum and received the drugs in return, all under the watchful eye of the witness.

Bahraini guilty of assault

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini man to six months in prison after finding him guilty of assaulting an Arab man, causing a permanent neck injury.

The defendant, who initially maintained his innocence, was convicted based on witness testimonies, forensic evidence, and the defendant's own confession during the investigation.

The court heard testimonies from the victim, a hotel security guard, and the defendant himself.

The victim claimed he was dropping off his girlfriend at a hotel when the defendant approached and grabbed her



hand. He intervened, and the defendant allegedly struck him on the head with a glass cup, causing it to break but not causing injury.

A hotel security guard corroborated the victim's account, stating he witnessed the victim grabbing the defendant's shirt and punching him, prompting the defendant's retaliation with the glass cup.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

31 March 2024

Interim Consolidated Statement of Financial Position			Interim Consolidated Statement of Income and Other Comprehensive Income			Interim Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows		
As at 31 March 2024			For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)			For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)		
	Reviewed 31 March 2024 BD 000	Audited 31 December 2023 BD 000		Three months ended 31 March			Three months ended 31 March	
				2024 BD 000	2023 BD 000		2024 BD 000	2023 BD 000
ASSETS						OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain	28,007	30,273	Income from financing contracts	17,537	15,621	Net income for the period	607	3,459
Due from banks	48,583	41,419	Income from sukuk	3,110	3,350	Adjustments for:		
Financing contracts	1,025,523	1,009,312	Income from due from banks	686	577	Allowance for / (reversal of) impairment and credit losses - net (excluding recovery from written off accounts)	137	(1)
Investments in equity	12,887	3,158	Other income	763	622	Depreciation and amortisation	367	347
Investments in sukuk	231,569	278,596	OPERATING INCOME	22,096	20,170	Foreign exchange gain	(371)	(260)
Investments in real estate	17,434	-	Profit on due to banks and non-banks	(1,530)	(1,499)	Sukuk premium amortisation	406	352
Receivables and other assets	176,648	186,454	OPERATING INCOME AFTER PROFIT ON DUE TO BANKS AND NON-BANKS	20,566	18,671	Operating income before changes in operating assets and liabilities	1,146	3,897
Premises, equipment and right of use assets	7,856	4,009	Staff costs	(3,941)	(3,300)	Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
TOTAL ASSETS	1,548,507	1,553,221	Depreciation and amortisation	(367)	(347)	Financing contracts	(16,511)	(12,239)
LIABILITIES, QUASI EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY			Other expenses	(2,999)	(2,374)	Receivables and other assets	10,866	158
LIABILITIES			OPERATING EXPENSES	(7,307)	(6,021)	Customers' current accounts	(1,248)	(15,047)
Customers' current accounts	119,759	122,036	NET OPERATING INCOME - BEFORE ALLOWANCE FOR IMPAIRMENT AND CREDIT LOSSES	13,259	12,650	Due to banks	(29,681)	(16,494)
Due to banks	1,676	31,357	(Allowance for) / reversal of impairment and credit losses - net	(134)	547	Due to non-banks	(11,410)	1,265
Due to non-banks	85,741	97,151	NET OPERATING INCOME	13,125	13,197	Other liabilities	(3,098)	4,019
Other liabilities	26,348	24,991	Return on quasi equity (wakala)	(12,288)	(9,480)	Net cash flows used in operating activities	(49,936)	(34,441)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	233,524	275,535	Return on quasi equity (mudaraba)	(230)	(258)	INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
QUASI EQUITY			RETURN ON QUASI EQUITY	(12,518)	(9,738)	Decrease in investments in sukuk - net	46,628	4,704
Banks	252,996	227,407	NET INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	607	3,459	Purchase of premises and equipment - net	(509)	(87)
Non-banks and individuals	895,344	879,214				Capital repayment in investments in equity	102	-
TOTAL QUASI EQUITY	1,148,340	1,106,621				Net cash flows from investing activities	46,221	4,617
OWNERS' EQUITY						FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent						Net movement in quasi equity	8,562	16,302
Share capital	132,519	132,519				Payments of obligation in relation to right of use assets	(98)	(216)
Statutory reserve	31,219	31,219				Net cash flows from financing activities	8,464	16,086
Proposed dividend	-	7,327				NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,749	(13,738)
Retained earnings	2,905	-				Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	72,043	74,526
TOTAL OWNERS' EQUITY	166,643	171,065				CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 March	76,792	60,788
TOTAL LIABILITIES, QUASI EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY	1,548,507	1,553,221						
OFF-BALANCE SHEET ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT	825,228	851,886						
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS	32,199	32,439						

Interim Consolidated Statement Of Changes in Owners' Equity

For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Retained earnings	Proposed dividend	Total owners' equity
	BD 000	BD 000	BD 000	BD 000	BD 000
Balance at 1 January 2024	132,519	31,219	-	7,327	171,065
Net income for the period	-	-	607	-	607
Reversal of proposed dividend	-	-	7,327	(7,327)	-
Other adjustment	-	-	(5,029)	-	(5,029)
Balance at 31 March 2024	132,519	31,219	2,905	-	166,643
Balance at 1 January 2023	132,519	30,405	-	22,172	185,096
Net income for the period	-	-	3,459	-	3,459
Dividend	-	-	-	(22,172)	(22,172)
Balance at 31 March 2023	132,519	30,405	3,459	-	166,383

These statements have been extracted from the interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024, reviewed by EY. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 June 2024. Kuwait Finance House (Bahrain) B.S.C.(c) is licensed by the CBB as an Islamic retail bank.

Mohammad Naser AlFouzan
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Yusuf Al Hammadi
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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Mumtalakat to invest in Racing Force

To drive expansion following ten years of success in Motorsports locally

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom, yesterday announced an investment through a fully owned subsidiary in Racing Force S.p.A., parent company of Racing Force Group, a world leader in safety systems for motorsports, to address the growing global market demand for motorsports safety products.

This investment coincides with the expansion plans of Racing Force Group of its current Bell Racing Helmets factory in Bahrain, which was estab-



“The collaboration with Racing Force to expand their footprint in Bahrain aligns with Mumtalakat’s strategic objectives of investing in growth sectors that aim to create highly skilled job opportunities for Bahrainis, boost the competitiveness of the Kingdom’s specialised industrial sector on a global scale and enhance Bahrain’s prominence as a motorsports hub in the region.”

Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
CEO of Mumtalakat

lished in 2014. Furthermore, it is in line with the Group’s strategic plans to explore opportunities for growth in Bahrain through the introduction of new brands and a wider range of products.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat, emphasized that the collaboration with Racing Force to expand their footprint in Bahrain aligns with Mumtalakat’s strategic objectives of investing in growth sectors that aim to create highly skilled job opportunities for Bahrainis, boost the competitiveness of the Kingdom’s specialised industri-

al sector on a global scale, and enhance Bahrain’s prominence as a motorsports hub in the region.

