

**Bahrain rout Uzbekistan in handball**

Senior men advance to main round as Group C winners in Hangzhou Asiad | P12

**WORLD 6 US soldier Travis King released by N.Korea**

THE DAILY **tribune**

Muharraq get tough group for Arab clubs basketball **11 SPORTS**

**BUSINESS 5 UK approves new North Sea oil production**

**US to let Israelis enter visa-free by end of November**

AFP | Washington

The United States said yesterday it will start letting Israelis visit without visas, granting a longstanding wish of its ally after concluding it had reduced discrimination against Arab Americans - an assessment rejected by some lawmakers and activists.

By the end of November, Israelis will be in the same league as citizens of most Western nations by not needing visas for trips of 90 days or less to the world's largest economy.

**Prayer on Prophet's birthday**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday performed afternoon prayer at Sakhir Palace mosque, alongside their Highnesses members of the Royal Family, and scholars, marking the anniversary of the Prophet's (PBUH) birthday. A sermon was delivered by Dr. Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri, the Sunni Endowments Council Chairman, who spoke about the life and virtues of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

**HM King amends Bahrain's telecom law**

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued Decree Law (18) of 2023 to enhance the regulation and functioning of the telecommunications sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The decree law amends certain provisions of the Telecommunications Law issued by Decree (48) of 2002. The amendments were made based on the proposal of the Prime Minister and after the approval of the Cabinet.

The amendments intro-

duced several changes to the existing Telecommunications Law, aimed at modernising and streamlining the regulatory framework. The following key changes have been made:

The definitions of "access," "public communications services," "notification," "frequency license," and "telecommunications network" included in Article 1 of the Communications Law have been replaced. This revision ensures that the law remains up-to-date with the evolving nature of the telecommunications industry.

**100 killed as fire engulfs crowded Iraq wedding hall**

AFP | Qaraqosh, Iraq

At least 100 people were killed when a fire ripped through a crowded Iraqi wedding hall, officials said yesterday, pointing to indoor fireworks as the likely cause for the blaze that sparked a panicked stampede for the exits.

More than 150 people were injured by the flames, the choking smoke or in the crush to flee the reception hall, which was reduced to charred debris and piles of twisted furniture under a partially collapsed ceiling. (Full report on World Page)

**White House thanks China**

AFP | Washington

The White House thanked Beijing yesterday for allowing detained US soldier Travis King to leave North Korea through Chinese territory.

King had left Chinese airspace and was on his way to a US military base, a senior administration official said. (Full report on World Page)

**Bahrain mourns loss of third BDF soldier**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain yesterday said that a third member of its contingent in the Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Houthi rebels has been martyred following an attack that took place in Saudi Arabia earlier this week.

In a statement issued yesterday evening, General Command of the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) said the body of the martyr was brought to the Kingdom in a military plane of the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF) at the Isa Air Base, and special military ceremonies were held to receive him in the presence of senior BDF officers and family and relatives.

BDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi was present to receive the martyr's body and to convey the condolences and sympathy of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the Prime Minister; and HE



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, to the family of the martyr of national duty.

Through the statement, HE the Chief of Staff also expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs of national duty and his prayers for a speedy recovery for the wounded and the injured.

Bahrain had announced the martyrdom of two of its soldiers posted near the Saudi border

with Yemen on Monday, after Houthi rebels carried out drone attacks even as peace talks were going on.

Saudi Arabia, the United States, France and the United Nations condemned the attack, with Washington blaming the Houthi rebels.

Bahrain has taken part in the military intervention spearheaded by Saudi Arabia since 2015 in support of the Yemeni government against the rebels.

A Houthi delegation had held five days of talks in Saudi Arabia earlier this month aimed at consolidating a UN-brokered ceasefire.

The fallen BDF serviceman's body is returned home with full military honors

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# HM King and HRH Prince Salman exchange greetings

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of congratulations from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, marking the anniversary of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)'s birthday.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister extended deepest congratulations to HM the

King, noting that the auspicious occasion is an opportunity to express pride in the Prophet's life, and the Islamic values of moderation, which have been established as the kingdom's firm approach thanks to the royal visions.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed that the kingdom will carry on spreading the noble Islamic values and principles called for by Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), by promot-



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

ing coexistence, tolerance, mutual respect and human fraternity, which has made Bahrain a beacon of peace and coexistence.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless HM the King with abundant health, happiness and long life, wishing Bahrain, as well as the Arab and Islamic nations many happy returns. He also expressed hope that peace would prevail all over the world.

HM King Hamad sent a reply cable of thanks to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HM the King expressed deepest thanks and appreciation to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, wishing HRH abundant health and wellness.

HM the King also wished the Kingdom, as well as the Arab and Islamic nations many happy returns.

## Saudi offers condolences, sympathy

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a phone call from His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister offered sincere condolences and sympathy to HM the King over the loss of

an officer and a soldier, as well as the injury of several servicemen from the taskforce of the Bahrain Defence Force while performing their national duties in defence of the southern borders of Saudi Arabia, within the Operation Decisive Storm and the Operation Restoring Hope, carried out by the Arab Coalition. His Highness also wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

HM the King and HRH Prince Mohammed discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries, and ways to further strengthen them, within the framework of the strong ties binding them.

They also affirmed determination to carry on strengthening the existing bilateral cooperation across various fields to meet the two peoples' aspirations.

### Bahraini-Saudi ties



Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro stressed the strong Bahraini-Saudi ties in the commercial and industrial sectors. The minister was speaking during his meeting with Bandar Ibrahim Al Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources in Saudi Arabia, within the framework of his official visit to Saudi Arabia. Fakhro noted the importance of supporting all programmes.

## Boost for unemployment insurance programmes

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued Decree Law (20) of 2023, which introduces a new clause (7) to Paragraph (C) of Article (8) of Decree Law (78) of 2006 concerning unemployment insurance.

This addition to the law aims to facilitate the integration of Bahraini citizens into the labour market. These programmes include employment, training, and wage support initiatives carried out by the Labour Fund, with a one-time allocation of BHD200 million.

The specific conditions and regulations will be determined by the Minister with the approval of the Cabinet. The implementation of this decree falls under the responsibility of the Prime Minister, and it

will be effective from the date of its issuance and officially published in the Official Gazette.

His Majesty issued Decree Law (16) of 2023, bringing amendments to Decree (15) of 1986 concerning the regulation of tourism in Bahrain.

The amendments grant the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) the authority to impose administrative penalties on violators, including written warnings, restrictions on services, reduction of facility classification, temporary suspension or closure of licenses, revocation of licenses, and the imposition of daily fines.

The Minister will also specify the violations and their corresponding fines. Grievances can be made within thirty days, and rejected grievances can be appealed in court within sixty

days. Violations may result in imprisonment or fines ranging from BHD500 to BHD50,000.

HM the King issued Decree Law (17) of 2023 to regulate sanitation and surface water drainage.

This decree amends certain provisions of Law (33) of 2006 and is based on the proposal of the Prime Minister, with the approval of the Cabinet.

The amendments include redefining key terms such as the Ministry and the Minister, as well as surface water and notification. Furthermore, the decree introduces penalties for violations, including imprisonment and fines ranging from BHD1,000 to BHD3,000, depending on the nature of the offense. Additionally, fees are imposed on various services, with exemptions in place for the first residence of Bahraini citizens.

### Bahraini-Chinese relations



Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi met with Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport, on the sidelines of his participation in the Global Sustainable Transport Forum (GCTF) in China. The meeting discussed the significance of Bahraini-Chinese relations and their cooperation in using modern technology and smart means of transportation.

## Bahrain signs IAEA cooperation deal

Vienna

Ambassador Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, the Director-General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Hua Liu, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, signed Bahrain's Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2024-2029.

The CPF identifies seven priority areas: legal framework, nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security, food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resources and environment, energy and industry, and strengthening the national capacity in nuclear science and technology.

