



Russia threatens to restart nuclear arms production
 AFP | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday threatened to relaunch production of intermediate-range nuclear weapons if the United States confirmed its intention to deploy missiles to Germany or elsewhere in Europe. "If the United States carries out such plans, we will consider ourselves liberated from the unilateral moratorium previously adopted on the deployment of medium- and short-range strike capabilities," Putin said during a naval parade in Saint Petersburg. Putin added that now in Russia "the development of a number of such systems is in the final stages". "We will take mirror measures in deploying them, taking into account the actions of the US, its satellites in Europe and in other regions of the world," the Russian president warned.

Umm al-Jimal joins UNESCO World Heritage List



The house XVIII gate entrance and courtyard in Umm al-Jimal archaeological site. (AFP)

AFP | Amman
 Jordan's Umm al-Jimal village has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List, in a move hailed yesterday by the country's tourism and antiquities minister as a "great achievement". UNESCO said on X on Friday that the earliest structures uncovered at Umm al-Jimal date back to the first century AD, "when the area formed part of the Nabataean Kingdom."

'Ironclad Support'

US backs Israel in latest skirmish across Lebanon border

Israel bombs four towns in southern Lebanon

AFP | Washington

The United States on Sunday said it will support Israel against all threats supported by Iran. Talking in the aftermath of the attack in Israeli-annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 youngsters, National Security Council Spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in a statement, "Our support for Israel's security is ironclad and unwavering against all Iran-backed threats, including Hezbollah." "We have been in continuous discussions with Israeli and Lebanese counterparts since the horrific attack," Watson added.

Origin of Attack

The White House also said it believes the attack on a football field in the Druze Arab town of Majdal Shams was conducted by Lebanese Hezbollah. Calling the attack "horrific," Watson said, "it was their rocket, and launched from an area they control. It should be universally condemned." Lebanon yesterday called for an international investigation into the tragedy, warning against a large-scale retaliation. In a statement on X, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib urged for an "international investigation or a meeting of the tripartite



Smoke billows following an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese border village of Chihine on Sunday. (AFP)

committee held through UNIFIL to know the truth" about who was responsible for the attack. The tripartite committee refers to military officials from Lebanon and Israel together with peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Condemnation

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock condemned what she said was the "deplorable" rocket attack on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, and called for "cool heads" in response. "The perfidious attacks must stop immediately. It is impor-

tant to act with cool heads. Far too many people have died already in this conflict," Baerbock wrote on X in reference to the Gaza war, which risks spreading to Lebanon. US Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, also condemned the attack in language simi-

lar to that used by the White House. Harris "has been briefed and is closely monitoring Hezbollah's horrific attack on a soccer field in Majdal Shams," her NSC advisor Phil Gordon wrote on X. "She condemns this horrific attack and mourns for all those killed and wounded."

Surfing ahead

Milestone as Bahrain tops GCC in 5G download speed

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has made remarkable strides in download speeds among Gulf nations, with Qatar trailing closely, as revealed in a report by OpenSignal, a renowned analytics firm for mo-

bile network experiences. Titled "GCC Markets Rank Among the Best in EMEA for Mobile Network Experience," the report highlights that GCC countries have seen marked increases in 5G download speeds. Users in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia

experienced substantial gains in overall average download speeds last year, ranging from 13.6% to 77.6%, while the UAE saw a slight decline. Notably, Bahrain and Qatar recorded over 20% increases in 5G download speeds. The report affirms that all

GCC countries offer an excellent mobile network experience compared to other markets in the region, particularly in 5G, with Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar leading in performance. The GCC stands out for its exceptional 5G speeds in the analysed EMEA markets.

When comparing download speeds in GCC countries with 34 major markets in EMEA, users in the GCC enjoy the fastest speeds among all the compared markets. Bahrain leads with 52.4 Mbps speed, followed by Qatar at 48.8 Mbps, and Kuwait at 47.6 Mbps.

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Blueprint for future

Bahrain's land use report digs deep into large-scale developments

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Urban Planning and Development Authority has detailed land use across the kingdom's governorates in a comprehensive report published on its official website.

The latest data shows that agricultural areas cover 3.02% of Bahrain's total land, while investment areas constitute



3.03%. Industrial zones occupy 4.37% of the land, with commercial areas taking up a mere 0.41%.

Public service and utility infrastructure spans 8.89% of the kingdom's territory, and Ministry of Housing projects account for 3.90%.

Large-scale developments, grouped under special pro-

ject areas, make up a notable 33.14% of Bahrain's land usage.

Green belt areas cover 0.34%, protected areas account for 23.35%, archaeological sites occupy 0.031%, recreational and park areas comprise 2.65%, airport land makes up 2.04%, unplanned or undeveloped areas total 1.41%, and other areas

account for 1.22%.

This comprehensive land use data sheds light on Bahrain's urban development priorities and the allocation of its limited land resources.

It is expected to guide future planning efforts aimed at managing growth and ensuring the sustainable use of the Kingdom's territory.

