

Bahraini shooters just short of bronze
 Tammar Alwatt, Maryam Alasam lose podium chance with defeat to Qatari counterparts in skeet mixed team competition | **P12**

WORLD 6 Spain shocked as 14-year-old stabs five people in school

THE DAILY **tribune**



Angelina Jolie: I haven't felt like myself for a decade

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German recession will be worse than feared: economic institutes

ChatGPT can now search for latest data on internet

TD | New York

The generative AI platform ChatGPT can now fetch data directly from the internet and gather up-to-date information in real-time, its creator OpenAI said Wednesday, in a major milestone for the software.

Until now, ChatGPT's responses to user queries were based on a vast database, which did not contain information from after August 2021.

"ChatGPT can now browse the internet to provide you with current and authoritative information, complete with direct links to sources," OpenAI said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "It is no longer limited to data before September 2021."

Bahrain greets Kuwait's Amir on accession to throne

TD | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Kuwait's Amir His Highness Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah on his accession to the throne.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



Kuwait Amir

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman wished HH Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed abundant health and happiness and to the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

HM the King and His Royal Highness praised the deep longstanding Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations and their development in various sectors.

Pride for Bahrain's fallen serviceman

HRH Prince Salman pays tribute to brave sacrifices of BDF's 'fallen hero'

Germany and Israel sign 'historic' \$3.5b missile shield deal

AFP | Berlin

Germany yesterday signed a deal to acquire the Israeli-made Arrow 3 hypersonic missile system that will become a key part of Europe's defence against air attack.

The signing of the deal was a "historic day" for both countries, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said at a press conference alongside his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant.

Worth around \$3.5 billion (3.3 billion euros), the sale is the biggest ever deal for Israel's military industry.

Russia defence spending up by 70% next year

AFP | Moscow

Russia is set to hike defence spending by almost 70 percent in 2024, a finance ministry document published yesterday showed, as Moscow pours resources into its full-scale offensive in Ukraine.

Since the conflict began last year, Russia has ramped up arms manufacturing and pumped massive funds into its military machine, despite persistently high inflation and a weaker ruble.

Armed Forces Deputy Supreme Commander offers condolences to family and relatives

TD | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, expressed his pride in the honourable sacrifices of the Bahrain Defence Force's fallen serviceman, which will be etched forever in the Kingdom's history.

This came as HRH Prince Salman yesterday offered his condolences to the family and relatives of fallen serviceman, First Warrant Officer Adam Salem Naseeb, who passed away following injuries that he sustained during his honourable and loyal participation in Operation Restoring Hope, as part of the Saudi-led Arab Coalition



HRH Prince Salman meeting the family of the fallen serviceman


"The BDF officers continue to be a source of pride and inspiration through their sacrifices, courage, and commitment to achieving justice."

- HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PRIME MINISTER

Forces at the southern border of Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness emphasised that the BDF officers continue to be a source of pride and inspiration through their sacrifices, courage, and commitment to achieving justice.

For their part, First Warrant Officer Adam's family expressed their gratitude for HRH Prince Salman's condolences and expressed their pride in First Warrant Officer Adam's sacrifices while fulfilling his national duty.



The body of the martyr being carried by the crowd after a prayer ceremony

His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

China wants to be 'dominant power' in the world: Blinken

TD | Washington

China is seeking to surpass the United States as the top power in the world, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday, as he again warned on Taiwan.

Successive US presidents have called China the top long-term challenge to the United States, but some US analysts have seen Beijing's ambitions as more focused on reducing Washington's influence in Asia than about a global role.

Asked at a forum about Chi-

na's intentions, Blinken said, "I think that what it seeks is to be the dominant power in the world - militarily, economically, diplomatically."

"That's what Xi Jinping is seeking," Blinken said of China's president.

"And in a sense, that's not a surprise. There's an extraordinary history in China," he said at the event organized by The Atlantic magazine.

"I think if you look and listen to Chinese leaders, they are seeking to recover what they believe is their rightful place in the world."

Fish kill



Dead fishes due to low volume of water are seen at the Lago do Piranha Sustainable Development Reserve in Manacapuru, Amazonas State, northern Brazil. Amazonas is facing a severe river drought, making it difficult to navigate and supply food and fuel to the interior. Governor Wilson Lima has declared a State of Environmental Emergency because of the fires and the drying up of the rivers. (AFP)



A royal praise for solid bilateral ties

HRH Prince Salman receives credentials of 18 newly appointed ambassadors to Bahrain

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, commended the strength of the bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and friendly countries, which are witnessing further progress and prosperity at all levels.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the Kingdom's commitment to continue building on what has been achieved by furthering bilateral relations and cooperation to benefit all.