Ambassador Bucheeri wel-



Ambassador Bucheeri and Liu at the agreement-signing ceremony

comed the opportunity to enhance national awareness about potential future projects based on an analysis of Bahrain's current situation, which was studied by specialised government agencies in the Kingdom in cooperation with the IAEA.

The IAEA Deputy Director

General stressed the importance of continued cooperation between Bahrain and the Agency to maintain the level of political and technical coordination to serve the interests of the Kingdom and the Middle East region.



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## Human trafficker's prison term reduced to five years

● **High Appeals Court upholds Asian man's permanent deportation**

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court amended the sentence of an Asian man accused of trafficking in persons to five years of imprisonment instead of 10 years while upholding his permanent deportation from the country following the execution of the sentence.

He lured a young woman to Bahrain with the promise of a job before detaining, raping, beating and prostituting her for profit.

The defendant communicated with the victim under the pretext of being an employer, promising a job opportunity in Bahrain. When she arrived, the defendant received her at the airport and took her to an apartment where he restricted her freedom and brought in clients. He forced her to engage in prostitution for profit. Furthermore, he made her perform housework without pay and assaulted her numerous times.

The victim managed to escape the apartment when the defendant was drunk; however, he was able to catch up to her. Those present at the scene

informed the police, who arrived and arrested the defendant and then questioned the victim. The case was transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate.

During interrogation, the defendant admitted to forcing the victim into prostitution, depriving her of freedom, and assaulting her. The victim stated that she came to Bahrain to work as an employee in a hotel or a women's salon for a good salary.

She had paid the defendant BD800 in order to obtain a work visa but was tricked into prostitution and forced to perform housework without pay. Furthermore, the defendant raped her more than 6 times.

The prosecution referred the defendant to court on charges of trafficking in the victim's person through coercion, as well as repeated sexual and physical assault, wherein the assault did not lead to incapacitation for a period longer than 20 days.

The court sentenced the defendant to 10 years of imprisonment and obligated him to pay the expenses of returning the victim to her country, besides ordering his permanent deportation. He appealed the ruling, and the court reduced his sentence to five years while upholding the rest of the ruling.



## Three appellants summoned by High Appeals Court in BD12,000 bribery case



TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court summoned three appellants convicted of receiving a bribe of over BD12,000 to a hearing on October 15.

The Court of First Instance had previously convicted them for receiving a bribe in exchange for the issue of 25 visiting visas through the King Fahd Causeway.

The first defendant was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined BD 12,000, the second was sentenced to five years and fined BD12,000, and the third was sentenced to two years followed by permanent deportation from Bahrain.

The Financial Crimes Prosecution had received a report from the Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs Directorate regarding an employee's violation of job procedures for the benefit of others.

Investigations revealed that the defendant, along with two accomplices, had requested bribes to carry out work in violation of his duties. He also entered false information into electronic records to indicate

the exit and entry of visitor visa holders.

Accordingly, the Public Prosecution began its investigations by hearing witness testimonies, interrogating the defendants, and issuing legal warrants. Inspecting the defendants' bank accounts and their phones revealed that the first defendant habitually violated his duties in exchange for profit by falsifying data in the electronic system records, with the participation of the other defendants.

The prosecution referred them to court after charging the first defendant with accepting a bribe of BD12,210 from the second defendant for facilitating the exit of passengers through the King Fahd Causeway via illegal visa renewal.

The second defendant was charged with abetting the first defendant in committing the crime by delivering the bribe and handing over a number of passports.

The second defendant also asked the third defendant for money to be shared with public officials and received a sum of BD1,830.

# ACs Wilt in Heat Wave

Prioritise regular servicing to enjoy cooler indoor environments and avoid stress caused by failing units

● **Extreme heat and humidity causing AC problems in summer**

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

As scorching heat and relentless humidity continue to plague homes and offices, a growing number of air conditioning units are succumbing to the strain, failing to provide adequate cooling.

The adverse effects of extreme temperatures have become a common problem across the region, prompting experts to shed light on the issue and offer valuable insights to mitigate the problem.

Sumon Bazlur Rashid, a Manager at Ultimate Air CO.W.L.L, has extensive experience in dealing with the challenges posed by the Gulf's hot climate. According to him, one of the primary reasons for AC failures is the inability to cool sufficiently due to the circulation of heat in the air.

To combat this issue, Rashid advises considering the type of compressor used in air conditioning units. There are two main types: rotary and piston compressors.

After careful evaluation, he recommends investing in AC units equipped with piston compressors, as they have



AC failures are main problem at the peak of summer



Rashid

proven to be more reliable in high-temperature environments.

While a rotary compressor may cost around BD300 for a 1.5 to 3-ton unit, the price difference with a piston compressor is minimal, with the latter priced at approximately BD340.

In addition to selecting the right compressor type, Rashid emphasises the importance of regular AC servicing. Whether used in homes, schools, or offices, AC units should ideally be serviced once or twice a year, depending on the frequency of usage.

This maintenance practice is particularly crucial during hot weather, as the condenser coil tends to accumulate dust and debris, impeding its efficiency.

The dusty outdoor environment further exacerbates the problem, making regular servicing essential to prevent AC failures and ensure optimal

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**In addition to selecting the right compressor type, regular AC servicing is important. Whether used in homes, schools, or offices, AC units should ideally be serviced once or twice a year, depending on the frequency of usage.**

cooling performance.

The adverse effects of extreme heat on AC units are not

limited to insufficient cooling. Several other common issues can arise, including refrigerant leaks, faulty compressors, electrical problems, fan malfunctions, thermostat issues, dirty or blocked air filters, and overworked systems.

Addressing these problems promptly through professional maintenance and inspections can help prevent AC failures and extend the lifespan of AC units.

As the Gulf region grapples with extreme heat and humidity, it is crucial to take proactive measures to ensure the efficient functioning of air conditioning systems.

By choosing AC units with piston compressors, which offer enhanced reliability, and prioritising regular servicing, individuals can enjoy cooler indoor environments and avoid the discomfort caused by failing AC units.

## Focus on BD1.5m projects and purchase requests

TDT | Manama

Strategic procurement requests valued at approximately BD1.5 million were discussed at the 65th Information and Communication Technology Governance Committee (ICTGC) meeting, held virtually and chaired by Information & eGovernment Authority (iga) Chief Executive, Mohammed Ali Al Qaed.

Al Qaed welcomed the attendees, thanking them for their contributions. Items on the agenda included the latest developments and technical preparations concerning the 10th Bahrain International eGovernment Forum, set to take



Al Qaed chairs the virtual discussion

place from 9 to 11 October under the patronage of the Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communication Technology (MCICT), HE Gen. Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The meeting also included a discussion on consultancy services aimed at studying the new national healthcare information system. The project comprises a comprehensive examination of the requirements and technical

specifications of the new system, restructuring associated processes, analysing gaps, and identifying opportunities for enhancement. These efforts are aligned with the government's goals of improving the quality, efficiency, and expediency of healthcare services, in accordance with globally recognised best practices.

Operational procurements related to the maintenance and support of government systems and applications were also covered, including ways to enhance their efficiency while reducing operational expenses.

Implemented decisions from previous meetings were also reviewed.

## Indonesia's Independence Day



Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Ali Behzad, Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the reception held by the Embassy of Indonesia on the 78th anniversary of their country's Independence Day. The undersecretary congratulated Ardi Hermawan, Indonesian Ambassador to Bahrain, and expressed his best wishes to Indonesia and its people. Behzad praised the Bahraini-Indonesian relations and their progress in all fields, stressing Bahrain's keenness to boost them.

## Stage set for global telecoms forum

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will host the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Development Forum for Arab Region (RDF-ARB) on November 6-8.

The forum is organised by ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and hosted by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

It provides a good opportunity for high-level dialogues, cooperation and partnerships between policymakers in the field of communications and information technology.