Bahrain to promote global cooperation in all forms



Bahrain's parliamentary delegation with a UK official

TDT | Manama

A delegation from the Parliamentary Group attending the "Sixteenth Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians" at Wroxton College in the United Kingdom has affirmed Bahrain's aim to promote international cooperation in all its forms.

They emphasised the importance of enhancing parliamentary diplomacy and leveraging artificial intelligence in parliamentary activities.

They stressed the necessity of unifying efforts towards integration and mutual coordination with various parliaments to achieve shared global objectives and improve the knowledge and expertise of parliament members.

The workshop sessions, organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Centre for Legislative

Studies at the University of Hull, took place from 27 to 28 July.



The Bahraini Parliamentary Group delegation was led by HE Leena Habib Kassim, a member of the Shura Council, and included MP Hassan Ibrahim Hassan.

Leena Kassim, leading the delegation, highlighted the crucial role of international cooperation in legislative work, viewing it as essential for building distinguished relationships between national parliaments based on mutual respect and collaboration.

She lauded the efforts of parliamentary and academic institutions in holding joint meetings, which facilitate the exchange of parliamentary experiences and discussions on globally important issues, thereby supporting specialised legislative research and positively impacting the performance of legislators.



The report details Bahrain's land use, highlighting urban development priorities and guiding future growth and sustainable resource management.

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Financial support joy

Daughter wins court case against father who refuses to fulfill obligation

TDT | Manama

In a landmark case, a university student has successfully sued her father for refusing to provide her with financial support.

The court's decision, which was upheld on appeal, has set a precedent for similar cases involving parents who fail to financially assist their children.

The case, brought by the young woman, who was represented by lawyer Isa Al Widae, centered around her father's refusal to contribute towards her university expenses, despite his financial means.

The woman, who is unmarried and does not have a job, argued that her father, a government employee with a monthly salary exceeding BD900, was financially capable of providing for her needs.

She also pointed out that her father had additional income



Representative image

from business ventures.

The father, however, denied

neglecting his financial obligations, claiming that he already provided for his family and that his daughter resided with her

siblings, benefiting from the family home and its resources.

He also alleged that his daughter worked at a café, receiving an income, a claim refuted by the lawyer.

Responsibility

The court, citing Article 62/A of the Family Law, which states that "the expenses of a minor child who has no money are the responsibility of his father until the daughter marries and until the son reaches the age when his peers can earn a living," ruled in favour of the daughter.

The court also referenced Article 46, which outlines the right to financial support, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and other necessities.

The court ordered the father to pay his daughter a monthly allowance of BD60, a decision that was upheld by the Court of Appeals despite the father's appeal.

Training institute owner to pay bank BD181,000 for unpaid diamonds



TDT | Manama

The High Commercial Court has ordered the owner of a training institute and his guarantor to pay BD181,000 to a Bahraini bank for an unpaid diamond purchase.

The institute owner had purchased a diamond for BD250,000 in 2015 but defaulted on the payments after five years.

The court also ordered them to jointly cover the legal costs and attorney fees.

According to the court documents, the bank, acting as the plaintiff, stated that the institute owner, who was the sole proprietor of the training and development institute, had purchased a diamond from the bank on February 11, 2015, under a Murabaha sales contract.

Agreement

The second defendant, acting as the guarantor, co-signed the agreement.

The diamond was purchased for BD250,000, including agreed-upon profits, and the repayment was structured as 54 installments of BD 5,131

each, with the final installment being BD5,119.5. The payments were due from September 11, 2015, to February 11, 2020.

However, the institute owner failed to make the required payments, resulting in an outstanding debt of BD181,148.334. Despite repeated notices, both the owner and the guarantor refused to settle the debt.

The bank sought a court order to compel the defendants to jointly pay the outstanding amount, along with a 10% interest rate from the date of filing the lawsuit until full payment, legal costs, and attorney fees.

Failure

The court ruled in favour of the bank, citing the institute owner's failure to pay the full purchase price of the diamond and the agreed-upon profits.

The court also noted that the owner did not appear before the court or the case management office.

Furthermore, the payment deadline had passed on February 11, 2020, making the full purchase price of the diamond due and payable by the owner.

'Invest in nation's future potential'

MP calls for increased allowances for grant and scholarship students

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

Global inflation is bearing down on Bahraini students abroad, compelling them to tighten their belts and prompting their families to dig deeper into their pockets.

MP Lulwa Al-Romaihi has urged an increase in financial allocations for students on grants and scholarships, proposing an annual review to adjust for rising living costs due to global inflation.

She pointed out that the burden of these expenses is particularly heavy on Bahraini families with low or middle incomes.

Al-Romaihi stressed that scholarships and grants are crucial for enhancing Bahrain's human capital and improving educational outcomes.

She emphasised that investing in students is investing in the nation's future potential.

Key

"Education is the key to unlocking Bahrain's potential," Al-Romaihi stated.

While financial aid is essential, she argued that sustained development efforts are needed to maximise the benefits of scholarship programmes and achieve educational excellence for Bahraini citizens.

Al-Romaihi noted that the Kingdom's leadership, including His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, place great importance on education as a cornerstone of national progress.