HRH Prince Salman made the statements as he received the credentials of the 18 newly appointed ambassadors to Bahrain, on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, during a ceremony held at Sakhr Palace.

During the ceremony, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister extended to the ambassadors His Majesty the King's greetings to their heads of state and His Majesty's best wishes for success in their diplomatic duties to strengthen cooperation between the Kingdom and the ambassadors' respective countries.

The ambassadors extended to His Majesty King Hamad their heads of states' greetings, wishing the Kingdom and its people further progress and prosperity while commending longstanding bilateral relations at all



HRH Prince Salman receives a salute from Lieutenant-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander

levels. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister further conveyed his own greetings to the ambassadors' heads of state.

HRH Prince Salman wished the ambassadors success in performing their diplomatic duties to achieve mutual aspirations.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister received the credentials of the Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia, HE Abdulkadar Memedi; the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, HE Isaac Biruma Sebulime; the Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, HE Patri-

cio Diaz Broughton; the Ambassador of Romania, HE Octavian Bogdan Badica; the Ambassador of Ukraine, HE Dmytro Senyk; the Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi, HE Younos Abdul Karim; the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho, HE Boomo Frank Sofonia; the Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala, HE Willy Alberto Gomez Tirado; the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, HE Natalia Al Mansour; the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, HE Carlos Rodolfo Zapata Lopez; the Ambassador of the Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela, HE David Velasquez; the Ambassador of the Republic of Mali, HE Boubacar Gouro Diall; the Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, HE Boun Inthabandith; the Ambassador of the Republic of Portugal, HE Nuno Mathias; the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi, HE Nahayo Jacques Ya'coub; the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Tonga, HE Akau'ola; the Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua, HE Mohamed Lashtar; and the Ambassador of Cambodia, HE Manan Sman.

The ceremony was attended by the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King, His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, Lieutenant-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of the Royal Court, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Chief of Royal Protocol, Major-General Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Fadhala, and the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.



Japan condemns Houthis' attack on BDF soldiers

Tokyo

Japan yesterday condemned Monday's attack on Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) soldiers in southern Saudi Arabia that left military personnel dead and several others wounded.

In a statement, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said: "The government of Japan condemns this attack and expresses its concern that it could run counter to the ongoing efforts of the political dialogue in Yemen to bring about a permanent peace from the current de-facto ceasefire."

"The government expresses its condolences to the victims and their families and prays for the early recovery of the injured."

Grief and sympathy



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), offered condolences to the family of fallen serviceman First Warrant Officer Adam Salem Naseeb. The BDF Commander-in-Chief said that the noble sacrifice of the fallen serviceman had earned them the highest ranks of honour, and that they will always be remembered in the history of Bahrain. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the souls of the fallen servicemen in eternal peace, give their families patience and solace and for the injured a speedy recovery.

HRH Prince Salman receives condolences from US Secretary of Defense on phone call

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, yesterday received a telephone call from the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III.

During the telephone call, the US Secretary of Defense extended his heartfelt condolences to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and to His Royal Highness for the fall-

en servicemen of the Bahrain Defence Force who were honourably and loyally performing their national duties in Operation Restoring Hope, as part of the Arab Coalition Forces led by the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stationed at the southern border of Saudi Arabia.

Austin further wished the injured a speedy recovery.

HRH Prince Salman and Austin further reviewed the Bahrain-US strategic partnership, and the importance of further strengthening relations to achieve joint aspirations.

HH Shaikh Nasser, HH Shaikh Khalid attend funeral prayer for fallen BDF serviceman

TDI | Manama

Lieutenant-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, and Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Guard Special Force Commander, and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqer Al Nuaimi, performed the funeral prayers for the fallen serviceman First Warrant Officer Adam Salem Naseeb of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), which was held at Budaiya cemetery.

Serviceman Naseeb died due to injuries he sustained in the line of duty, alongside the two fallen servicemen who were killed on the Saudi borders while participating in the BDF taskforce, which is part of the Arab Coalition leading operations Decisive Storm and Restoring Hope.