# Audited Financial Statements for 2022

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 31 December 2022

	BD	BD
	31 Dec. 2022	31 Dec. 2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and balances with banks	27,555,604	24,831,091
Due from related parties	607,853	207,710
Accounts receivable and prepayments	717,949	851,615
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>28,881,406</b>	<b>25,890,416</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Furniture and equipment	2,148,984	2,784,362
Right-of-use assets	1,680,409	2,157,038
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>3,829,393</b>	<b>4,941,400</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>32,710,799</b>	<b>30,831,816</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Due to related parties	11,940,183	13,353,082
Accruals and other payables	12,723,799	10,327,913
Lease liability	476,329	500,004
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>25,140,311</b>	<b>24,180,999</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Lease liability	1,244,574	1,674,873
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>1,244,574</b>	<b>1,674,873</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>26,384,885</b>	<b>25,855,872</b>
Accumulated fund	6,325,914	4,975,944
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ACCUMULATED FUND</b>	<b>32,710,799</b>	<b>30,831,816</b>

## COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	BD	BD
	2022	2021
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contribution from the Government	8,439,000	8,336,000
Collection fees from Ministry of Health	992,896	948,765
Administration fees	4,198,560	3,730,225
Interest and other income	710,383	651,049
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14,340,839</b>	<b>13,666,039</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and related costs	8,064,017	8,007,586
Other operating expenses	3,477,604	3,717,994
Depreciation and amortization	1,227,959	1,270,011
Finance cost on lease liability	85,992	80,254
Impairment allowance for accounts receivable	63,297	138,696
Directors' remuneration	72,000	72,000
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>12,990,869</b>	<b>13,286,541</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>1,349,970</b>	<b>379,498</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,349,970</b>	<b>379,498</b>



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	BD	BD
	2022	2021
Balance at 1 January	4,975,944	5,424,671
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,349,970	379,498
Surplus transferred to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy ("MOFNE")	-	(828,225)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>6,325,914</b>	<b>4,975,944</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	BD	BD
	2022	2021
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Surplus for the year	1,349,970	379,498
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of right-of-use assets	533,347	536,305
Depreciation	694,612	733,706
Interest income	(707,350)	(538,988)
Finance expense	85,992	80,254
Operating surplus before changes in operating assets and liabilities	<b>1,956,571</b>	<b>1,190,775</b>
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Accounts receivable and prepayments	(266,477)	442,008
Amounts due to related parties	(1,412,899)	2,673,406
Accruals and other payables	2,395,886	146,031
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>2,673,081</b>	<b>4,452,220</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest received on bank deposits	707,350	491,363
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(59,234)	(86,046)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>648,116</b>	<b>405,317</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Surplus transferred to the MOFNE	-	(828,225)
Lease liability paid	(596,684)	(598,720)
<b>Cash flows used in financing activities</b>	<b>(596,684)</b>	<b>(1,426,945)</b>
<b>Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,724,513</b>	<b>3,430,592</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	24,831,091	21,400,499
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>27,555,604</b>	<b>24,831,091</b>

## Seef Properties signs deal to open Joe & The Juice at Al Liwan

TDT | Manma

Seef Properties signed a lease agreement to open the first Bahrain branch of the Joe & The Juice café at Al Liwan. The 122 sqm café offers a diverse selection of hot and cold beverages, including unique natural juice blends without unhealthy additives, served in a modern and enjoyable atmosphere.

Founded in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2002, Joe & The Juice's chain of cafés has over 300 branches worldwide, including in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Seef Properties Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf said: "We are pleased to announce this agreement with one of the



world's leading European cafés. Choosing Al Liwan as the location for its first branch in Bahrain's market underscores the mall's modern offerings

and ability to attract a significant share of customers from a younger demographic. We are committed to launching innovative concepts within the in-

dustry and enriching Bahrain's market with prestigious global brands."

The café caters to a discerning and youthful target demographic with a fast-paced and health-conscious lifestyle. The chain's appeal lies in its forward-thinking approach, providing a space where young consumers can enjoy a range of culinary choices, while allowing employees to dress as they like.



## Decarbonising shipping to cost over \$100 bn per year: UN

Geneva, Switzerland

The UN called for rapid decarbonisation of the shipping industry on Wednesday, warning that the price tag could top \$100 billion a year as the sector's emissions continue to swell.

The UN's trade and development agency, UNCTAD, highlighted the vital role shipping plays in the global economy, with over 80 percent of all traded goods in the world moved by sea.

But it also accounts for nearly three percent of all greenhouse gas emissions globally.

At a time when industries are under pressure to reduce their carbon footprint to avert catastrophic climate change, emissions from the global maritime fleet has increased by 20 percent in the past decade.

"We call for global action to decarbonise shipping," UNCTAD chief Rebeca Grynspan told reporters, presenting an annual report on the industry.

"Balancing environmental sustainability, regulatory compliance and economic demands is vital for a prosperous, equitable and resilient future for maritime transport," she said.

## UK approves new North Sea oil production

London, United Kingdom

Britain on Wednesday authorised oil and gas production in its largest undeveloped field to bolster its energy security, one week after the government diluted its net zero targets, triggering further condemnation by environmentalists.

Norwegian oil and gas producer Equinor and Ithaca Energy, a subsidiary of Israeli group Delek, will together invest \$3.8 billion in developing the Rosebank field in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland.

The North Sea Transition



Extraction of the estimated 300 million barrels of oil at the field is expected to begin in 2026-27.

Authority, a UK oil and gas regulator, said it had "granted development and production consent for the Rosebank field, north-west of Shetland".

Equinor has an 80 percent interest in the project and Ithaca the remainder. "Rosebank

stands as the largest undeveloped field in the UK," said Gilad Myerson, executive chairman at Ithaca Energy.

"The Rosebank project will create thousands of jobs and contribute significantly to securing the UK's energy needs for

many years to come," he added.

The UK government maintains it must beef up energy security via continued production of fossil fuels following the invasion of Ukraine by key producer Russia, even if it means pushing back its target on net zero carbon emissions.

As we make the transition to renewables, we will still need oil and gas -- it makes sense to use our own supplies such as Rosebank," said Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on X, formerly known as Twitter. "This is the right long-term decision for the UK's energy security."

## Russian economy to grow this year: European development bank

London, United Kingdom

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development yesterday said it expected Russia's economy to grow in 2023 thanks to rising oil prices, having forecast a contraction earlier this year.

The EBRD expects growth of 1.5% after predicting contraction of 1.5% in an estimate made in May.

"The outlook for 2024 will depend heavily on how the war on Ukraine and the related economic sanctions evolve; at this stage growth of 1.0% is projected," the bank said.

The bank explained that

in May it expected Western sanctions against Russia, in particular a price cap on its oil exports, "to be more effective in constraining" the country's growth. "But oil revenues have been supported by rising oil prices and Russia's ability to offset the impact of the cap by exporting to new markets," it said.

The EBRD named such markets as China and India, adding that Russia's economic "activity has remained robust -- particularly household consumption and government spending on the ongoing conflict".

# World Zone Shipping Services Expands its Logistics



World Zone Shipping Services LLC, a distinguished logistics provider headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is expanding its operation to Bahrain.

With a remarkable track record spanning over a decade led by management with three decades of experience, World Zone Shipping Services is renowned for its unwavering commitment to deliver distinct service experience and its forward-thinking approach to logistics solutions. It is these traits—value based and highly-efficient services, competitive rates, and utmost diligence in handling shipments—that set the company apart from its competitors. The company's reputation received a significant boost when it was honoured as the 'Great Place to Work' in U.A.E and "Best Workplaces for Women in GCC" by GTPW a global organisation

validating company's culture.

At present, World Zone operates in the UAE, Oman, Qatar, India, and Saudi Arabia, offering a comprehensive suite of logistics services encompassing air and sea freight forwarding, customs clearance and transport, warehousing and distribution, inland, overland transportation, break bulk, roro and project logistics. We also handles specialized services, including pharma shipments, cold chain logistics, hazardous goods transportation, last mile delivery and exhibition logistics.