Scholarships and grants are crucial for enhancing Bahrain's human capital and improving educational outcomes... investing in students is investing in the nation's future potential

MP LULWA AL-ROMAIHI

Dedication

This dedication inspires institutions and civil society to advance the education system and maintain Bahrain's leadership in this area.

In a related appeal, Al-Romaihi called for an increase in the number of seats at Bahrain Teachers College for both male and female applicants.

She pointed out that some Bahraini women, despite their academic excellence, were denied admission, highlighting the need to increase the college's capacity to meet public schools' demand for highly skilled Bahraini teachers.

The lawmaker also commended the efforts of His Excellency Dr Mohammed Juma, Minister of Education, in this regard.

Bahraini man arrested for spreading hate speech online

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution has announced concluding their investigation into a case involving a Bahraini national accused of spreading hate speech on social media.

The accused, who was arrested and questioned, admitted to posting tweets that targeted a specific religious group, inciting

sectarian tensions and threatening the fabric of Bahraini society. The investigation was initiated following a report filed by the Electronic Security Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic, and Electronic Security.

The accused's tweets, which were publicly accessible, contained offensive language and derogatory remarks aimed at a

specific religious community.

The Public Prosecution, after reviewing the evidence, ordered the accused to be detained for seven days pending further investigation.

Trial

He has been referred to the Lower Criminal Court for trial, with the first hearing scheduled for July 30th, 2024.

The Public Prosecution emphasised in a statement that social media, while a powerful tool for communication, is subject to legal boundaries and regulations, stressing the importance of responsible online behavior.

The Public Prosecution urged users to refrain from posting content that is offensive, discriminatory, or incites hatred or sectarianism.

Robbery suspect arrested



The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, in conjunction with the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate, has arrested a 38-year-old Asian man for stealing from several houses in Hidd. An investigation into reported cases and videos on social media of the suspect's robbery activities led to his identification and arrest. Legal proceedings are underway to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Fellowship Programme to train Bahraini doctors



TDT | Manama

Government Hospitals have introduced the fellowship programme for 2024 and 2025, designed in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Health and the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" to train Bahraini doctors in specialised fields.

Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, Chief Executive of the Government Hospitals, noted that the fellowship programme aims to invest in national human capital through an all-encompassing training plan for doctors.

This initiative is geared towards improving doctors' proficiency and equipping them with the skills needed to stay abreast of modern advancements in the medical sector.

Al-Jalahma further remarked that this plan is part of the collaborative efforts between the Supreme Council of Health and the Labour Fund "Tamkeen".

It falls within broader initiatives and programmes aimed at advancing and training national personnel in the health sector.

These initiatives are set to support over 700 Bahrainis, including doctors and nurses, through five key initiatives announced last June.

She detailed that the plan encompasses training programmes in a variety of medical specialties such as anaesthesia, orthopaedics, cardiology, haematology and nephrology, ophthalmology, psychiatry, surgery, radiology, ENT, emergency medicine, among others.

70

Bahraini health personnel that the initiatives are set to support.

Jidhafs road upgrades reach halfway mark

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The development of roads in blocks 421 and 423 in Jidhafs has reached the halfway mark in the first phase of the project, according to Engineer Ahmed AlTajir, Assistant Undersecretary for Roads at the Ministry of Works.

He mentioned this as part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to



Resurfacing with new asphalt

enhance infrastructure across Bahrain's governorates.

AlTajir explained that the project will cater to 200 homes and properties, aiming to smooth out the movement of residents and visitors.

It will also help to manage traffic flow and increase capacity.

The work includes the re-

moval of old asphalt, laying of backfill, and resurfacing with new asphalt, covering a total distance of 1.3 kilometres.

The project also involves the construction of a rainwater drainage network, the relocation of existing underground utilities, and the installation of new lighting poles in coordination with the Electricity and

Water Authority (EWA).

Additionally, traffic safety measures will be implemented, including the installation of traffic signs and the painting of road lines to ensure safety for all road users.

The project, with a value of BD457,825, was awarded by the Tender Board to JAHECON W.L.L.

Fire at Manama Central Market Extinguished, No Injuries Reported



TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior has announced that Civil Defense teams have successfully contained a fire that broke out in several warehouses



Firemen rush to the site to save lives and property

at the Central Market in Manama.

The ministry confirmed via its X account that the fire resulted in no injuries.

"Civil Defense teams are currently conducting cooling

operations to prevent the fire from reigniting," the Ministry stated.

The Ministry of Interior has also pointed out that investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire.



The project will cater to 200 homes and properties, aiming to smooth out the movement of residents and visitors.

Progressive Parliamentary Bloc hails Gulf Air deal

TDT | Manama

The recent settlement between the Pilots' Union and the executive management of Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, has been warmly welcomed by the Parliamentary Progressive Bloc, "Taqaddum."

The bloc emphasised its longstanding advocacy for sustained and enhanced collaboration between various unions and executive managements, whether in national or international companies.

This cooperation aims to advance labour interests, ensure job stability, boost productivity, and acknowledge the vital role and demands of labour unions.