They extended the condolences of His Majesty King



HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid at the funeral prayer

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad A Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister; and Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the BDF and those of their own to the serviceman's family, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Edict issued appointing new director at PMO office

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (90) of 2023, appointing a Director in the office of the Special Representative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, based on a proposal from the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Article (I)
Hamad Khaled Mohammed Al Musallam shall be appointed as Director of the Administrative Affairs and Services Directorate at the PMO.

Article (II)
The Director General of the PMO shall implement the provisions of this edict, and it shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

HRH Prince Salman yester-

day issued Edict (91) of 2023, replacing a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Qualification Framework (NQF) at the Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA), based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of BQA, following the recommendation of the BQA Board of Directors.

Article (I)
Dr. Farzana Abdullah Al Maraghi shall replace Dr. Amina Mohamed Buallay as the representative of the Higher Education Council in the Advisory Committee of the NQF at the BQA.

The period of her term will continue until the end of the term of her predecessor.

Article (II)

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of BQA shall implement the provisions of this edict, and it shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

HM King receives HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. His Majesty welcomed HRH Prince Edward, who conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth.

HM King Hamad relayed his greetings to HM King Charles III, wishing him abundant health and happiness.

HM King Hamad praised the long-standing Bahrain-UK relations and cooperation in various sectors.

He commended the efforts of HM King Charles III in developing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Duke of Edinburgh offered his condolences to HM King Hamad over the fallen servicemen.

HRH hailed HM the King's efforts in further developing relations between Bahrain and the UK. Meanwhile, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, which has over 160,000 volunteers globally, hosted a prestigious event at the British School of Bahrain (BSB) Campus, in Hamala.

The school was honoured to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh, for this special occasion, and together with high level dignitaries, they celebrated the positive impact of the Award within the Kingdom over the past, present and future.

Bahrain committed to bolstering Saudi ties

● Praise for Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, expressed their pride in the deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and their historical development milestones.

They stressed Bahrain's keenness to continue enriching these bilateral relations to achieve the common aspirations of the two countries.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman were speaking as they received yesterday the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud, at Riffa Palace.

His Majesty praised the sincere efforts made by the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, headed by HRH Prince Salman and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz.

HM King Hamad also praised the pioneering role of Saudi Arabia under its leadership in serving GCC, Arab and Islamic issues.



HM the King and HRH Prince Salman receive the Saudi Foreign Minister

The Saudi Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to HM the King for the generous hospitality, and his pride in His Majesty's efforts to consolidate the Bahraini-Saudi bonds.

Greetings

HRH Prince Faisal conveyed the greetings of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and their sincere wishes of further progress and advancement to Bahrain.

His Majesty the King thanked the Saudi Foreign Minister and relayed his greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Saudi Crown Prince, and his appreciation for their noble sentiments in offering condolences over the loss of the fallen servicemen.

Longstanding relations

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the longstanding relations between the two Kingdoms, which have been strengthened thanks to the efforts of His Majesty King Hamad and King Salman.

HRH Prince Salman noted Bahrain's commitment to strengthening relations to further joint development and prosperity.

He also commended the ongoing efforts made by HRH Prince



Mohammed in furthering the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia partnership.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister greeted the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and HRH Prince Mohammed, wishing Saudi Arabia and its people continued progress and prosperity.

Condolences

His Royal Highness thanked the Saudi leadership for their condolences regarding the Kingdom's fallen servicemen, who honourably took part in the Saudi-led Arab Coalition Forces at the southern border of Saudi Arabia.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted Saudi Arabia's influential role

in championing the causes of GCC, Arab and Islamic nations.

He then hosted a luncheon in honour of HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan's visit to the Kingdom.

For his part, HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan extended his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness, commending HRH's role in strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation across various fields.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, and the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.

Vow to enhance Bahrain-UK partnership

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is committed to furthering the Bahrain-UK partnership, which continues to expand joint development to benefit both countries and their people.

This was emphasised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as he met with His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, at Gudaibiya Palace.

He welcomed The Duke of Edinburgh and the accompanying delegation to the Kingdom of Bahrain.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Duke of Edinburgh

HRH Prince Salman highlighting the depth of Bahrain-UK ties, which are based on a longstand-

ing history of cooperation and coordination, in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive de-

velopment, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Regional and international issues of common interest were also discussed.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Education, HE Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, also attended the meeting.

Teenage girl killer jailed for life in 'Sanad murder' case

TDT | Manama

A 35-year-old man accused of murdering a teenage girl has been spared execution and instead received a life sentence in prison.