It is noteworthy that the Racing Force Group’s Bell Racing Helmets facility in Bahrain has employed 400 Bahrainis since its establishment. Furthermore, all Bell Racing Helmets products are entirely “Made in Bahrain”.

Since its launch, it produced and exported 254,000 helmets, 286,000 Mini Helmets, and over 500,000 accessories, highlighting the Kingdom’s manufacturing competitiveness on the global stage.

Singapore says seized more than \$4 billion in dirty money since 2019
Singapore, Singapore

Singapore has seized S\$6 billion (\$4.4 billion) linked to crime and money laundering since 2019, the wealthy city state said Wednesday, after a massive dirty money scandal marred its squeaky clean reputation last year.

Singapore conducted multiple raids last year in a S\$3 billion money laundering case, one of the world’s largest, which resulted in the seizure of properties, cars, and luxury goods as well as the arrest of several foreigners.

“As an international financial and business hub, we recognise that we face greater money laundering and terrorism financing risks,” Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said Wednesday at an event hosted by the Financial Action Task Force, a global financial crime association.

“But we are determined to do what is needed to respond to these risks and safeguard Singapore’s reputation as a trusted financial centre.”

The report, released as part of the Southeast Asian nation’s efforts to stop the flow of criminal money, said a large number of cases in Singapore involved foreign crime syndicates employing sophisticated methods.

Norwegian fund blacklists Caterpillar over Gaza fears

AFP | Oslo, Norway

Norway’s largest pension fund said yesterday it had divested from US industrial group Caterpillar because of the risk its equipment was being used by the Israeli army in Gaza.

“For a long time, Caterpillar has supplied bulldozers and other equipment that has been used to demolish Palestinian homes and infrastructure to clear the way for Israeli settlements,” Kiran Aziz, head of responsible investments at KLP, said in a statement.

“It has also been alleged that the company’s equipment is be-



Representative picture

ing used by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) in connection with its military campaign in Gaza following the Hamas attack on October 7 last year,” she added.

Because of this, there is a “risk that the US company may be contributing to human rights abuses and violation of international law in the West Bank and Gaza,” KLP said.

The fund said that since Caterpillar “cannot provide us with assurances that it is doing anything in this regard, we have decided to exclude the company from investment.”

KLP -- not to be confused with

Norway’s massive sovereign wealth fund -- said that earlier this month it owned Caterpillar stock valued at 728 million kroner (\$68.6 million), which it had now divested.

The fund has around \$90 billion under management.

In April 2021, KLP excluded companies linked to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including telecom equipment giant Motorola.

The Gaza Health ministry says at least 37,658 people have been killed in Israel’s retaliatory offensive following Hamas’s October 7 attack on southern Israel.

AI takes centre stage as Mobile World Congress Shanghai kicks off

AFP | Shanghai, China

From phones that can detect deepfake scams to autonomous intelligent vehicles, the disruptive potential of artificial intelligence took centre stage as Mobile World Congress Shanghai kicked off yesterday.

The jampacked connectivity industry conference saw some of China’s biggest companies gather to showcase their latest products and visions for an AI-driven future.

Smart device brand Honor yesterday unveiled technology it said could detect deepfake scam calls and warn the phone’s owner in real-time.

Deepfake scam calls -- where fraudsters manipulate images, sound or video of a real person as part of their con -- have been flagged as a growing risk as gen-



A robot makes coffee during the World Intelligence Expo in Tianjin



A chassis of a Nio car



Visitors interact with a Lenovo robo



A prototype robot developed for the Robocup Asia-Pacific robotics football competition

Systems.

The company’s solution is AirJet, a cooling device in the form of chips, the thinnest of which is 2.5mm.

While AI has been used in the background of much of the connectivity sector for years, “it really feels like we’ve moved from the passenger seat to the driver seat”, Lara Dewar from organisers GSMA told attendees.

For some exhibitors that was quite literal, with multiple AI-using cars on display as the Internet of Things spreads further into the auto sector.

“There is no doubt in my mind that AI... will reshape our lives and businesses as we know them,” said Dewar.

A humanoid robot gestures

keting at Frore

Ensuring that AI’s associated infrastructure continued to develop too was a point made by other delegates.

As well as networks, another issue, said one exhibitor, was processing power and heat.

“One of the challenges that AI has is how do you get all that processing (energy) on devices when the consumer wants them smaller and smaller,” said Sue Ryan, vice president of mar-

erative AI use becomes more prevalent.

In February, it was revealed that a Hong Kong finance worker had transferred \$26 million to fraudsters who presented themselves as his colleagues on a video call.

Honor’s CEO George Zhao told an audience that he believed on-device AI “has the potential to empower users” and address the concerns around authenticity that many have raised about

AI. Whatever the inherent risks, high-profile speakers made clear they thought the AI revolution was unstoppable.

“AI needs to be omnipotent, it needs to be everywhere,” said Huawei’s Executive Director of the Board, David Wang.

He pointed out that the continued success and expansion of AI depended on telecom networks -- particularly 5G and its successors -- keeping pace.



In an Honor demo video, a man used a convincing AI filter to alter his appearance to make a video call, before a pop-up message on the victim’s phone appeared warning it was likely a face swap.

The software, which the company says will be available on its devices this year, uses AI to analyse elements like eye contact or lighting frame by frame, “to identify flaws that are imperceptible to the human eyes” in around three seconds.



News in brief

North Korea test-fired what appeared to be a hypersonic missile yesterday, but the launch ended in a mid-air explosion, an official from Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.



N. Korean test of likely hypersonic missile fails: Seoul military officials

The International Criminal Court yesterday convicted a jihadist police chief of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during a reign of terror in the fabled Malian city of Timbuktu.

ICC convicts Timbuktu jihad chief of war crimes



K-pop megastars Seventeen said yesterday they were honoured to be named UNESCO goodwill ambassadors yesterday.

K-pop stars Seventeen become UNESCO ambassadors



S. Korea administrative robot defunct after apparent suicide

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

A city council in South Korea said yesterday their first administrative officer robot was defunct after throwing itself down some stairs, with local media mourning the country's first robot suicide.



The administrative officer robot at the Gumi City Council building in Gumi.

Witnesses saw the robot officer "circling in one spot as if something was there" before the accident occurred, but the exact cause of the fall is still being investigated.

It was officially a part of the city hall, one of us, another official said. "It worked diligently."

Assange returns to Australia

Assange landed on a chilly Canberra evening in a private jet

AFP | Canberra, Australia

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returned home to Australia to start life as a free man yesterday after admitting he revealed US defence secrets in a deal that unlocked the door to his London prison cell.