In a statement, the Progressive Bloc noted that the agreement between Gulf Air's management and the Pilots' Union stems from prolonged efforts and numerous meetings, culminating in understandings and the resolution of long-standing labour disputes that had lingered in the courts.

These issues were settled through mutual understanding, considering the company's reputation and the welfare of its employees and their families.



The Parliamentary Progressive Bloc

"We in Taqaddum view this agreement as a notable achievement for both the company's management and the Pilots' Union board. It serves as an exemplary model for executive managements of other companies, both national and international, and for labour unions striving to resolve labour issues still pending in the courts," the statement continued.

Adding, "We, in the Progressive Bloc, commend the efforts of the dedicated union leaders in the Pilots' Union and the management of our national carrier. We extend our best wishes to Gulf Air and all its

employees for continued progress and success."

Favourable terms

Earlier, Gulf Air pilots have finally secured favourable terms after a long-running and acrimonious conflict.

The national carrier has hammered out a collective labour agreement with the Gulf Air Pilots' Union, resolving a dispute that had even reached the courts.

This agreement covers various elements, including annual salary increases, education allowances, child and spouse allowances, electricity support allowances, and health insur-

ance.

Captains will see an annual increase of BD60 added on monthly to their basic salary, while first officers will receive an annual increment of BD50, effective from 2024 and continuing in line with company policies and any future amendments.

The deal also includes educational allowances for up to four children, retroactive to 2022, as per company policies and amendments.

Spouse

Additionally, the spouse allowance is BD500, paid monthly for one spouse only.

The child allowance is BD150, paid monthly for each child under 19, for up to four children.

The electricity support allowance is BD48 for married pilots and BD21 for unmarried pilots, paid monthly.

Moreover, the company will provide a health insurance policy offering superior benefits, especially regarding deductibles for all pilots and first officers, along with enhancements in maternity benefits, eye exams, dental services for eligible family members, and coverage amounts.

Bahrain marks annual World Hepatitis Day

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health emphasised Bahrain's commitment to enhancing the prevention of diseases and epidemics and to delivering high quality diagnostic and therapeutic services to all citizens and residents in accordance with national and international health objectives.

This came on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, which is observed annually on July 28 and under the theme "It's Time for Action".

The theme aims to enhance public awareness of hepatitis and reinforce global cooperation to reduce the prevalence and complications of the disease and ultimately eradicate it.

The ministry highlighted Bahrain's key initiatives such as including hepatitis B vaccinations in the routine immunisation schedule since 1991 and hepatitis A vaccinations since 2004.

This includes the Kingdom's efforts to implement thorough screening of blood donors for these viruses and conduct early detection through premarital and prenatal screenings.

Bahrain is also committed

to providing laboratory tests to detect these viruses using high quality procedures and offering necessary treatments while continuously providing awareness and education.

The Global Hepatitis Report 2024 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) outlines a series of measures to improve the management of viral hepatitis and accelerate progress towards eliminating the epidemic by 2030.

Types

There are five main types of hepatitis viruses: A, B, C, D, and E. The transmission methods of these viruses vary depending on the type. Hepatitis A and E can be transmitted orally through the ingestion of food or water contaminated with the virus.

Hepatitis B, C, and D viruses are transmitted through blood and its derivatives, such as sharing contaminated needles or receiving contaminated blood transfusions, or through sexual contact with an infected person.

The virus can also be transmitted from an infected mother to her child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

Gift-giving and dental mission for Filipino workers successful

TDT | Manama

The Filipino American Association of Bahrain (Fil Am Bahrain) hosted a successful gift-giving activity and dental mission for 16 distressed Filipino workers and four young children at the Philippine Embassy.

Under the leadership of its president Orlando O. Fontanilla, members and officers

of Fil Am Bahrain gathered at the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) on 26th July 2024 to give assistance and support to Filipinos seeking refuge at the embassy.

"One of our fundamental mission is to serve our community in charity works serving different foreign nationals," Fontanilla explained.

He further added, "The event

showcased the importance of community organisations in supporting Filipino workers abroad offering not only immediate assistance but also a sense of belonging and identity with the help of our Fil Am members and teams of dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly and shared their resources to assist and support individuals in need."



Filipinos receive medical services

LuLu launches 'The Great Indian Festival'

Event powered By APEDA In light of upcoming Indian Independence Day

TDI | Manama

Vinod Jacob, the Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, inaugurated "The Great Indian Festival," featuring a variety of special long-grain Basmati rice, premium buffalo meat, poultry, and processed foods.

The festival is presented by LuLu in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority of India (APEDA), which currently has a delegation visiting Bahrain to organize Buyer-Seller Meets for Basmati rice. The APEDA delegation, led by Dr. Sudanshu, Secretary of APEDA, and Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Director, DEDP, APEDA, was welcomed by LuLu Group Director, Juzer Rupawala, and the Senior Management team. Mr. Rupawala stated, "LuLu Group has always been a leader in promoting the Indian food industry. As the biggest retail presence in the Kingdom, the LuLu Group plays a key role in supporting the Government of Bahrain in areas such as food security, price stability, and the continuous availability of quality foodstuff."