In the penultimate hearing before the verdict was announced, the defendant made a desperate plea to the court, stating that he killed her because she had blackmailed him with photos and videos, demanding money in exchange for those clips.

His lawyer passionately appealed for understanding of the circumstances around the murder, emphasising the alleged blackmail that influenced the accused's actions. However, the public attorney strongly urged the court to impose capital punishment.

Throughout the trial, the prosecution built a solid case against the accused, presenting his detailed confession as a central pillar of evidence. Testimony from the investigating officer further confirmed the accused's involvement in the premeditated murder and other related crimes.

The forensic doctor's report, based on thorough investigations, aligned perfectly with the accused's statements.

Shockingly, the defendant burst into tears while stand-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ing in the dock during the first hearing of the trial, saying, "I killed her because she was blackmailing me with photos and clips, and she was demanding money for those clips."

He added, "I unintentionally killed her after hitting her on the neck, causing her to faint. She bled from her mouth and nose. Then I strangled her and kept her in my car for a whole day."

The defendant, narrating the details of his crime while crying, mentioned that the next day he placed a piece of iron around the victim's neck to ensure her death. He continued, "I headed to the coast of Sanad with the victim's body and placed it under a tree before leaving the area."

The defendant was arrested after the girl's decomposed body was found hidden. Police officers launched intensive investigations, which led to the arrest of the defendant.



Saudi Foreign Minister arrives

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud, arrived in Bahrain yesterday. The minister was received upon arrival by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Dr. Mohammad Ali Behzad, Undersecretary for Consular, and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saleh bin Falah Al Otaibi, Deputy Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain.

Bahrain plans strategies on food pricing, security and regulation

● Policies to establish single food regulatory in the Kingdom

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is 'coming up' with new strategies that will include food pricing, as well as policies to establish a single food regulatory in the Kingdom, BCCI Food Sector Committee chairman Khaled Al Amin said yesterday when speaking to the media.

"Everybody now wants to focus on food security. The challenge is to put all the food affairs under one ministry or under one body, so there is one authority

regulating everything," Mr Al Amin said.

"There are no new announcements on these strategies, but Bahrain is coming up. The strategy will be there in time and the Minister of Industry will announce it, which will focus on food pricing, food supply and food security," he stated.

Bahrain and Qatar

When asked a question about relations between Bahrain and Qatar and how logistics would move ahead, Al-Amin stated that countries must move ahead to progress.

"If you want to progress, the project has to move ahead. If the project doesn't move ahead there's no progress. We trust



“The food supply and chain are there, and we are building our food security step by step.”

- KHALED AL AMIN, BCCI FOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

our leadership in Bahrain and the GCC."

Challenges

Speaking on current issues that face Bahrain, Al Amin said, "For the food supply they should open the containers at the importer warehouse, instead of

on the port as opening at the port would lead to a reduction in quality."

Egypt and India

Al Amin also spoke about the current challenges between countries Egypt and India. Egypt has been facing food security

challenges for years as it heavily relies on imported wheat to meet domestic demand.

The country also imports a large amount of rice and other grains to cover needs, and Russia's recent withdrawal from the Black Sea grain-export initiative, as well as India's restrictions on rice exports have caused grave concerns for Egypt.

"It's a political problem. Usually when the election is close the government will ban export of the most important food."

Bahrain's market is stable

Even though Bahrain imports 96 per cent to 98 per cent of its food, Al Amin highlighted that Bahrain's supply and market is stable, and there are no prob-

lems currently.

"The food supply and chain are there, and we are building our food security step by step. We have started with Bafco and we want to continue from there," the chairman of the Food Sector Committee at BCCI stated.

He stated during the meeting that Bahrain is also working to implement its sugar refinery that is now in progress to be reopened.

Last December, a multi-million-dinar agreement had been signed by the Industry and Commerce Ministry to set up a sugar manufacturing project at Salman Industrial town. The deal would lease a plot to Bahrain sugar refinery to launch the project at Bahrain International Investment Park (BIIP).

Government Hospitals obtains key global accreditation

● Important in boosting healthcare services provided for all in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Government Hospitals obtained Institutional Accreditation from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties after evaluating the training-related facilities, based on the standards approved by the commission.

This achievement is represented by the ability of government hospitals, represented by the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC), to obtain programmatic accreditation for a number of new medical specialties from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.

Status

Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Governmental Hospitals, affirmed the importance of these accreditations in enhancing the status of government hospitals and health services provided in Bahrain.