The strategic expansion into Bahrain is part of our mission to expand its forays in the all GCC to serve our cross border clients and deliver value added services in the regions where they operate enhancing our global presence. World Zone Shipping Services' foray into Bahrain represents a significant milestone in the company's growth trajectory

as the logistics landscape in the GCC region continues to evolve, World Zone's expansion serves as a testament to its enduring commitment to delivering excellence and pioneering positive change in the industry along with making things better for all our stakeholders.

Our tagline "One World: One Zone" defines our purpose and "Together we create Future".



## SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE BAHRAIN

We're HIRING

**COMPANY PROFILE**

Worldzone is a global transport and logistic partner offering multimodal door to door transport solutions to our regional and global clients. We pride ourselves in providing best supply chain solutions to our clients in making every service experience distinct.

World Zone operates currently in U.A.E, INDIA, OMAN, QATAR, KSA by offering client specific solutions for their sea, air and land shipments focusing on service delivery and ensuring happiness of our clients.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

As a Sales Executive your primary responsibility will be to offer our logistical solutions and meeting customer needs while securing jobs from existing /potential clients. The candidate should be familiar with all services and have an overall understanding of the client/market potential.

**JOB ROLE**

- Identifying leads and present service options.
- Generate and maintain prospective clients in given geographical area.
- Achieve Sales budget and Collections goals
- Maintain healthy Customer relations.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES**

- Generate and nurture leads by visiting potential clients /plan service offering.
- Prospect for leads and build a pipeline of businesses
- Negotiating all contracts with prospective clients.
- Giving sales presentations to a range of prospective clients
- Coordinating and executing sales within given SOP
- Monitor and Maintain payment pattern of clients.
- Preparing and submitting sales contracts for orders.
- Maintaining customer profiling, client records.
- Preparing daily, weekly and monthly reports.
- Meeting or exceeding individual sales budget.
- Maintain healthy customer relationships
- Adhere to all company policies, procedures, business ethics code.

**YOUR WORK CONDITIONS**

- Annual incentive program and eligibility for various monthly/annual rewards
- Annual increment based on performance meeting annual goals.
- Flexible working environment and Work from Home (WFH) option
- All Benefits as per existing labour laws including paternity leave and monthly menstrual leave/ WFH options.

If excited to join our team to ensure personal growth and a rewarding future, please rush your CV to

[careers@worldzoneglobal.com](mailto:careers@worldzoneglobal.com)

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES IS TO BE HAPPY**  
 DALAI LAMA

**TODAY IN HISTORY**  
 935 Saint Wenceslas is murdered by his brother, Boleslaus I of Bohemia

1066 William the Conqueror, then Duke of Normandy, lands at Pevensey Bay in Sussex, beginning the Norman conquest of England



1781 9,000 American and 7,000 French troops begin the siege of Yorktown

1887 Yellow River or Huang Hé floods in China, killing between 900,000 and 2 million people, one of the deadliest natural disasters in history

**News in brief**

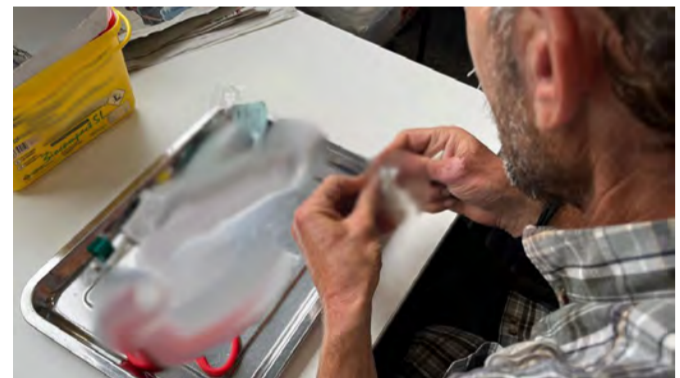
**56,000 Pakistan schools shut over eye virus outbreak**  
 More than 56,000 Pakistan schools will shut for the rest of the week in a bid to curb a mass outbreak of a contagious eye virus, officials said yesterday. Millions of students will stay home from tomorrow after Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, announced blanket closures having recorded 357,000 conjunctivitis cases since the start of the year. The fast-spreading eye infection causes redness, itchiness and discharge from the eyes and contamination can spread through hand contact, as well as coughing and sneezing. "The closure has been announced as a proactive measure to give maximum protection to students against the infection," Punjab education department spokesman Zulfiqar Ali told AFP. There are 127,000,000 residents in eastern Punjab province and 56,000 state schools, as well as thousands of independent schools also subject to the shutdown. "We hope this will break the cycle of the infection in the province," Ali said.

**Azerbaijan says 193 people killed in Karabakh offensive**  
 Azerbaijan said yesterday that 192 of its soldiers and one civilian died in its lightning offensive last week against ethnic Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. The Azerbaijani health ministry said that more than 500 Azerbaijani troops were also wounded in the one-day operation that ended with a rebel pledge to disarm. The combined death toll from the offensive now stands at more than 400 people. Armenian separatists have revised up their number of fighters and civilians killed to 213.

**Nearly half of Karabakh population flees Azerbaijan's control**  
 Armenia said yesterday that nearly half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population has fled the enclave since Azerbaijan crushed the rebels' decades-long fight for an independent state last week. Yerevan's attempts to absorb the sea of homeless and hungry ethnic Armenians come with officials still trying to identify the whereabouts of more than 100 people reported missing in a fuel depot blast Monday that claimed 68 lives. The fireball erupted as refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh were stocking up on fuel for the long drive along the lone mountain road leading to Armenia. The Armenian government said more than 53,000 people had left since Azerbaijan lifted its nine-month blockade on the enclave on Sunday.

**CURIOSER & CURIOSER**

**UK's first drug consumption room approved**



Representative picture

**London, United Kingdom**  
 The UK's first drug consumption room for users to take illegal drugs will open in Scotland after receiving approval yesterday. The £2.3 million (\$2.8 million) facility will be located in Glasgow and allow users to take their own drugs in a clean environment under medical supervision. The Glasgow City Integration Joint Board approved the pilot facility on Wednesday, bringing an end to years of political to-and-fro over its legality between the devolved Scottish and central UK governments. "There is overwhelming international evidence which demonstrates that safer drug consumption facilities can improve the health, wellbeing and recovery of people who use the facility and reduce the negative impact that public injecting has on local communities and businesses," said the board, which advises on community health and social care services. Scotland's most senior law officer, Lord Advocate Dor-

othy Bain, paved the way for its approval earlier this month when she said it would not be "in the public interest" to prosecute people using such a facility. The idea was first mooted in 2006 during an HIV outbreak in Glasgow, which is Scotland's biggest city. A study after the outbreak found there were approximately 400 to 500 people injecting drugs in public places in Glasgow city centre on a regular basis. "Injecting in public spaces increases the risk of infection and other drug-related harms, and also causes a risk to the public from discarded injecting equipment and needles," said the board. Scotland recorded its lowest drug death figures in five years in 2022, according to official figures published last month, but the rate still remains higher than in the rest of Europe. The devolved Scottish government in Edinburgh, which sets health policy, is in favour of the facility, but some lawmakers are concerned about its effect on local businesses.

**US soldier Travis King released by N.Korea**



A man walks past a television showing a news broadcast featuring a photo of US soldier Travis King

**King ran across the border on July 18**  
 Ryder hailed the "hard work" of US military forces and the State Department in getting King home. After a drunken pub fight, an incident with police and a stay in South Korean jail, Private Second Class King was being taken to the airport in July to fly back to Texas. But instead of travelling to Fort Bliss for disciplinary hearings, King snuck away, joined a Demilitarised Zone sightseeing trip and slipped over the border. Last month, Pyongyang confirmed it was holding the US soldier, saying King had defected to North Korea to escape "mistreatment and racial discrimination in the U.S. Army". But after completing its investigation, Pyongyang has "decided to expel Travis King, a soldier of the U.S. Army who illegally intruded into the territory of the DPRK, under the law of the Republic", the Korean Central News Agency said Wednesday, using the North's formal name. The US soldiers' release followed a complex, "months-long" diplomatic effort, a senior US administration official said on condition of anonymity. King was "transferred over the border to the DPRK across the border to China, with the help of the government of Sweden. The United States has been able to receive him in China and is now in the process of transferring him home," the official said. King's motives remained unclear for going to a country that has a long history of detaining Americans and using them as bargaining chips in bilateral negotiations.