He added, "We have always worked closely with APEDA to promote the Indian food and agribusiness industry and create a robust platform. APEDA represents a multi-million dinar Indian food industry and also works to support the latest food technology uptake and build



The opening ceremony

awareness for Indian food business. We are looking forward to growing ties with APEDA that will strengthen our portfolio of Indian foods. We believe that India plays a major role in food sustainability and security in the world, and with our global presence, the LuLu Group can be a key factor in amplifying this fact."

The talented chefs of LuLu presented a tastebud-pleasing range of Biryani, Machboos, Gosi, and other delicacies prepared with Indian rice. Dr. Sudanshu, the APEDA President, congratulated LuLu on its range of Indian food items across all sectors and pointed out that the LuLu Group was investing a lot of resources in the Indian food processing, meat, and agribusiness sectors.

He said, "India is one of the leading producers and export-

ers of all agricultural products in the world. India has its strength in a varied range of climatic and agro-climatic zones where we can produce a large number of food products, whether it's fresh horticulture, fresh fruits and vegetables, floriculture, processed food, ground nuts, guar gum, confectionery, beverages, cereals, livestock categories, poultry, dairy products, and honey."

"In livestock, India has the largest cattle population and more than 70 integrated meat establishments in the country, making it one of the leading suppliers of buffalo meat in the world. A good quantity of buffalo meat is coming to the GCC and Bahrain markets. In rice exports, we are also leading producers, and a large quantity is exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain. India has always had a

strong cultural bond and a long history with Bahrain for about 50+ years, and we see more potential for increasing trade in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

"We are delighted to see that the Kingdom of Bahrain and its leaders have set up a seamless and secure experience for the exports of products from India. We had 30 delegations visiting Bahrain, represented by rice exporters, poultry exporters, processed food, and meat."

"LuLu has led the way with sizable investments in the Indian food sector and a vertical integration of its supply chain with the Indian food industry," Dr. Sudanshu added.

"The turnout of shoppers for The Great Indian Festival is a successful marker of our presence in the Kingdom. We are grateful for the collaboration with LuLu Hypermarket."

Tilal wins best new residential community Bahrain 2024 award

TDI | Manama

Al Areen Holding Company, a leader in the real estate sector, announced that its residential project "Tilal" won Best New Residential Community Bahrain 2024 Award in the prestigious International Business Magazine Awards (INTLBM). This accolade affirms the company's commitment to providing exceptional residential projects that meet and exceed customer expectations.



Ahmed Khalfan

The recently launched Tilal Development is one of the pioneering development projects within the Areen masterplan, scheduled to provide a sophisticated residential oasis aligned with the recent urbanization witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain. Tilal extends over an area of 93,600 m2 and includes luxury villas and townhouses designed to meet the unique lifestyle requirements of Bahraini families. Offering three, four and five bedroom options, each unit features high-quality finishes while prioritizing environmental sustainability and incorporating contemporary design trends.

On this occasion, Dr. Ahlam Zainal, CEO of Al Areen Holding Company, commented, "This honor confirms our firm commitment to providing exceptional residential projects that meet the evolving needs of our customers, while also targeting sustainability, inno-



vation and excellence in the Real Estate sector, in line with the goals of the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030."

Additionally, Mr. Ahmed Khalfan, Chief Marketing and Sales Officer at Al Areen Holding Company and CEO of Tilal Residential Project, stated, "We are excited to witness this project's transformation into tangible reality that adds great value to the residential and investment experience in the Kingdom."

Arab Bank Group H1 profits up 25% to \$503m

TDI | Manama

Arab Bank Group reported solid results for the first half of 2024, with 25% increase in net income after tax reaching \$503 million as compared to \$401 m for the same period last year. The Group maintained its strong capital base with a total equity of \$11.5 billion.

Group's loans grew by 8% to reach \$38.1 billion, and deposits grew by 6% to reach \$50.5 billion.

Mr. Sabih Masri, Chairman of the Board of Directors, stated that the solid financial performance underscores the successful execution of the bank's prudent risk practices, diversified business model and its focus on core banking activities.

Ms. Randa Sadik, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the strong financial results reflect the bank's robust assets base and strong capitalization. Ms. Sadik highlighted



that the bank's net operating profit grew by 11% driven by core banking activities coupled with controlled operating expenses.

Ms. Sadik added that the bank's balance sheet strength, solid capitalization, and high liquidity levels have well positioned the bank for sustainable growth. The Group's loan-to-deposit ratio stood at 75.4% and credit provisions held against non-performing loans continue to exceed 100%. Arab Bank Group maintains a strong capital base that is predominantly composed of common equity with a capital adequacy ratio of 17.5%.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank opens Summer Credit Card campaign

● Allows customers to win cash prizes and increase chances to win by 5 times

TDI | Manama



Mazin Dhaif

Following the success of the "Tap More... Win More" campaign, Al Baraka Islamic Bank has announced the launch of its summer credit card campaign. This campaign offers all credit card holders the opportunity to win cash prizes when using their Al Baraka credit card in Bahrain or Internationally

and multiply their chances of winning cash prizes by up to 5 times, with individual prizes reaching up to 3,000 Bahraini Dinars, when they make any foreign currency transactions while traveling or online. This campaign will run from mid-July until the end of September of the current year, aiming to make Al Baraka Credit Cards the preferred

payment option during the summer and travel season and rewarding all cardholders with cash prizes for their valued relationship with the bank.