Australian PM says secretive talks led to Assange deal



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange waves after arriving at Canberra Airport in Canberra

AFP | Canberra, Australia

Australia's prime minister said yesterday a string of recent non-disclosed missions to the United States helped to forge the plea deal that freed Julian Assange.

"He will be able to spend quality time with his wife Stella, and his two children, be able to walk up and down on the beach and feel the sand through his toes in winter -- that lovely chill," Assange's father, John Shipton, said earlier in the day.

"Time to recuperate" Prison time had taken a toll on Assange, who did not attend a WikiLeaks news conference to mark his return, his wife told reporters.

Assange father 'doing cartwheels' over son's return home

AFP | Sydney, Australia

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's father said he was "doing cartwheels" yesterday over his son's impending return to his native Australia.



John Shipton winter -- that lovely chill -- and be able to learn how to be patient and play with your children for a couple of hours -- all of the great beauty of ordinary life.



Julian Assange (centre L) hugs his wife Stella Assange Kevin Rudd, and its high commissioner to the UK, Stephen Smith, for helping to "unravel" the years of legal drama.

Ultra-Orthodox men must serve in army, Israel top court rules

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's top court ruled unanimously on Tuesday that the state must draft ultra-Orthodox Jewish men into military service, potentially destabilising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition.



Representative image

The High Court of Justice's decision on the politically charged issue comes as calls grow for ultra-Orthodox men, historically exempt from mandatory service, to enlist as Israeli wages war on Hamas in Gaza and prepares for potential fighting in Lebanon.

Assange met his wife Stella while holed up in the embassy and the pair married in a ceremony in London's Belmarsh prison. They have two young children

Trump, Biden gird for historic US presidential debate

Today's showdown will raise the campaigning to boiling point, with both camps recently escalating their increasingly personal attacks

AFP | Atlanta, United States



Biden, Trump

Joe Biden and Donald Trump prepared yesterday for the biggest moment so far in the US election -- the first of two high-stakes debates that could upend the race.

Today's showdown will raise the campaigning to boiling point, with both camps recently escalating their increasingly personal attacks.

"I think I have been preparing for it for my whole life... We'll do very well," Trump told right-wing network Newsmax in an interview on his debate preparation.

The 2024 election looks close, with Trump enjoying a slight polling advantage in the all-important swing states in an election likely to be decided by a few hundred thousand votes across a handful of battlegrounds.

Mum who killed her 3 daughters jailed for 18 years in New Zealand

Lauren Dickason will begin her sentence at a mental health hospital

Dickason was found guilty last August on three counts of murder having smothered her two-year-old twins Maya and Karla and first daughter Liane, six.

AFP | Wellington, New Zealand



The judge ruled Dickason will spend 18 years - six for each daughter

New Zealand judge yesterday sentenced a woman to 18 years imprisonment for murdering her three young daughters in 2021.

Lauren Dickason will begin her sentence at a mental health hospital

They also ordered the state to stop funding yeshivas whose students evade military service. The court's ruling was a response to petitions from civil society groups advocating mandatory military service for ultra-Orthodox men.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews adhere to a strict interpretation of Jewish custom and largely live in insular communities in Israel and elsewhere.

They make up about 13 percent of Israel's nearly 10 million population.

In Israel, military service is mandatory for Jewish men while religious women are exempt.

Trump is also engulfed in controversy over his inflammatory rhetoric and a glut of criminal cases he faces, as well as fears that he would weaponize the presidency to settle personal scores.

Biden spent the week off the radar at the mountainside retreat of Camp David near Washington, preparing with mock debates.

Trump's preparation has been more relaxed, eschewing dress rehearsals in favor of informal policy roundtables and workshoping debate strategy with rally crowds.

The Biden campaign released an ad saying Trump is preoccupied with "revenge" rather than helping voters, and the Democratic National Committee put up billboards in Atlanta reminding voters that the Republican is a convicted felon.

"Come November, Georgians will head to the polls remembering that President Biden looks out for them, while white-collar crook Donald Trump will only look out for himself," said DNC spokesperson Jackie Bush.

Both have faltered and appeared muddled during public events, although Trump in particular has raised eyebrows over his rambling and occasional

Pioneering internet messenger ICQ shuts after 28 years

AFP | Paris, France

A pioneering internet messaging service that once boasted 100 million accounts has shut down, a message on the Russian-owned ICQ website said yesterday.



ICQ -- styled to sound like "I seek you" -- was developed by a group of Israeli programmers in 1996 as a way for users to text chat in real-time, a novelty in the mid-1990s.

Early internet giant AOL snapped it up in 1998 and it grew into a major gaming concern, with the US firm claiming more than 100 million ac-

counts in the early 2000s. By the time ICQ was sold in 2010 to the Russian company that has since become VKontakte -- often dubbed Russia's Facebook -- it was past its peak.

Russian, US defence ministers discussed Ukraine by phone, Moscow says

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian Minister of Defence Andrei Belousov and his US counterpart Lloyd Austin spoke by phone on Tuesday to discuss the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Moscow's defence ministry said.

"The Ministers exchanged views on the situation around Ukraine," the ministry said in a statement, noting the conversation took place "at the initiative of the American side".

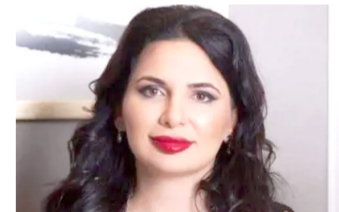
"Andrei Belousov pointed to the danger of further escalation of the situation in connection with the ongoing supply of US weapons to the Armed Forces of Ukraine," it continued. "Other issues were also discussed."

The Pentagon also reported the phone call, saying in a statement that Austin had "emphasized the importance of maintaining lines of communication amid Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine".

US offers \$5 million reward for Bulgarian 'cryptoqueen'

AFP | SOFIA, Bulgaria

The United States announced yesterday a reward of up to \$5 million for information that could lead to the arrest of fugitive Bulgarian-born "cryptoqueen" Ruja Ignatova.



Bulgarian 'cryptoqueen'

The US ambassador to Bulgaria, Kenneth Merten, said Ignatova is wanted in the United States and Germany "for her participation in one of the largest global fraud schemes in history" which defrauded victims of more than \$4 billion.

Ignatova, 44, evaded arrest by fleeing on a flight from Sofia to Athens two weeks after her

indictment in October 2017 and her whereabouts remain unknown.

Ignatova, who has German citizenship, is accused of being the mastermind behind the mammoth fraudulent virtual currency scheme OneCoin.

In 2022, the Federal Bureau of Investigation placed her on its 10 most wanted list.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



I am deeply saddened by the reports of deaths and injuries - including journalists and medical personnel - connected to protests and street demonstrations in Kenya. I urge the Kenyan authorities to exercise restraint, and call for all demonstrations to take place peacefully.

02



Of the Lok Sabha for the second time. The House will benefit greatly from his insights and experience. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead.