**Last month, Pyongyang confirmed it was holding the US soldier**

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

**At least 100 killed as fire engulfs Iraq wedding hall**

**More than 150 people were injured by the flame**  
**Civil defence authorities said the hall had been fitted with prefabricated panels that were "highly flammable and contravened safety standards"**

AFP | Qaraqosh, Iraq



A firefighter checks the damage in an event hall in Qaraqosh, also known as Hamdaniyah, after a fire broke out during a wedding, killing at least 100 people and injuring more than 150

At least 100 people were killed when a fire ripped through a crowded Iraqi wedding hall, officials said yesterday, pointing to indoor fireworks as the likely cause for the blaze that sparked a panicked stampede for the exits. More than 150 people were injured by the flames, the choking smoke or in the crush to flee the reception hall, which was reduced to charred debris and piles of twisted furniture under a partially collapsed ceiling. "I thought there had been an explosion," said Martin Idriss, 19, who was working in the kitchen when the fire broke out Tuesday evening in the venue in the mainly Christian northern city of Qaraqosh. "The flames were devouring the whole hall," he said. "When I went back in, I saw the charred bodies of three children," he said, adding the venue's emergency exits had proved "inadequate" for the hundreds of guests trying to escape. Early reports and unverified video footage online suggested flames shot up sparking flames that ignited ceiling decorations before the fire engulfed highly flammable construction materials. Health authorities "counted 100 dead and more than 150 injured in the fire at a marriage hall in Hamdaniyah", as the city is also known, Iraq's official INA news agency reported in what it called a "preliminary tally". The casualty toll was confirmed to AFP by health ministry spokes-



A woman mourns over a coffin



Soldiers and emergency responders gather around ambulances

man Saif al-Badr, who said most of the injured were being treated for burns, oxygen deprivation and crush injuries. But the director of health services in Nineveh, Mansour Marouf, on Wednesday afternoon said 94 people had died, with their bodies transported to different hospitals. Only 30 of those had been immediately identified by their families, he told a news conference. The Iraqi Red Crescent meanwhile reported more than 450 casualties, without providing a breakdown of deaths and injuries. "We were suffocating" -

Wedding guest Rania Waad, 17, who suffered burns to her hand, said that as the bride and groom "were slow dancing, the fireworks (flames) started to climb to the ceiling (and) the whole hall went up in flames". "We couldn't see anything," she said, choking back sobs. "We were suffocating. We didn't know how to get out." At the city's main hospital, an AFP photographer saw ambulances with sirens blaring and dozens of people gathering to donate blood, while bodies in black bags were being loaded onto a refrigerated truck. On Wednesday, police and firefighters sifted through the charred remains of the reception hall where mangled metal chairs lay strewn amid the debris. Civil defence authorities said the hall had been fitted with prefabricated panels that were "highly flammable and contravened safety standards". The danger was compounded by the "release of toxic gases linked to the combustion of the panels", which contained plastic, they said in a statement. "Preliminary information" suggested indoor fireworks had ignited the blaze, they said. Nine of the venue's staff were arrested and arrest warrants issued for its four owners.

**BETTER YOU KNOW**  
 More than 150 people were injured by the flames, the choking smoke or in the crush to flee the reception hall, which was reduced to charred debris and piles of twisted furniture under a partially collapsed ceiling.

**Czech Republic to buy 24 US-made F-35 fighter jets**

**Prague, Czech Republic**  
 The Czech Republic will buy 24 US-made F-35 fighter jets, Prime Minister Petr Fiala told reporters yesterday. "The first F-35s will be ready in 2029 and our pilots will start training with them in the United States then," Fiala said. He added that the first supersonic jets would arrive in the Czech Republic in 2031 and the army would have all 24 planes at its disposal by 2035. Defence Minister Jana Cernochova said the total price was 150 billion koruna (\$6.5 billion). "We will pay about 106 billion koruna for the planes, ammunition, simulators, training and other items by 2034," Cernochova told reporters. An EU and NATO member of 10.5 million people, the Czech Republic has provided substantial military aid to Ukraine since Russia's invasion.

**Indonesia bans goods transactions on social media platforms**

**Jakarta, Indonesia**  
 Shop and other platforms. Indonesia is one of the world's biggest markets for TikTok Shop and was the first to pilot the app's e-commerce arm. "Now, e-commerce cannot become social media. It is separated," Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan told a news conference in the capital, Jakarta, adding that the trade regulation came into force on Tuesday. Hasan said social commerce platforms would have a week to comply with the new rule.

**Indian great-grandmother, 92, finally goes to school**

AFP | Lucknow, India

An Indian great-grandmother aged 92 has learned to read and write after going to school for the first time and inspiring others to join her, media and officials said yesterday. Salima Khan, born in around 1931 and who was married at the age of 14 -- two years before the end of British colonial rule in India -- had a lifelong dream of being able to read and write. Khan, from Bulandshahr in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, said there were no schools in her



village when she was a girl. Six months ago, she began studying alongside pupils eight decades younger than her, and she is accompanied on her way to class by her grandson's wife. Her story emerged after a video of her counting from one to 100 went viral on social media. "My grandchildren used to trick me into giving them extra money as I couldn't count currency notes," she was quoted as saying by the Times of India. "Those days are gone." India's literacy rate is around

73%, according to the 2011 census. "Her story reinforces the belief that the pursuit of knowledge is not limited by age," local education officer Lakshmi Pandey told AFP. Volunteers from a government education initiative had identified Khan as a potential student and encouraged her to go to school, Pandey said. School headmistress Pratibha Sharma said teachers had been initially "hesitant" about embarking on teaching Khan, but were won over by her "passion" to study.

**Tanzania kills millions of birds to save rice fields**

AFP | Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Tanzania has culled millions of quelea birds to prevent them from destroying rice fields, using drones and planes to monitor commercial farms, the country's plants and pesticides watchdog said yesterday. The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) which is also responsible for controlling desert locusts, killed five million quelea birds in the northern region of Manyara last week where about 1,000 acres of commercial crops were under threat. "We killed swarms of five million destructive birds and now we are monitoring other zones," Joseph Ndunguru, acting director general of TPHPA, told AFP by phone. The tiny red-beaked birds, which move in large flocks, are notorious for ravaging crops, with invasions generally occurring during the onset of the dry season in September and October. Ndunguru said the agency targeted the swarms with



**Quelea birds are thought to be the most numerous bird species in the world, with governments across Africa initiating aerial and ground efforts to contain them in the past.**

aerial spraying over a four-day period, killing them before they damaged the paddy fields in northern Tanzania. Aerial surveillance is now under way in other regions, he added. According to TPHPA, the birds are capable of destroying more than 50 tonnes of food crops in a single day.

**TOP 4 TWEETS**

**01**  
  
 The climate emergency is threatening the very survival of communities & economies that depend on tourism. Green investments can help build a tourism sector that delivers for people and planet. Investing in sustainable tourism is investing in a better future for all.  
 @antonioguterres

**02**  
  
 Congratulations to our Skeet Men's Shooting Team of Gurjoat Singh Khangura, Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa on winning the Bronze Medal in the Asian Games. This feat reinforces the spirit of excellence among our athletes.  
 @narendramodi

**03**  
  
 The Climate Change Committee have said you don't reach Net Zero by wishing it. As we make the transition to renewables, we will still need oil and gas -- it makes sense to use our own supplies such as Rosebank. This is the right long-term decision for the UK's energy security.  
 @RishiSunak

**04**  
  
 Having children is saving the world  
 @elonmusk

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

## autobuzz

# France taps nuclear know-how to recycle electric car batteries

● **The goal is to recover the materials and use them on an industrial scale**

AFP | Bagnols-sur-Cèze

In the cradle of France's atomic programme, researchers are using their nuclear know-how for a key project in the country's energy transition: recycling the raw materials in old electric car batteries, solar panels and wind turbines.