This ultimate summer campaign will provide the opportunity for 44 credit card holders to win generous cash prizes. The Grand prize will be 3,000 Bahraini Dinars for one winner, the second prize will be 1,000 Bahraini Dinars for 3 winners each, while 10 winners will receive 500 Bahraini Dinars each, and 30 winners will receive 100 Bahraini Dinars each.

For every 50 Bahraini Dinars spent with BHD currency, customers will receive one entry

into the draw. However, they will receive 5 entries for using their credit cards for international transactions while traveling or for any foreign currency purchases made online.

Mr. Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said the new campaign "will grant our clients the opportunity to redeem their points for various rewards, such as cashback, Air miles and travel tickets, accommodation at more than 15,000 hotel chains worldwide, car rentals, or even donate them to various institutions and charitable organizations through the Al Baraka rewards application."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils offers for summer shoppers

TDI | Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 350 showrooms across 13 countries, has just launched their Golden Summer offers. The offers, which will run until the 3rd of August across all of brand's showrooms in Bahrain, will give customers the chance to get free gold coins on their diamond & precious gem jewellery purchases.



As part of the Golden Summer offers, customers shopping for Diamond or Precious Gem jewellery worth BHD 500 will get a free 1gm Gold coin and customers purchasing diamonds or pre-

cious gem jewellery worth BHD 300 will get a 1/2gm Gold coin.

"We have introduced the Golden Summer offers to enhance the jewellery purchase experience of our customers, who are entering the last leg of their summer shopping. With diamond jewellery increasingly becoming the most preferred gifting article amongst individuals and families, the exquisite collection of Diamond jewellery

that Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers makes it the perfect destination for jewellery shopping. Additionally, with the opportunity to get free gold coins along with their favourite jewellery, our customers are getting added value for money", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD- International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

With a jewellery array comprising thousands of designs

from numerous exclusive brands & collections such as Mine, Era, Viraaz, Ethnix, Nuwa, Precia & Divine, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been constantly updating their jewellery portfolio to cater to the refined tastes & preferences of its immense customer base. The brand's latest diamond jewellery collection, 'Nuwa', has been making waves amongst jewellery lovers worldwide. The Nuwa collection is a

celebration of nature's intricate designs, waves, forms, folds and textures, masterfully crafted into luxurious pieces of diamond jewellery. With all purchases covered under the Malabar Promise of 100% Value on Diamond & Gold exchange as well as Free lifetime maintenance, Malabar Gold & Diamonds guarantees its customers unmatched value & service assurance on their purchase.

HH Shaikh Nasser's Calif wins first place at Munich Horse Race

TDT | Manama

Calif, owned by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and Team Victorious secured first place in Group 1 of the Munich horse race in Germany.

This victory marks another significant achievement for Team Victorious in European

horse racing competitions.

Commenting on the accomplishment, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his pride in the victory, emphasising that it solidifies Team Victorious' position in European competitions and expands the team's strong reputation. He highlighted the team's clear strategy focused on achieving further success for Bahraini equestrian sports. "The team's

consistent wins in speed horse racing further solidify their success," His Highness stressed.

Moreover, His Highness described the Munich horse race as a prestigious event with fierce competition and extensive participation.

He underscored that Calif's victory is a continuation of Team Victorious' consistent successes in European arenas, making them a prominent

force in global competitions. He praised the exceptional skills of jockey Adrie de Vries, who expertly guided Calif to this remarkable victory.

From the start, jockey Adrie de Vries and Calif dominated the race despite strong competition. Calif ultimately finished first, adding another victory to Team Victorious' consistent successes in European arenas, making them a prominent

India clinch series in rain-hit T20 after Sri Lanka collapse



India's Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot

AFP | Kandy

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Yashasvi Jaiswal powered India to a seven-wicket win in the rain-hit second T20 international against Sri Lanka and clinch the series on Sunday.

Chasing a rain-revised target of 78 in eight overs, India raced to victory with nine balls to spare at Kandy's Pallekele International Stadium.

India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series to mark a strong beginning with their new-age team under Suryakumar and coach Gautam Gambhir.

Stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retired from T20 internationals after the team's World Cup triumph in Barbados last month.

Suryakumar has shown early signs of leading from the front after playing key parts in the two wins including his quick-fire 26 in the latest outing.

"We spoke about this before this tournament, what brand of cricket we want to play," the

Scorecard

India 81 for 3 (Jaiswal 30, Suryakumar 26, Theekshana 1-16) beat **Sri Lanka 161 for 9** (Kusal Perera 53, Nissanka 32, Bishnoi 3-26) by seven wickets via DLS method

33-year-old Suryakumar said. "Even though it was a shorter target, this is the template we want going ahead."

Bowlers set up victory after Ravi Bishnoi and Hardik Pandya shared five wickets between them to limit Sri Lanka to 161-9 despite Kusal Perera's 53.