03



Had a good discussion with @Mission-ColUNOC Ambassador Gustavo Adolfo Gallón Giraldo about two upcoming conferences #Colombia will host: -Ending Violence -Against Children in November this year; -Global Conference on #AirPollution and Health in March next year.

@DrTedros

04



Gun violence is an epidemic in this country. That's why I'm doing everything in my power to strengthen background checks and keep guns out of the hands of those who seek to harm themselves or others. It's up to Congress to do its part by establishing universal background checks.

@POTUS

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Traffic Congestion in Umm Al Hassam due to food outlets

I am writing to draw attention to a significant issue that has been affecting the residents and commuters in the Umalhasam area of Bahrain. The recent increase in the number of food outlets in the locality has led to severe traffic congestion, causing daily inconvenience and posing safety risks.

The popularity of these food outlets has resulted in a high volume of vehicles, particularly during peak hours. Residents frequently park their cars on both sides of the already narrow roads, leaving minimal space for moving traffic. This congestion is exacerbated by delivery vehicles and customers waiting to pick up their orders, creating bottlenecks and often leading to gridlock.



Moreover, the lack of designated parking spaces for these food outlets means that drivers are often forced to double-park, further obstructing the flow of traffic.

Moreover, the lack of designated parking spaces for these food outlets means that drivers are often forced to double-park, further obstructing the flow of traffic. The situation is particularly dire during the evening and weekends when the influx of customers reaches its peak. Pedestrians, including families and children, are also at risk as they navigate through the crowded and chaotic streets.

In addition to this, a few well-known hangouts have started disturbing the public by encroaching on the path and setting up tables and chairs for their customers.

I urge the food outlets to collaborate with the authorities to find mutually beneficial solutions that can alleviate the congestion while allowing their businesses to thrive.

In conclusion, while the growth of food outlets in Umalhasam is a positive sign of economic activity, it is essential to balance this with the need for smooth and safe traffic flow.

Anoop Shankar
Desperate Umalhasam resident

Need police vigil in Juffair !

I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of police vigilance in Juffair, particularly near Juffair Block. Recently, I experienced a harrowing encounter with a suspicious individual that could have been avoided with a stronger police presence.

While walking to a nearby grocery store, I was approached by a white man who made unsettling eye contact. Instinctively, I crossed the street as he followed me. My anxiety grew as I noticed him lingering at a junction, seemingly waiting for me to continue my route.

Upon reaching the grocery store, I became increasingly apprehensive as I observed him across the street, clearly scanning my movements. Fearing he would follow me again, I sought help from a car wash attendant. Thankfully, he intervened and escorted me home, effectively deterring the man from approaching us further.

While I am incredibly grateful for the assistance of the neighborhood car wash attendant, this incident highlights the urgent need for increased police patrols in Juffair. My experience underscores the vulnerability women can feel in the absence of a visible police presence, especially during evening hours.

It is concerning that I did not feel comfortable reporting the incident to nearby officers, despite their apparent proximity. A more proactive police presence would not only deter crime but also foster a sense of security among residents.

I urge the authorities to take immediate steps to strengthen police visibility in Juffair. This will ensure the safety of residents and prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Sincerely,
Jennifer
A resident of Juffair

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Photo : Ashen Tharaka

Sudoku Puzzles

		7						
			2		1		8	4
				7		2		
		1					2	
					6		9	
3	8							
8		5	7					
	1	6			4	5		
					4		6	

Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

Solution to Sudoku

1	2	7	6	4	8	3	5	9
6	9	3	2	5	1	7	8	4
4	5	8	3	7	9	2	6	1
5	6	1	4	9	7	8	2	3
2	7	4	8	3	6	1	9	5
3	8	9	5	1	2	6	4	7
8	4	5	7	6	3	9	1	2
7	1	6	9	2	4	5	3	8
9	3	2	1	8	5	4	7	6



WHAT'S IN SOCIAL MEDIA

MOI opens Hotline to report Irregularities in Bahraini Nationality Acquisition



In a move to strengthen national security and ensure fair procedures for obtaining Bahraini citizenship, the Interior Ministry has announced the allocation of a dedicated hotline for reporting information and complaints about potentially unlawful nationality acquisitions.

Hotline Details: Number: 997, Operation Dates: Starting Thursday, June 27th, 2024

TOP COMMENTS

mahdi_satrawi

Great idea but having a hotline for a certain purpose can be misused by people out of hatred and rage on some people. Imagine calling the hotline and giving misleading and misinformation on a person that looks different. I got a nephew who is Half Bahraini by Father and Half Asian by blood and is a Bahraini National Citizen and his mother as well have receive citizenship. imagine a neighbor, a coworker or even a friend that felt he was wronged called the number gave misinformation what action would be given to the person giving misleading information that causes stress to them?

umelianna

We need a hotline for reporting restaurants that have caused numerous people food poisoning and it takes ages with no strict actions for months !!!

environmanbahrain

This opens the possibility for hate accusations, etc. What s the punishment for false accusations ???



We would love to hear from you.

If you have anything you'd like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at online@newsfbahrain.com

VIRAL NEWS ONLINE



23 sets of twins graduate from a single Massachusetts middle school



Twenty-three sets of twins have graduated from a Massachusetts middle school, making up about 10% of the eighth-grade class.

The identical and fraternal twins graduated from Pollard Middle School in Needham, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. Another student, who is also a twin, graduated but her brother attends a different school, said principal Tamatha Bibbo.

It's "quite unusual," said Bibbo. "We typically have anywhere from five to 10 sets at most. Given our numbers, we have approximately 450 to 500 children in each grade so this was extraordinarily high."

The school gave a special shout-out to the 23 sets of twins during the so-called "moving up" ceremony on Wednesday, she said. Twins account for around 3%

of live births in the U.S., according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

The Pollard Middle School graduates must all have completed up to 10 hours of service learning in their communities and every year the Needham Exchange Club offers five community service awards. For the first time this year a set of twins — Lukas and Sameer Patel — won an award and a donation to their charity, Bibbo said.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

Mohammed Mahub palace coffee shop Wll has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33992562 or MAHABUB.NET750@GMAIL.COM

Vertex car washing has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17253953 or NAMLITY@GMAIL.COM

Narjis Sheer construction has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35145454 or WALEED660@GMAIL.COM

ATLAS ALUMINIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34130996 or S.HUSSAIN.ISMAIL@ATLAS-ALUMINIUM.COM

Bahrain Indian School W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17598000 or HVERMA@BHAVANSBAHRAIN.COM

MOHD AKTHAR CONSTRUCTION CO PARTNERSHIP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34185885 or MOHDAKTHAR2017@GMAIL.COM

TRADERS VICS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17586906 or TARIQ.SHARIF@RITZCARLTON.COM

NADANS RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36355440 or BHPANORAMA87@HOTMAIL.COM