The French atomic and alternative energy commission (CEA) is using its research facility in the southern centre of Marcoule to find ways to recycle

The new Peugeot e-3008 electric car on display at its official presentation at the Stellantis car factory in Sochaux.

the components used for clean technologies.

The sprawling campus, where France's nuclear weapons and energy programmes were born, is so sensitive that images of its location are blurred out or pixelated on Google Maps.

But the CEA gave reporters a rare tour to show off its recycling work ahead of a conference on critical metals to be hosted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris on Thursday.

Many of the techniques used by Marcoule researchers come from their knowhow in recycling nuclear waste, an area in which France is a world leader.

The goal is to recover the materials and use them on an industrial scale, said Richard Laucournet, head of the new materials department at the CEA centre.

"We are looking at how to store, convert and trans-

port electricity, and how to make the energy transition efficient," said Laucournet.

"Thanks to the simulation tools developed here, we can reprocess rare earths from magnets." - Black mass -

In one lab, researchers peer into a metre-thick window as they operate large, bike handle-like robotic arms to cut out irradiated fuel rods.

The alloy sections are placed in hot acid solutions to make the metal dissolve. Afterwards it can be extracted again via the use of organic solvents and decanters.

The process can recover lithium, nickel, cobalt and graphite from the black mass that comes from crushing the automobile electric battery cells.

Researchers say the tech-



Some studies have shown that making a typical EV can create more carbon pollution than making a gasoline car. This is because of the additional energy required to manufacture an EV's battery. Still, over the lifetime of the vehicle, total GHG emissions associated with manufacturing, charging, and driving an EV are typically lower than the total GHGs associated with a gasoline car. That's because EVs have zero tailpipe emissions and are typically responsible for significantly fewer GHGs during operation

nique developed at Marcoule will be useful for recycling fuels from future fourth-generation nuclear reactors as well as rare earths from magnets.

This technology is all the more useful since there is "no real magnet recycling sector" in the world except scrap in Asia, said Laucournet.

An -

other technique at the centre is to use carbon dioxide to detach and inflate solar panel cells, allowing the recovery of silicon and the silver contained inside.

For wind turbine blades, the CEA is applying the same process with "supercritical water" that it has

been working on for 20 years in a bid to remove radioactivity from metals in a liquid state.

Supercritical water at very high temperature and high pressure has the power to penetrate inside the materials and to break the polymer chains of the fibreglass or carbon composites that make up wind turbine blades and hydrogen tanks.

PEUGEOT



## Ford pauses work on \$3.5 billion battery plant

New York, United States

Ford is halting work on a major battery plant in the northern US state of Michigan, the automaker said Monday, just seven months after launching the project with a Chinese partner. The stoppage, which a Ford representative confirmed to AFP, comes as the company faces a major strike along with both of the other "Big Three" US automakers, Stellantis and General Motors.

The Ford spokesperson insisted the decision about the \$3.5 billion battery plant had not been related to the ongoing strike, but rather the site's future economic viability.



US President Joe Biden looks at an electric Ford Mustang as he tours the 2022 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan

"We're pausing work and limiting spending on construction on the Marshall project until

we're confident about our ability to competitively operate the plant," the spokesperson said.

## BYD's YangWang U8 can float

TDT | agencies

BYD's recently launched high-end sub-brand, YangWang, unveiled two models last year, including its flagship SUV, the U8. The YangWang U8 is a range-extended electric SUV wanting to take on the likes of the Range Rover and Mercedes-Benz G-Class.

The U8 SUV comes with a host of cool features, which help it stand out from its competition. However, the most unique feature of the U8 is its ability to handle deep water wading. The standard electric SUV can wade up to a depth

of 1 metre, while the 'Off-Road Master Edition' has a wading depth of 1.4 metres. The SUV also gets a special 'Yachting' mode wherein the SUV can remain afloat for 30 minutes and sail at 3 km/h by simply spinning its wheels.

The YangWang U8 comes with four electric motors, one on each wheel, which combined put out 1,184 BHP. The SUV also comes with a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine, which serves as a range-extender. The engine produces electricity to recharge the SUV's 49.05 kWh battery pack. With a full tank of fuel and a fully charged bat-

tery, the U8 claims a maximum range of 1000 km.

When the yachting mode is activated, the onboard sensors automatically elevate the suspension, deactivate the engine, switch the HVAC system to re-circulation mode and close the windows. It does, however, open the sunroof as an emergency exit for occupants.

Deliveries of the YangWang U8 are set to begin in October this year, with the SUV priced at around \$149,000. Prices for the Off-Road Master Edition are scheduled to be announced at a later stage.

## Technical glitch stifles production at Volkswagen

AFP | Berlin, Germany

German car giant Volkswagen was hit by IT problems at its headquarters in Wolfsburg on Wednesday affecting production at several of its factories, the company said in a statement.

The disruption began at 12:30 pm (1030 GMT) and had still not been resolved by the evening,



VW said.

According to financial daily Handelsblatt, production came to a complete standstill in Wolfsburg and at the company's plants in Emden, Osnabrueck and Zwickau.

Offices at the Wolfsburg headquarters were also affected, Handelsblatt said.

The cause of the technical

problems was not known but "an external attack is unlikely to be the cause", Volkswagen said. "We are working hard to resolve the problem," it added.

Volkswagen has been hit by several setbacks lately as it attempts to manage the shift towards electromobility.

The carmaker is pouring tens of billions of euros into its pivot

to electric vehicles, but the sector has been blighted by a weak global economy and low levels of demand.

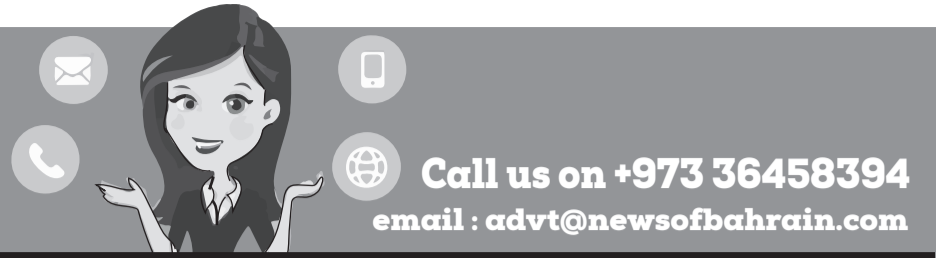
Chief executive Oliver Blume has pledged to "work hard" on cutting costs to boost the group's performance.

Earlier this month, VW said it was cutting 269 temporary jobs at its flagship electric car plant

in Zwickau.

The 10-brand group -- whose marques include Audi, Seat and Skoda -- is facing tough competition in the electric vehicle sector, particularly in key market China. In the first half of 2023, Volkswagen's deliveries of vehicles in China were down 1.2 percent compared to the previous year.

# Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

**RighTech Computers** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39774910 or HABIBTODD@GMAIL.COM

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**ABU ISA REPAIR OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33477622 or OMAR.AKRAM143@GMAIL.COM

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**ALSHABEA CAFETERIA** has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33336395 or hassankashfi@hotmail.com

**QARATA CONSULTANCY** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622175 or MQARATA61@GMAIL.COM

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Bahrain's delegation head at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa attended an official reception hosted by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Sports, Chairman of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Head of the Saudi delegation in Hangzhou Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz. BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, BOC board member Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa and Bahrain's Chef de Mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar were also amongst those present. Heads of the delegations of other nations were present at the gathering. HH Shaikh Isa praised the close relations between Bahrain and Saudi and wished them continued success. Above, HH Shaikh Isa presents Prince Abdulaziz a token of appreciation at the reception.

## Tight security as Pakistan arrive in India for Cricket World Cup

Hyderabad, India

Pakistan's cricket team arrived in arch-rivals India on Wednesday under tight security ahead of the seven-week long World Cup, their first visit to their neighbour since 2016, an AFP photographer said.