He also noted the importance of medical training as the basic building block for qualifying medical personnel to achieve quality services to patients.

Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Al Ansari, Government Hospitals CEO, affirmed the keenness of government hospitals to provide an educational environment for trainers and trainees based on the foundations of health education, to provide high quality training in all specialties.

Information Minister takes part in Arab Media Forum

Abu Dhabi

Information Minister Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi participated in the 21st Arab Media Forum, which was held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler.

The forum was attended by over 3,000 influential media personalities, ministers and heads of leading local, Arab and international media organisations, as well as thought leaders, intellectuals and writers

The minister took part in a session on "Dialogue Between Arab Information Ministers", where he highlighted that Arab countries are having a direct confrontation with extremism and hate speech, in light of the multiplicity of unconventional media tools.



Mr. Al Noaimi speaks at the forum

He recalled the fallen servicemen who lost their lives while performing their national duty on the Saudi borders while participating in the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) taskforce, which is part of the Arab Coalition leading operations Decisive Storm and Restoring Hope, praying to Allah Almighty to rest the souls of the fallen servicemen in eternal peace, bless

their relatives with patience and fortitude and grant the injured a speedy recovery.

He said that the Houthi aggression was carried out during the United Nations' truce without considering Yemen's interests or peace efforts in the region.

Al Noaimi affirmed the importance of media in supporting the efforts of Arab countries to achieve stability and development, as well as the importance of developing a media that is aligned with Arab development plans.

He noted that the Arab media today possesses all the necessary capabilities and competencies to keep pace with the current regional and international changes, which makes it essential that the information we receive is credible, professional, and accurate.

Focus on ways to enhance Bahrain-India relations



Mr. Humaidan and India Ambassador Jacob holds hold a meeting

TDT | Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Muhammad Ali Humaidan and Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Vinod Kurian Jacob met to discuss Bahrain-India relations and ways to develop them.

Humaidan, also Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)'s Chairman of the Board of Directors, briefed the ambassador about national efforts to improve the labour

market, which included modernising labour legislation to meet international standards and enhancing social protection.

He praised the Indian workforce and its participation in Bahrain's development process.

The ambassador praised the Kingdom for establishing an investment-friendly environment and preserving workers' rights, stressing his country's keenness to strengthen cooperation.

Bahrain-Pakistan ties



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF), received Group Captain Raheel Shaukat, Naval and Air Attache of the Republic of Pakistan, resident in Riyadh and accredited in Bahrain. The Commander-in-Chief commended the Bahraini-Pakistani relations, wishing the Naval Attaché success in performing his duties.

'Green Tourism and Investment'



Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Acting Minister of Tourism, met with Shripad Yesu Naik, Indian Minister of Culture and Tourism, on the sidelines of his participation in the World Tourism Day ceremonies and events in Riyadh, which was held under the slogan "Green Tourism and Investment" and organised by the Ministry of Tourism in the Kingdom. Fakhro stressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to continue complementary efforts in the tourism sector between the Kingdom and India. The two sides praised the growth and development witnessed by the tourism sector in the two countries.

RHF praises Ambassador



Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) Secretary-General, received Muhammad Ayub, outgoing Pakistani Ambassador to Bahrain. Dr. Al Sayed expressed appreciation for the ambassador's efforts during his tenure in promoting cooperation between the two countries, especially in the humanitarian and relief work. He wished the ambassador success in his upcoming tasks. Ambassador Ayub expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the humanitarian efforts undertaken by the Kingdom to the Pakistani people during the recent floods in Pakistan.

German recession will be worse than feared: economic institutes

● The economy will shrink 0.6 percent in 2023, the institutes said

AFP | Frankfurt, Germany

A recession in Germany this year will be worse than previously feared, leading economic institutes warned yesterday, as high inflation and an industrial slowdown hit Europe's top economy.

The economy will shrink 0.6 percent in 2023, the institutes said in their latest joint forecast. They had all flagged in recent months that a downturn was expected, although the figure is worse than those previously mentioned.

"The most important reason for this revision is that industry and private consumption are recovering more slowly than we expected," said Oliver Holtemoeller, from the Halle Institute for Economic Research, one of the five groups behind the forecast. German policymakers face



The economy fell into recession around the turn of the year, and has struggled to recover since

challenges on multiple fronts -- from still-high inflation that began surging after Russia invaded Ukraine, to weakness in manufacturing and the impact of record eurozone interest rates.