LKC STEEL TECH W.L.L Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874841 or lk.steel@gmail.com

NARENDRA JEWELLERY DESIGN CO - BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33289619 or SAMANTASANAT44@GMAIL.COM

TASNEEM TRADITIONAL RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590078 or HANI.ALNOSAIF@GMAIL.COM

FOODWAY MARKET CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17341342 or FOODWAYHIDD@GMAIL.COM

ANNAI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33557702 or MD@MRITHUPHARMACY.COM

TALISH Trading Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33000737 or niiazgroup.bh@gmail.com

ALRAHA FRESH JUICE CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33444843 or accessbah01@gmail.com

Cochi Metro for organization of conventions, events and trade sh has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66910006 or ALSHOALA@GMAIL.COM

Fame business services has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3330776 or FAMEBUSINESSSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

Quest School W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77814404 or eman.dessouki@questschoolbh.com

X-RAYS AUTO SERVICES CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34560888 or sultanbahadar132@gmail.com

EMCE MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700047 or NOOR@EMCEBH.COM

ALMEABAD ELECTRICAL SERVICES EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456287 or MES.MUHARRAQ@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL MOTOR COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17457160 or jamal.salman@nmc.com.bh

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or ebrahim@macbh.com

BATSCO CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33644886 or hr@BATSCO.NET

Asdal Gulf Inn W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564033 or hussain.almajed@gulfhotelsgroup.com

Bahrain Technique Doors Trading WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(-

MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39203204 or SAID.HOMSSI.SH@GMAIL.COM

ABHA ELECTRONICS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ELECTRICIAN/WIREMAN), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66352112 or ZADMRSOM@GMAIL.COM

I ACTIVE MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39544499 or IACTIVE.CM@GMAIL.COM

HRDCO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13303353 or AHUBAIL@BAREEQ.COM.BH

HSB BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33287666 or SUKHESHR@GMAIL.COM

D F H INTERIOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38137429 or FAHAD.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

DAR ALRABAT CONSTRUCTING & MAINTENANCE Bahraini partnership comp has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17237371 or KABATDARAL@GMAIL.COM

HIGH SPEED AUTO BODY PAINTING AND DENTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34306903 or ALABERT@HOTMAIL.COM

ASWANA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39100113 or ASWANA2020@GMAIL.COM

ABO AL NAZEA Garage W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38777033 or MOUSTAFA97.BH@GMAIL.COM

PRITIVO REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37749061 or WILSONTUSIME2@GMAIL.COM

KHAKI TOFAIL ALUMINIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37201824 or TUFAIL.AZAN@GMAIL.COM

Emerald Trading Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454350 or INFO@EMERALDBH.COM

VEGA INTERTRADE AND EXHIBITIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33545410 or INFO@THAIMARTBAHRAIN.COM

WCG TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER PROGRAMMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13114469 or shahid.cma0967@gmail.com

FALAFELPIE RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992565 or FALAFELPIEBH@GMAIL.COM

CT A AIR CONDITIONER MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38170017 or CHTANZEEMBH@GMAIL.COM

PRO EXPRESS DELIVERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32170047 or Ahmer@delvexp.com

ABDUR REHMAN AND ASIF FOR CARGO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35546147 or MSAJAD@IDMMOVERS.COM

MOROCCAN PALACE SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211110 or ABUJHAD@GMAIL.COM

VIEW CORNER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240755 or VIEWCORNERWLL@YAHOO.COM

TARGET SPORTS FOR TAILORING AND TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699789 or SUITMEBH@GMAIL.COM

KKC INDUSTRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39413666 or GARYXU@KCCIND.COM

XUI YAN AND ZHANG COMMODITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35660889 or QINQIN0869@HOTMAIL.COM

GRAND LAND REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38856057 or OXFORDBAH@GMAIL.COM

MARVEL GRAPHICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37317484 or SABIR-MALIK399@GMAIL.COM

Bahrain Tennis Academy celebrates 20th Annual Junior Awards with outstanding achievements



11-and-over award nominees and winners with BTA coaches.

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) celebrated its 20th Annual Junior Awards Ceremony at the Dilmun Club in Saar, honoring outstanding players from the 2023/24 season. The event featured 14 awards divided into two sections: 'Best of 2023/24'

with 12 categories including Best Backhand, Best Serve, and Best Sportsmanship, and 'Player of the Year' across two age groups.

Each award category featured four nominees, with winners chosen based on specific criteria reflecting their skill and experience. Dylan Barrie (12-and-under) and

Emily Cole (13-and-over) received the prestigious Player of the Year awards. Other notable winners included Angela Charbel, Cian Wagstaff, Goodwyn Campbell, Guillermo Alcazar, Nazly Abdoun, Rayyan Asif Jiffry, Serah Bermas, and Wiam Almusawi.

Emily Cole, nominated in nine categories, claimed two

awards, while Dylan Barrie, nominated in six categories, secured three awards. The ceremony, highlighted by Director Dan Barrie, underscored the players' grit, determination, and dedication throughout the season, aiming to inspire even higher achievements in the upcoming season.

Saudi Olympic history for female taekwondo star **Donia Abu Taleb**

AFP | Abha, Saudi Arabia

Saudi taekwondo standout Donia Abu Taleb had an unusual introduction to the sport: for years she trained at a boys' club because there were no girls to compete with. Now the 27-year-old has become the first Saudi woman to qualify for the Olympics and is dreaming of bringing home the Gulf kingdom's first gold medal when she competes in Paris.

"I started taekwondo when I was eight years old and there was no support like now," Abu Taleb, who also has a law degree, told AFP after a recent training session in the southern mountain city of Abha.

"I always played with the boys in the boys' centre, originally without girls. I used to wear a head-covering on my hair so as not to show that I was a girl."

Facing off against boys, she added, "distinguished me and made me strong... I love the challenge".

High hopes for Paris

In 2012 in London, judo athlete Wojdan Shaherkani became the first Saudi woman to compete at the Olympics thanks to a special invitation from the International Olympic Committee.

Her historic debut lasted just 82 seconds, as she was beaten in the first round.

US-born Sarah Attar, another invitee, finished a distant last in her 800m heat on the track.

Attar was one of four Saudi women to compete as wildcards at the 2016 Olympics, and they were followed by two more at Tokyo 2020.

But Abu Taleb is the first to qualify by right.

As the first Saudi woman to qualify for the Olympics, I have reached the stage of kill or be killed. I have reached a place where I must achieve something

DONIA ABU TALEB

Abu Taleb has taken advantage of the newfound state backing, bagging gold at the 2020 Arab Taekwondo Championship and bronze medals at the Asian and world championships in 2022.

Earlier this year she upgraded to gold at the Asian Taekwondo Championships.

She has high hopes for Paris, she told AFP at the Abha training centre, standing near a large banner bearing her picture.