Excited crowds, held back by officers, cheered and shouted the team captain's name Babar Azam, as the Pakistanis arrived at the airport in the southern city of Hyderabad for the ODI tournament which

opens on October 5.

The teams only play cricket against each other in international tournaments, and usually, the matches are staged in third countries.

Skipper Babar Azam has played down the hype of facing their rivals, saying ahead of their travel that the team was "not just going to play against India only".

The tournament involves 48 matches being played over 46 days at 10 different venues with the final set for November 19.

# Australia end losing streak with consolation win over India

AFP | Rajkot, India

Glenn Maxwell returned career-best figures of 4-40 to end Australia's five-match losing streak with a consolation 66-run win over India in the third one-day international yesterday.

Mitchell Marsh led the batting onslaught with his 96 as Australia posted 352-7, a total their bowlers defended by bowling out India for 286 in Rajkot.

The hosts took the three-match series 2-1 but Australia finish on a high ahead of the World Cup starting October 5 in India.

Maxwell, who returned to the team alongside Mitchell Starc after the two players recovered from injuries, scored just five with the bat but made an impact with his impressive off-spin.

"I feel like I've come into this World Cup nice and fresh and I'm excited to hit the ground running," Maxwell said after being named man of the match. "Nice to get a nice result tonight."

The all-rounder added: "It's nice to chip in, if Mitch Marsh was there on the field, we would have chopped and changed (on the bowling). Since he was not there, had to bowl more. That will be the role of the all-rounders in this World Cup."

Maxwell got the first three wickets including skipper Rohit Sharma, for 81, and star batsman



India's players pose with the series trophy

Virat Kohli, for 56, after a brisk start by India.

Rohit raised his fifty in 31 balls and seemed to have the chase in control but Maxwell got the captain with a stunning caught and bowled in his second over.

He then sent back Kohli soon after the former captain's 66th ODI fifty and, despite a fighting 48 by Shreyas Iyer, the Indian batting folded in 49.4 overs.

Pace bowler Josh Hazlewood took two wickets as Australia ended the losing streak which started in South Africa earlier this month.

### Top-order fires

Batsmen set up victory after Marsh tore into the Indian bowlers in attacking partnerships that included a sec-

ond-wicket stand of 137 with Steve Smith, who hit 74.

The top four batsmen stood out with Marsh, David Warner (56), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (72) all contributing to a mammoth total that looked like going beyond 400 before India hit back. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav took two.

India had only 13 players to pick for their XI with some rested and a virus in the camp that made Ishan Kishan miss out.

Rohit said the players are fresh and raring to go.

Marsh took on Bumrah with three boundaries and a six in the paceman's first two overs and the left-handed Warner soon joined in the charge.

Warner hammered Prasidh Krishna for three fours and a six in the seventh over and raced to his fifty in 32 balls in the next with another hit over the fence.

Marsh reached his half-ton in 45 balls but was denied a century when he casually slapped Kuldeep straight to cover. His 84-ball knock included 13 fours and three sixes.

Smith, Alex Carey and Maxwell fell at regular intervals, slowing the tourists down before Labuschagne took control until he was undone by Bumrah's slower ball in the penultimate over.

The two teams now head into the World Cup warm-ups before they meet in the 50-over showpiece tournament on October 8 in Chennai.

# Muharraq get tough group for Arab clubs **basketball**

Bahrainis to face defending champions Kuwait SC, Qatar SC and Bureij Services in preliminary round

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain's Muharraq Club have been drawn in a challenging Group A for the 35th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship, scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, from Sunday to 12 October.

Muharraq are one of 18 teams from all over the re-

gion in the competition.

The Bahrainis are in the same group as Qatar Sports Club, Bureij Services of Palestine and defending champions Kuwait Sports Club.

Group B features Al Ittihad Alexandria of Egypt, Union Sportive Medina d'Alger of Algeria, Al Ahly Doha from Qatar and Dynamo Lebanon

from Lebanon. Group C includes Sanaa from Yemen, AS Sale from Morocco, Al Qadisiya from Kuwait and Al Fateh from Saudi Arabia.

Group D comprises Al Ittihad from Libya, Al Ahly of Egypt, Tigris University from Iraq, MTB Majd Tanger from Morocco and Beirut First Club from Lebanon. The tournament is being held under the

auspices of the Arab Basketball Confederation.

Muharraq are scheduled to open their campaign on Monday against Kuwait at 7pm, and then play Bureij two days later at 4pm. They complete their Group A campaign against Qatar on 6 October at 7pm. Muharraq have signed Americans Tyler Wilkerson and Julius Coles Jr to help

bolster their Bahraini line-up for the competition.

In the previous Arab clubs championship last year, Bahrain's Al Ahli Club were the Kingdom's representatives. They made it to the round of 16, but lost to Tigris University. Kuwait SC went on to clinch the title with a one-point victory over Egypt's Ahly in the final.

Muharraq's Bader Abdulla Malabes...top talent

# Riffa hit four past Hidd

● **Komail Al Aswad scores brace, Joel Vinicius Silva Dos Anjos and Abdulaziz Khalid Al Mansoori also on target**

TDT | Manama

**R**iffa posted a resounding 4-1 victory over Hidd last night to kick off the second week of action in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Komail Al Aswad had a brace,

while Joel Vinicius Silva Dos Anjos and Abdulaziz Khalid Al Mansoori were also on target for the victors. Ahmed Yousef scored the lone consolation for Hidd.

Al Aswad opened the scoring in the 11th minute with an effort from close range. He received a pass from Magdy Ahmed and slotted the ball home. Dos Anjos later made it 2-0 in the 41st minute off a clearance attempt by the Hidd defence. The ball bounced back towards Dos Anjos and he made no mistake as his shot on goal.

Just two minutes later, Yousef cut the deficit with a header off

a long cross supplied by Atton Paved from the right. But Riffa struck again in the 72nd minute with an Al Mansoori strike from the edge of the area to make it 3-1. Al Aswad then applied the final nail in the coffin with a goal in a quick counterattack in the sixth minute of second-half stoppage time.

Riffa posted their first win of the season with the result while Hidd suffered their second defeat.

League play continues tonight with two matches, and tomorrow with another three. This evening, Manama take on Al Hala and Al Najma face off with Al Shabab. Then, tomorrow night, East Riffa play Busaiteen, Al Ahli take on Sitra and defending champions Al Khaldiya go up against Muharraq in a mouth-watering clash between two top contenders.

All of the games are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs.

Riffa's Komail Al Aswad looks to make a play as he is defended closely by Hidd's Kamel Abdulla Al Azem

# China swim second-fastest 4x100m mixed medley relay ever

Hangzhou, China

**T**he powerhouse Chinese team narrowly missed the world record in surging to the Asian Games mixed 4x100m medley relay gold on Wednesday.

Their squad of Xu Jiayu,

Qin Haiyang, Zhang Yufei and Yang Junxuan clocked 3:37.73 -- the second fastest of all-time behind Britain's world record 3:37.58 set at the Tokyo Olympics.

They finished more than seven seconds clear of Japan and South Korea.

# Table tennis legend Ma Long says goodbye to Asian Games with gold

Hangzhou, China

**T**able tennis legend Ma Long said he had almost certainly made his last Asian Games appearance after helping hosts China to men's team gold in Hangzhou.

The five-time Olympic champion had the perfect finale as his straight-games victory over South Korea's Park Gang-hyeon clinched gold for China, and the sixth Asian Games title of his storied career.

The 34-year-old said afterwards that he would not be competing in the individual events in Hangzhou.

"Being able to help the team together was for me a very good part of the mission here. Of course the competition is not over yet," said Ma, who has also won 12 world championship golds.

"There are still many matches my teammates will participate in.

# Bahraini paddlers advance in singles play

● **Maryam Alaali, Amruta Phadke through to women's round of 32**

● **Rashed Rashed, Alyas Alyassi advance to same stage for men**

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain's paddlers made winning starts in their respective singles competitions yesterday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Maryam Alaali and Amruta Phadke both booked their places in

the women's singles round of 32, while Rashed Rashed and Alyas Alyassi advanced to the same stage in the men's singles.