Sri Lanka collapsed from 130-2 to 140-6 and lost three further wickets, including two in the final over by Axar Patel.

Rain interrupted India's chase after just three balls and six runs without a wicket lost when intermittent showers kept the players off the field for over an hour.

Play resumed with revised playing conditions and Suryakumar put on 39 runs with left-handed Jaiswal, who smashed 30, after Sanju Samson fell for a duck.

Nadal to face Djokovic in Olympics blockbuster

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal set up an Olympic Games blockbuster against Novak Djokovic yesterday, shrugging off lingering injury concerns as fellow Grand Slam warrior Andy Murray prepared for what could be the final match of his career.

Nadal, who has won 14 of his 22 Grand Slam titles on the clay at Roland Garros, defeated 83rd-ranked Marton Fucsovics 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in the first round despite sporting strapping on his injured right thigh.

His meeting with 24-time major winner Djokovic will be the 60th of their storied careers.

"Of course it's beautiful to play against one of the two biggest rivals that I had in my career, especially on this court," Nadal said.

"But situations are completely different for him, for me. He's being very competitive. I was not being very competitive for the last two years, so in that case, I think probably he is the clear favourite."

On a sun-drenched Court Philippe Chatrier, Nadal raced through the opening set with

breaks in the second and sixth games.

However, the 32-year-old Fucsovics levelled the contest on a third set point in the second with Nadal briefly appearing to feel discomfort with his bandaged thigh.

Nadal, the 2008 Olympic singles gold medallist and doubles champion in Rio eight years later, was in trouble early in the decider.

But he stormed back with a key break in the fifth game of the decider on his way to victory after a testing two hours and 30 minutes on

Rafael Nadal



Nadal had opened his final Olympics campaign on Saturday, partnering Carlos Alcaraz to victory in their first match together.

He then cast doubt on his singles commitment

"Of course it's beautiful to play against one of the two biggest rivals that I had in my career, especially on this court. But situations are completely different for him, for me. He's being very competitive. I was not being very competitive for the last two years, so in that case, I think probably he is the clear favourite"

RAFAEL NADAL

ments after picking up a thigh injury in training, insisting he would "make the smartest decision that I can to have the best chance of bringing a medal home".

Nadal and Djokovic have played 10 times at Roland Garros, first meeting in 2006, with Nadal leading the pair's head-to-head 8-2 in the French capital.

Hamilton wins after Russell disqualified

Russell's disqualification for underweight car elevates Hamilton to victory in Belgium

● **Piastri claims second for McLaren in close finish**

● **Leclerc drops from pole to third, Verstappen fourth**

AFP | Spa

Lewis Hamilton emerged as the winner of a dramatic Belgian Grand Prix yesterday after Mercedes teammate George Russell, who took the chequered flag, was disqualified when his car was found to be underweight following the race.

It is the second win of the season for the seven-time world champion following his success at Silverstone earlier this month and the 105th of his Formula One career.

It was also the third Mercedes victory in the last four races following a poor run of results in the last two years although they initially thought they had wrapped up a compelling one-two.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri was elevated to second with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc moving up from fourth to third.

The 26-year-old Russell, who



Mercedes' George Russell finish the Belgian GP

started sixth on the grid, produced a stunning performance on the track, the only driver to opt for a one-stop policy that saw him nursing his second set of tyres for 34 of the 44 laps.

He was able to hold off Hamilton and the flying McLaren of Piastri, who finished third, to claim what he thought was his third grand prix victory.

His joy, however, was short-lived as a technical report released after the race said Russell's car had been found to be 1.5kg below the minimum weight limit for car and driver

combined.

"Car 63 is disqualified from the race classification," the stewards announced in a statement.

"All other drivers move up in the classification," they added.

Russell's car was initially weighed at 798kg, which is exactly on the minimum weight limit for car and driver combined.

But stewards found it had not been fully drained of fuel and when it was weighed again it registered 796.5kg.

"Heartbreaking," Russell said on social media.



Russell's victory came after driving 34 laps on his second set of tires, a risky one-stop strategy that wasn't predicted in Mercedes' pre-race strategy meeting but ultimately led to his third career win

"We came in 1.5kg underweight and have been disqualified from the race.

"We left it all on the track today and I take pride in crossing the line first.

"There will be more to come," he added.

Leclerc, who started on pole position, crossed the line in fourth ahead of three-time world champion and series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull, Lando Norris in the second McLaren and Carlos Sainz in the second Ferrari.

They were followed by Sergio



Second-placed McLaren driver Oscar Piastri

Perez, who started second, in the second Red Bull, two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin and Esteban Ocon of Alpine.

'Fantastic'

After Saturday's deluge, the race began in bright, warm and dry conditions.

Leclerc enjoyed a smooth start from pole as Hamilton beat Perez to take second into La Source, where they battled wheel to wheel.

Norris had a poor start and ran through a gravel trap, falling to seventh behind Russell and

Sainz as the early order settled while Verstappen gained two places to rise to ninth, having started 11th due to a 10-place penalty for taking an additional new engine.