"From the beginning, I dreamed of being a world champion, participating in the Olympics, and winning gold," she said.

To date, Saudi Arabia has won two

bronze and two silver medals at the Olympics, all for men.

'Kill or be killed'

Abu Taleb's success at the Olympics would give added momentum to Saudi Arabia's campaign to rebrand itself as a sports hub.

Though she competes in a relatively low-profile event, Abu Taleb has gained officials' attention.

Saudi Arabia hired Russian coach Kurban Bogdaev, who guided Tunisian Mohamed Jendoubi to silver at the Tokyo Olympics, to coach the Saudi taekwondo team.

"The first time I saw Donia, her level was low, but I saw her eager to grow and achieve," Bogdaev said, adding that he did not necessarily view her as an Olympic prospect at first.

But she "trains hard, always believes in herself, and is confident in what she can do", he added.

At the recent training session in Abha organised by

the Saudi Taekwondo Federation, Abu Taleb, wearing a blue helmet and using a kick pad, nimbly avoided blows from athletes from Russia and Uzbekistan.

"Preparing an Olympic champion takes many years and is a state project," Shaddad Al-Omari, the federation's president, told AFP.

Abu Taleb has quickly blossomed from "an unranked athlete to a player near the top of the rankings".

As the Olympics approach, Abu Taleb is fully aware of the pressure she'll be under but insists she can handle it.

"As the first Saudi woman to qualify for the Olympics, I have reached the stage of kill or be killed," she said.

"I have reached a place where I must achieve something."

Saudi taekwondo competitor Donia Abu Taleb poses for a picture during a training camp in Abha



BRAVE combat federation expands global reach

To host BRAVE CF in six countries across Asia and Europe from August 9 to October 19

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama



BRAVE Combat Federation has announced an updated schedule for the BRAVE CF championship. The upcoming events will span 17,000 kilometers across Asia and Europe, featuring tournaments in two

countries for the first time.

The series begins with BRAVE CF 84 in Zhengzhou, China, on August 9. This marks the or-

ganization's debut in China, increasing the total number of host countries to 34.

BRAVE CF 85 will take place in Lahore, Pakistan, on August 18. This event marks a return to Pakistan after BRAVE CF 17 in 2018, which featured notable fighters like Abdul Abdulrahimov, JP Buys, Gamzat Magomedov, and

Frans Mlambo.

On August 24, BRAVE CF 86 will be held in Burgas, Bulgaria, marking the organization's first event in the country and making Bulgaria the 35th host nation. This achievement sets a record unmatched by any other global mixed martial arts organization.

In September, BRAVE CF re-

turns to the Netherlands with BRAVE CF 83 in Alkmaar on September 22. This will be the second event in the Netherlands following the successful BRAVE CF 83 held last May.

BRAVE CF 88 is scheduled for September 28 in Slovenia, followed by BRAVE CF 89 in Spain on October 19. These events will

further cement BRAVE CF's status as the most widely represented mixed martial arts organization in the world. BRAVE Combat Federation continues to make significant strides in expanding its global footprint, showing its commitment to bringing top-tier MMA events to new and diverse audiences.

South Africa ignore near-misses with eye on final

AFP | Tarouba, Trinidad And Tobago

South Africa coach Rob Walter believes his team will not be haunted by its embarrassing legacy of big-match stagefright when they take on Afghanistan for a place in the T20 World Cup final.

Despite the Proteas' deep resources of talent, the country has only won one international title -- the Champions Trophy back in 1998.

In World Cup knockout games, they have won just one in 10 and have never made a final, be it in the 50-over or T20 format.

"The near misses in the past, they belong to the people who missed them," insisted Walter. "This team is a different team. We own whatever is ours to own. And so, our nearest reflection point is this tournament where we've managed to get over the line. So that's what we think about."

South Africa have won all of their seven matches at this World Cup but have consistently struggled to get over the line.

In the first round, they defeated the Netherlands by four

Men's T20 Cricket World Cup: First semi-final - Afghanistan v South Africa at Tarouba, Trinidad (0030 Thursday)

wickets only after being 12-4 at one stage and chasing just 104 to win.

A four-run win over Bangladesh followed before they avoided what would have been a seismic shock in a one-run victory over Nepal.

In the Super Eights, they squeezed past defending champions England by just seven runs.

"It's always great to dream and I think everyone in South Africa dreams of the time when a trophy gets

lifted," added Walter.

"No doubt that will happen. Whether it's going to be this week, that remains to be seen. We're just going to try and play the best game of cricket that we can. And we still haven't played our best game yet."

South Africa have defeated Afghanistan in their only two other T20 meetings -- by 59 runs at Barbados in the 2010 T20 World Cup and 37 runs in Mumbai six years later.

However, Walter admits that the 2024 Afghanistan team -- who stunned Australia on their way to a maiden semi-final spot -- are a vastly better unit.

"We're seeing Afghanistan in a T20 semi-final. It's awesome for the game of cricket. I love the way they play the

game and the way they support it," said Walter.

The coach also dismissed worries over opening batsman Reeza Hendricks who has a top score of 43 at this World Cup.

Hendricks has four scores in single figures including two first-ball ducks against Bangladesh and West Indies.

"Reeza's form doesn't bother me at all. He's a quality cricketer," said the coach.

"It was just three and a half weeks ago that he scored a magnificent 80 against the West Indies (in a pre-World Cup game), a man-alone performance really.

"He's a wonderful cricketer and good batsmen are just one shot away from contributing to the team and that's all we are interested in is giving him the freedom to do that."

South Africa's Reeza Hendricks hits a shot



Riffa Club Summer Open Tennis Tournament

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Riffa Club's Summer Open Tennis Tournament concluded on Monday evening, featuring the finals of all men's levels and the women's championship match. The event displayed impressive performances despite the scorching summer heat, keeping the audience engaged throughout.

Mazin Mansour won the men's sixth-level final, defeating Sayed Ahmed Al-Marzooq in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4. His strategic play and determination earned him the title.

In the men's seventh-level final, Mohamed Mattar claimed the championship by defeating Talal Al-Khuzaei with a decisive 6-0, 6-2 victory. Mattar's dominance on the court was evident as he secured the win.

Arnaud Jean captured the men's eighth-level title by getting the better of Salman Hassan with scores of 6-4, 6-1 in



the final match. Jean's consistent performance and tactical capability led him to victory.

Eman Al-Zaimoor clinched the women's championship, defeating Amina Abdulqader in the final with a commanding 6-1, 6-0 score. Al-Zaimoor's exceptional skills and focus were on full display, earning her the top spot.

The tournament concluded with an award ceremony where the club's executive director, Eyad Al-Alawi, and coach Salima Al-Banna presented the trophies to the winners of all categories, celebrating their achievements and sportsmanship.