In the women's draw, Maryam defeated Amiri Sumayai 4-0 (11-7, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8) in her round-of-64 contest. She moves on to the next stage where she will take on Suthasini Sawettabut of Thailand, who had a bye in the opening phase.

Also with a bye was Bahrain's Amruta, but she will face a big task against Yubin Shin of South Korea in the round of 32. Both matches for Maryam and Amruta will be held today.

On the distaff, Rashed was a 4-0 (11-8, 11-9, 11-5, 11-3) victor against Ebrahim Abdulhakim Gubran of Yemen in the round of 64. He moves on to face Yew En Koen Pang of Singapore, who had a bye yesterday.

Joining him in the round of 32 is compatriot Alyassi, who was a 4-1 (11-6, 4-11, 15-13, 13-11, 11-7) winner yesterday against Moosa Munsif Ahmed of the Maldives. Alyassi will next play Chun Ting Wong of Hong Kong today.

Meanwhile, in yesterday's mixed doubles round of 32, Alyassi and Amruta lost to Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha of China 0-3 (3-11, 5-11, 6-11); while in the same stage, Rashed and Maryam bowed out to Kwan Kit Ho and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 0-3 (9-11, 5-11, 6-11).

Bahrain's paddlers also begin action in the doubles competitions today.

In the men's doubles round of 32, Salman Mohammed and Sayed Murtadha take on Pang and Izaak Quek Yong of Singapore, while

Alyassi and Rashed face off with Hong Kong's Wong and Ho. In the women's doubles round of 32, Maryam and Amruta play South Korea's Eunhye Lee and Ha Eun Yang.

## Shooting

In the shooting competitions yesterday at the Hangzhou Asiad, Bahrain's Safa Al Doseri was 33rd, Fawzia Mohamed 38th and Sara Al Doseri was 40th in the women's 50m rifle three positions qualification.

Safa finished with a total of 572-19x with an average of 9.533 from her kneeling, prone and standing scores. Fawzia had a 568-14x total and a 9.467 average, while Sara finished with a 563-13x total and 9.383 average.

In the women's 50m rifle three positions teams' category, Safa, Fawzia and Sara were ranked 11th overall with a total of 1,703.

In the women's skeet qualifications, Maryam Alasam came 12th following the completion of stage two with a 113 total from her five rounds. Bahrain's Mar-

yam Hassani was 20th with a 107 total, while Latifa Alnajem came 22nd on a 103 score.

In the women's skeet team contest, Alasam, Hassani and Latifa were sixth with a combined total of 323.

Finally, in the men's skeet qualifications, Bahrain's Tammam Alwatt finished 27th with a total of 113 following yesterday's second stage.

## Sailing

Also at the Hangzhou Asiad yesterday, Bahraini sailors Abdulla Janahi and Khalifa Al Doseri signed off from their competitions, finishing ninth in their respective dinghy fleets.

Janahi took his place in the men's dinghy event with 68 net points from a 78 total. His best finish in the fleet's 11 races was second in race nine.

For Khalifa, he claimed ninth in the boys' dinghy fleet with 84 net points and a 97 total. His best of the fleet's 11 races was fourth in their final outing at Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Centre.

Bahrain's Rashed Rashed in action

# Bahrain rout Uzbekistan in handball

Senior men advance to main round as Group C winners in Hangzhou Asiad



Bahrain skipper Hussain Al Sayyad looks to score against Uzbekistan

● Hussain Al Sayyad, Mahdi Saad top

score for Bahrainis with seven goals apiece

● Nationals claim second straight lopsided victory to finish unbeaten in Group C

● Bahrain kick off campaign in ensuing main round tomorrow against South Korea

TDT | Manama

Bahrain continued their dominant start to the men's handball tournament yesterday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. The senior men's national team defeated their counterparts from Uzbekistan 47-25 to secure first place in Group C of the competition's preliminary round.

Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Mustafa Al Koohji and Bahrain Handball Association president Ali Issa were among the officials who attended the contest.

It was their second straight

big win of the preliminaries following their 45-22 demolition of Kazakhstan, and it sent them into the next stage with an unbeaten record.

In the ensuing main round, the Bahrainis have been placed in Group One alongside South Korea, Kuwait and Iran. Group Two features Qatar, Japan, China and the Kazakhs. Here, teams will play another single round-robin, and then the top two from each group move on to the semi-finals, which are scheduled to be held on Tuesday.

The gold and bronze medal matches will be played Thursday.

The nationals begin main round schedule tomorrow against the South Koreans, and then face the Iranians the next day. They then take on



The Bahrainis are through to the men's handball tournament main round where they are in Group One along with South Korea, Kuwait and Iran. Group Two comprises Qatar, Japan, China and Kazakhstan

Kuwait in their concluding fixture on Sunday prior to the last four.

In Bahrain's win yesterday, the nationals were the aggressors from the opening throw and never wavered. They led 25-8 at the half en route to closing out the 22-goal victory.

Skipper Hussain Al Sayyad and Mahdi Saad top scored for the Bahrainis with seven goals apiece. Hassan Al Samaheji added five, while Ahmed Fadhel and Mohammed Rabea scored

four each. Five players finished with three goals for Bahrain, including Qassim Qambar, Hasan Madan, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed and Mohammed Naser, while Mohammed Mirza and Hassan Mirza contributed two goals. The team's scoresheet was rounded off by Ali Eid's one goal.

Pacing the Uzbeks in the loss was Jakhongir Zaripov with seven goals, while Azizbek Alimbekov finished with five.

Coached by Icelandic tactician Aron Kristjansson, Bahrain are looking for their first-ever men's handball gold in the quadrennial Asiad. They had previously won the silver medals at the previous edition of the Asian Games in Indonesia in 2018, and before that took the bronze medals at the 2014 edition in Incheon, South Korea.

## GROUP C STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Bahrain	2	2	0	0	45	4
Kazakhstan	2	1	0	1	-19	2
Uzbekistan	2	0	0	2	-26	0

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# U23 Olympic team bow out of men's football

Bahrainis succumb to North Korea 0-2 in round-of-16 clash

● Men's basketball team back on court today against Jordan

TDT | Manama

Bahrain bowed out of the men's football competition yesterday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Kingdom's under-23 Olympic football team went down fighting 0-2 against their counterparts from North Korea in their round-of-16 clash at Zhejiang Normal University East Stadium.

The Bahrainis conceded a goal apiece on either side of the interval, with midfielders Kukchol Kang and Kukbom Kim both on target for the North Koreans.

Kang opened the scoring in the first minute of first-half stoppage time. Kang headed home a short cross from teammate Kyongsok Kim from close range, finally breaking through the Bahrainis' solid defensive line.

After the break, Kukbom doubled their advantage in the 62nd minute with a brilliant strike from two metres outside the penalty box. His curling effort flew above the

outstretched arm of Bahrain goalkeeper Salman Adel Alisa and hit the crossbar before bouncing in.

The Bahrainis valiantly tried to fight back until the final whistle, but had no real attempts on goal but finished the contest with three yellow cards. With the result, Bahrain's under-23s wrapped up their campaign at the Hangzhou Asiad with no wins in their four matches. They had drawn two of their three preliminary round fixtures to squeeze into the round of 16.

The North Koreans advanced to the quarter-finals, where they will play the winner of the match between Japan and Myanmar, scheduled for today.

Bahrain have now signed off from two of the four team sports the national athletes are competing in at the 19th Asian Games. These are both football and volleyball. In men's basketball, Bahrain are back in action today against Jordan at 6am, Bahrain time, and then complete their preliminary round Group C campaign against Thailand on Saturday, at 12.30pm, Bahrain time.

After losing their opening game against the Philippines on Tuesday, the Bahrainis are hoping to finish amongst the top three in their pool in order to advance past the first phase.

Bahrain's Salman Abdulla Qadhaib battles for possession with North Korea's Kyongsok Kim