Hamilton's pace took him within reach of Leclerc on lap three when, using Drag Reduction System (DRS), he swept into the lead on the Kemmel Straight.

He stayed there and by lap five led Leclerc by a second ahead of Perez, Piastri and Russell with Sainz sixth, the only top 10 driver on hard tyres, ahead of Norris and Verstappen.

Russell and Verstappen came in after 10 laps, both switching from mediums to hards and re-joining in 13th and 14th respectively before Hamilton, Perez and Piastri pitted one lap later.

Norris finally pitted on lap 16, rejoining eighth behind Verstappen with whom he battled until the end of the race.

With all of the other contenders pitting a second time, Russell became the fifth race leader and opted to stay out on the one-stop strategy.

Hamilton closed but instead of waving his teammate through, Russell was given the all-clear to race him, a potentially dangerous strategy from Mercedes as Piastri quickly closed on them.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa visits Bahrain's Olympic delegation in Paris

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee and head of the Bahrain delegation at the Paris 2024 Olympics, visited the athletes and officials at the Olympic Village.

He was welcomed by Secretary-General Faris Mustafa Al Kooheji, board member and Weightlifting Federation President Isaac Ibrahim, Swimming Federation President Dr. Mohammed Majbil, and mission direc-



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa with Bahrain's Olympic delegation

tors Ahmed Abdulghaffar and Fajr Jassim.

Sheikh Isa conveyed greetings from Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and expressed pride in Bahrain's participation in this global event.

He emphasized the importance of representing Bahrain honorably and striving for excellence to elevate the nation's flag in various competitions.

Sheikh Isa reaffirmed the country's commitment to enhancing its regional and international sports standing. He promised continued support for ath-

letes to help them achieve their goals and ambitions.

Sheikh Isa presented commemorative gifts to the athletes, concluding the visit with group photos. The visit instilled pride and motivation among the delegation, who expressed gratitude for Sheikh Isa's unwavering support and encouragement.

Sheikh Isa toured the Olympic Village, praising the high-quality facilities and services provided to the participating delegations, ensuring comfort and optimal performance conditions for the athletes.

Biles stuns on Olympic return

Gymnastics superstar overcomes calf pain to lead all-around standings in Paris

● Biles tops all-around qualifications despite calf issue

AFP | Paris

Simone Biles made a stunning return to Olympic competition yesterday, powering through left calf pain to get her multiple-medal bid off to a rousing start.

Biles's return was one of the highlights of day two as the sun returned to Paris, with 13 gold medals up for grabs, including a blockbuster swimming duel.

Hollywood star Tom Cruise and pop stars Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande were among a host of A-listers crowded into a packed Bercy Arena as US superstar Biles began her quest for Olympic gymnastics redemption.



Gymnastics - US' Simone Biles competes in the uneven bars event of the artistic gymnastics



Handball action featuring Hungary (in white) and Brazil



Kimberley Woods of Britain reacts after competing in women's kayak single finals



Shooting - 10m air pistol: Gold medalist India's Manu Bhaker competes during the shooting 10m air pistol women's Final

The 27-year-old four-time Olympic champion, widely regarded as the greatest gymnast in history, entered the arena to a standing ovation and a deafening roar greeted her introduction.

She tweaked her left calf warming up for her second apparatus, the floor exercise, but still topped the standings.

The American star acknowledged the support with a wave and she blew a kiss to the crowd after her image was flashed up on a giant scoreboard.

Biles opened her qualifying with a sublime performance on the beam, finishing second behind China's Zhou Yaqin.

She also led the vault and was still clinging to the eighth and last finals berth in uneven bars with two qualifying sessions to come.

Biles topped the all-around standings with 59.566 points, while the

United States led the way in the team competition.

"It's incredible," said US team technical lead Chellsie Memmel. "What she was able to do looking like she has soreness or something in her leg is remarkable."

The 23-time world champion is competing in Paris three years after her campaign at the Tokyo Olympics unravelled due to a disorientating condition gymnasts call "twisties".

She still went home with a silver and bronze and was lauded for speaking openly about her mental health struggles.

On the basketball court, Kevin Durant returned from injury to produce a shooting masterclass as the United States launched the defence of their Olympic crown with a 110-84 win over Serbia.

Durant shot a near-perfect 8-of-9 from the field to finish with 23 points in a convincing win for the reigning champions, who are eyeing a fifth straight Olympic crown.

Japanese 14-year-old Coco Yoshizawa won women's street skateboard gold in an all-teenage final, seeing off the challenge of compatriot Liz Akama.

Earlier, beach volleyball fans booed Dutch player Steven van der Velde, a convicted rapist who was controversially selected for the Olympics despite his criminal past.

Van der Velde's teammate Matthew Immers spoke out in support of his colleague after the Dutch pair lost to Italy. "What is in the past is in the past, and he had his punishment," Immers said. Australia were early pacesetters in the medals table on four golds, ahead of South Korea, China and Japan.



US pop star Lady Gaga attends the women's gymnastics qualifying



Skateboarding: Japan's Coco Yoshizawa competes in the women's street skateboarding final