England bowler Robinson smashed for 43 in single over as records tumble

AFP | London, United Kingdom

England's Ollie Robinson was smashed for 43 runs in the most expensive over in the history of the English County Championship on Wednesday as Louis Kimber raced to the fastest double hundred in the competition.

Sussex paceman Robinson was struck for two sixes, six fours -- three of which were off no-balls -- and a single by Leicestershire's Kimber in the fourth and final day of their Division Two match.

Surrey's Alex Tudor conceded 38 runs in an over in 1998, of which Lancashire's Andrew Flintoff hit 34.

That mark was equalled earlier this week when England spinner Shoaib Bashir conceded 38 runs while bowling for Worcestershire against Surrey,



Ollie Robinson

with fellow international Dan Lawrence doing most of the damage.

Kimber, batting at number eight, smashed 243 runs off just 127 balls to take Leicestershire to the brink of an astonishing win but he was bowled by Nathan McAndrew with his side agonisingly short of their target as Sussex won by 18 runs.

The 27-year-old's double-hundred came off just 100 balls, making it the second-fastest in first-class cricket history.

Malaysians angry over Olympic kit told to do it themselves next time

AFP | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian Olympic chiefs have hit back at flak over their athletes' kit for next month's Paris Games, telling critics: Do it yourself next time.

Unveiled over the weekend, the gold-themed outfits with tiger stripe designs were meant to reflect Malaysia's relentless pursuit for gold medals, according to sports officials.

But they have been criticised by some, with fans online



branding the designs "ugly" and "cheap-looking".

"I spoke to Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) president," chef de mission Hamidin Mohamad Amin was quoted as saying by The Star newspaper.

"He agreed that we will open to the fans to come up with the design next time.

"We will choose the best de-

Mannequins displaying the attire for Malaysia's athletes at the Paris Olympic Games during an event in Kuala Lumpur.

sign and give the winner a prize."

Among the outfits were track-suits, polo shirts and T-shirts, with some fans unhappy also at how they were unveiled -- on a series of mannequins.

According to some local reports, the OCM has said that the attire would be used only for travel and that different kit would be used for the opening ceremony and competition.

That did not stop the critics, with some unhappy with how the flag on the outfits were in

gold instead of the country's original red, blue, yellow and white. "Shame on you Olympic Council!!! Please change our national colour back to its originality!!!" a Facebook user wrote.

AFP was unable to immediately contact sports officials for comment.

Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh distanced herself from the debacle Monday by saying on X that her ministry had no jurisdiction over the design and the responsibility was with the OCM.

Ukraine out of Euro after Belgium draw

Euro 2024 (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A		Group B	
Germany	3 2 1 0 8 2 7 -- qualified	Spain	3 3 0 0 5 0 9 -- qualified
Switzerland	3 1 2 0 5 3 5 -- qualified	Italy	3 1 1 1 3 3 4 -- qualified
Hungary	3 1 0 2 2 5 3	Croatia	3 0 2 1 3 6 2 -- eliminated
Scotland	3 0 1 2 2 7 1 -- eliminated	Albania	3 0 1 2 3 5 1 -- eliminated
Group C		Group D	
England	3 1 2 0 2 1 5 -- qualified	Austria	3 2 0 1 6 4 6 -- qualified
Denmark	3 0 3 0 2 2 3 -- qualified	France	3 1 2 0 2 1 5 -- qualified
Slovenia	3 0 3 0 2 2 3 -- qualified	Netherlands	3 1 1 1 4 4 4 -- qualified
Serbia	3 0 2 1 1 2 2 -- eliminated	Poland	3 0 1 2 3 6 1 -- eliminated
Group E		Group F	
Romania	3 1 1 1 4 3 4 -- qualified	Portugal	2 2 0 0 5 1 6 -- qualified
Belgium	3 1 1 1 2 1 4 -- qualified	Turkey	2 1 0 1 3 4 3
Slovakia	3 1 1 1 3 3 4 -- qualified	Czech Republic	2 0 1 1 2 3 1
Ukraine	3 1 1 1 2 4 4 -- eliminated	Georgia	2 0 1 1 2 4 1

AFP | Stuttgart, Germany

Belgium, Romania and Slovakia qualified for the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Wednesday as war-torn Ukraine were left heartbroken by a thrilling end to Group E.

Romania's 1-1 draw with Slovakia in Frankfurt secured the point both nations needed to progress, while Ukraine's brave effort in a 0-0 draw with Belgium was not enough.

All four sides ended the section on four points, but Ukraine paid for their 3-0 defeat to Romania in their opening game as they finished bottom of the group on goal difference.

Belgium could be made to pay for making a meal of a group they were expected to cruise as Domenico Tedesco's men will face France in the last 16 after finishing second.

Slovakia advance as one of the best third-placed sides and will find out their last 16 opponents, along with Romania, after Wednesday's final matches in Group F.

of veteran talent and rising stars are just one of a host of favoured sides yet to hit their stride in Germany.

Their support reacted furiously at the final whistle in Stuttgart, with captain Kevin

Two places left in last 16

Only two places in the knockout stages are still up for grabs.

Portugal are already through as Group F winners, but all of Turkey, the Czech Republic and Georgia, on their major tournament debut, can join them.

Turkey just need a point against the Czechs to progress in second place.

The Czech Republic and Georgia need to win to advance either in second or as one of the best four third-placed sides.

Should they both fail to win, Hungary will claim the final place in the last 16.

England will also be keeping a close eye as anything other than a Georgia or Czech win will see them meet the Netherlands in the last 16.



Belgium's midfielder #07 Kevin De Bruyne heads the ball past Ukraine's defender #17 Oleksandr Zinchenko

De Bruyne appearing to tell his team-mates not to go over to acknowledge them as the whistles and jeers grew louder.

Ukraine became the first side since the expansion of the Euros to 24 teams to fail to get out of the group stage with four points.

It was a tale of what might have been for Serhiy Rebrov's men as Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels prevented a corner from crossing the line by centimetres before denying Georgiy Sudakov a memorable winner in stoppage time.

However, in stark contrast to Belgium's rebuke, the Ukrainians were still handed a hero's reception at the end by their band of supporters.

"A

strong nation is one that remains united and supports each other at all times. Both in times of defeat and in times of victory," wrote Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky on Telegram.

"Today we thank the Ukrainian national football team. Despite the disappointing result, you fought for our country... Glory to Ukraine!"

In Frankfurt, Romania ensured progress to the knockout stages of a Euros for the first time in 24 years after coming from behind to take a point.

Slovakia went in front on 24 minutes when Ondrej Duda powered home a header.

The lead only lasted 13 minutes as Ianis Hagi, son of former Barcelona and Real Madrid star Gheorghe Hagi, won a penalty that was emphatically converted by Razvan Marin.

Romania and Slovakia reach last 16 at Euro 2024 after tense draw



Romania's players and staff celebrate their group win Frankfurt, Germany

Romania and Slovakia both qualified for the last 16 at Euro 2024 after a tense 1-1 draw in their last Group E game on Wednesday.

Ondrej Duda put Slovakia ahead in the first half but Romania's Razvan Marin equalised with a penalty before the interval.

With all four teams in the group earning four points from their three games, Romania finished top having scored more goals than second-placed Belgium.

Slovakia went through in third place thanks to a superior goal difference to fourth-placed Ukraine.

It was a memorable moment for Romania, who are into the knockout stages of the Euros for the first time in 24 years.

Romania had only qualified once for the last 16 in their five Euro appearances, but Edward Iordanescu's tenacious side have ended that long drought.

They responded to Iordanescu's pre-match challenge to make "history" with a combative display fuelled by their army of vociferous fans, who turned the stadium into a sea of yellow.

Slovakia are into the knockout stages of a major tournament for the third time.

They reached the last 16 in the 2010 World Cup and made it to the same stage at Euro

2016. Knowing a draw would send both teams through, cynics had suggested they would play out a mutually beneficial stalemate.

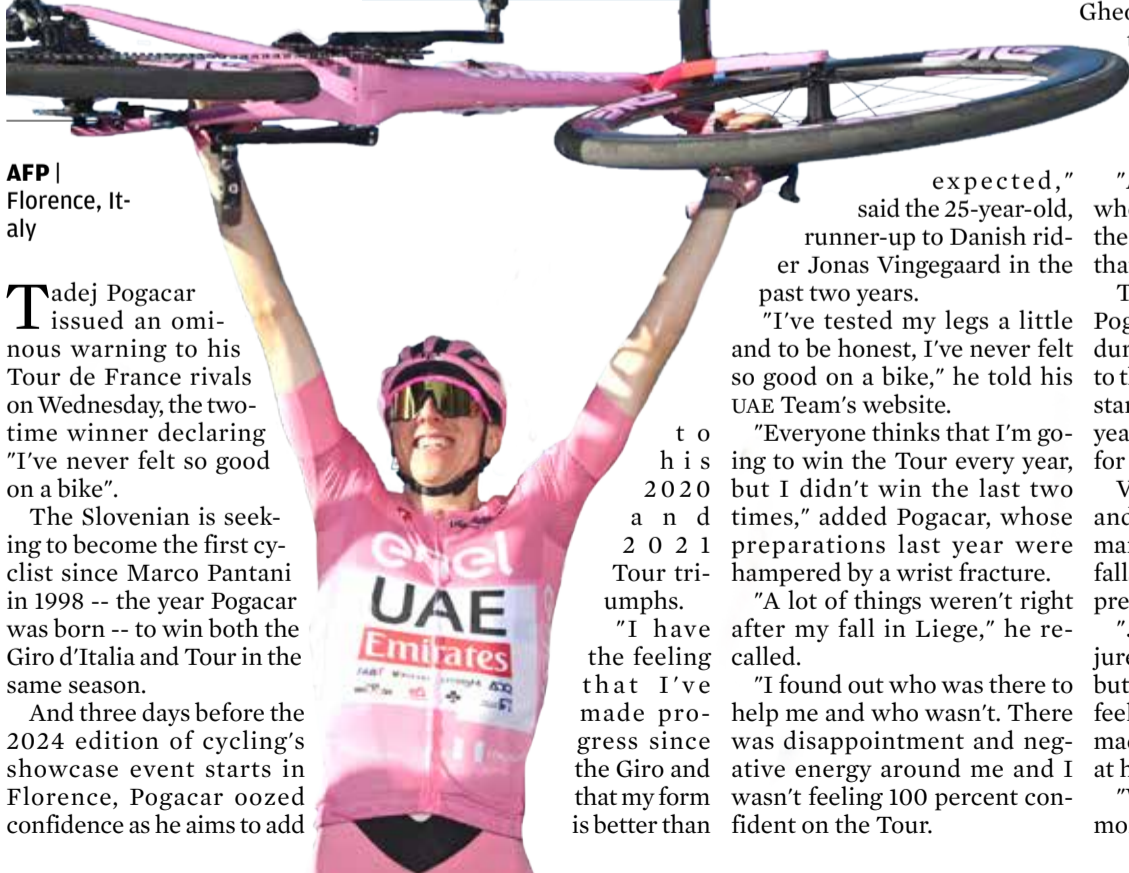
But there was no sign of Romania settling for a point as they made a fast start.

They threatened an early goal when Andrei Ratiu's stinging strike was pushed away by Martin Dubravka, with the rebound lashed wildly over by Ianis Hagi.



Romania's defender #02 Andrei Ratiu

Belgium's mix



AFP | Florence, Italy

Tadej Pogacar issued an ominous warning to his Tour de France rivals on Wednesday, the two-time winner declaring "I've never felt so good on a bike".

The Slovenian is seeking to become the first cyclist since Marco Pantani in 1998 -- the year Pogacar was born -- to win both the Giro d'Italia and Tour in the same season.

And three days before the 2024 edition of cycling's showcase event starts in Florence, Pogacar oozed confidence as he aims to add

expected," said the 25-year-old, runner-up to Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard in the past two years.

"I've tested my legs a little and to be honest, I've never felt so good on a bike," he told his UAE Team's website.

"Everyone thinks that I'm going to win the Tour every year, but I didn't win the last two times," added Pogacar, whose preparations last year were hampered by a wrist fracture.

"A lot of things weren't right after my fall in Liege," he recalled.

"I found out who was there to help me and who wasn't. There was disappointment and negative energy around me and I wasn't feeling 100 percent confident on the Tour.

"All that built up to a point where I crumbled. It was during the time trial at Combloux. After that I was at a standstill."

Twelve months on it is in-form Pogacar's rivals who have endured less than ideal build-ups to the three-week marathon that starts in Florence and ends this year in Nice due to preparations for the Paris Olympics.

Vingegaard, Remco Evenepoel and Pogacar's fellow countryman Primoz Roglic have all had falls that have interrupted their preparations.

"Jonas was really badly injured (with multiple fractures) but I think he'll be okay. If he is feeling mentally strong and has made a good recovery he will be at his top level.

"We saw that Remco and Primoz were in good shape in the

Dauphine and I reckon they'll be at their best.

"But you never know. Last year I thought I was 100 percent, but one day I was really good, then the next I wasn't ready."

Asked if he was keen to make a strong start to exploit any possible weakness in his main contenders for the 2024 title he shrugged: "I can't speak too much about that. The first two stages are difficult and will show where we all are compared to one another."

"We'll decide after the first two stages how to approach the following days."

They reached the last 16 in the 2010 World Cup and made it to the same stage at Euro

2016. Knowing a draw would send both teams through, cynics had suggested they would play out a mutually beneficial stalemate.

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Tour favourite Pogacar says he has 'never felt so good on a bike'