Problems in the global economy, and in particular a slow recovery from the pandemic in Germany's top trading partner China, are also weighing on the exporting powerhouse.

There were positive signs at the start of the year that Germany may have weathered the energy crisis better than expected, but Thursday's forecasts are just the latest gloomy signal in recent months.

The economy fell into recession around the turn of the year, and has struggled to recover since, with growth stagnating in the second quarter.

The last joint economic

forecast released in April had forecast growth of 0.3% in 2023. However, since then some of the institutes involved had separately forecast a contraction this year, although their predictions were less gloomy than the latest joint forecast.



The IMF has predicted that Germany will be the only major advanced economy to shrink this year. The European Commission earlier this month said it expects the German economy to contract by 0.4% this year, compared to a previous forecast of 0.2% growth.

Hyundai, Kia recall 3 million cars in US over fire risk

Washington, United States

South Korean car manufacturers Hyundai and Kia are issuing recalls for 3.3 million vehicles in the United States due to their risk of suddenly catching fire, regulators announced Wednesday. "Until these recalled vehicles have been repaired... the safest place to park them is outside and away from homes and other structures," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said in a statement.

"Fires can occur whether the vehicle is parked and turned off or while driving."

The vehicles in question include 1.64 million from Hyundai and Genesis, concerning 2010 to 2015 models, and 1.73 m Kias, ranging from 2010 to 2017.

The problem comes from an issue with the vehicles' anti-lock brake systems (ABS), "which could leak brake fluid internally and cause an electrical short," the NHTSA said.

"Hyundai plans to notify owners to bring their vehicles to the nearest dealership to replace the ABS module fuse," the agency said. "Kia is still working on a remedy." Neither company knows of "any crashes, injuries or fatalities associated with this defect."

Hyundai has recorded 21 vehicle fires linked to the defect in the United States, as well as "22 thermal incidents," including visible smoke, burning and melting. Kia has recorded one engine compartment fire, "three fires in the unit, and six instances of melting components."

Portugal launches sale of 51% in state-owned airline TAP

AFP | Lisbon, Portugal

The Portuguese government on Thursday opened the sale of a majority stake in flag carrier TAP, expected to attract the interest of European rivals including Air France-KLM, Lufthansa and British Airways owner IAG. TAP had to be rescued and renationalised in 2020, which was followed by job cuts and plane sales in order to secure EU approval of a 3.2 billion euro (\$3.4 billion) capital injection for the debt-lad-

en airline. "The government adopted today the decree on the privatisation of TAP," Finance Minister Fernando Medina said after the Socialist-led government's weekly cabinet meeting.

The government wants to sell at least 51 percent of TAP, with at least five percent of shares reserved for employees, he added, without specifying how much the government might raise from the sale.

The airline posted a profit of 23 million euros for the first half of this year, compared with

a loss of 202 million euros in the period last year.

"The outlook for 2023 is even better," said Infrastructure Minister Joao Galamba.

Analysts say Germany's Lufthansa, which took a major stake in Italy's ITA in May, might be interested in bidding, while Air France-KLM chief Ben Smith reiterated his interest in July. TAP flies several routes to North America and Brazil, which could also be a good fit for IAG, which also owns Spanish airline Iberia.

\$3.5 bn Germany deal the biggest yet for Israeli arms sector

AFP | Tel Aviv, Israel

Israel's \$3.5-billion sale of its Arrow 3 missile defence system to Germany, sparked by security fears after Russia's Ukraine invasion, is the biggest yet for the small country's out-sized arms sector.

With its armed forces steered by a tragic history of war, Israel is now the ninth largest exporter of military equipment and technology, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Israeli arms exports reached a new record of \$12.5 billion dollars last year, double the amount from three years earlier, says its defence ministry.

Israel's fears of attacks from Iran and other foes have led it, together with its top ally the United States, to develop hi-tech systems designed to knock incoming rockets and missiles



The launch of the Arrow-3 hypersonic anti-ballistic missile at an undisclosed location in Alaska.

out of the sky. Berlin's purchase of Arrow 3 had to be approved by Washington because the system was jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and US aerospace giant Boeing.

The system aims to shield Germany and its neighbours from ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads by intercepting them as far as 2,400 kilometres (almost 1,500 miles) away, outside the atmosphere.

Israel, a country of nine mil-

lion people, has fought multiple wars with Arab states since its foundation in 1948 in what was then Palestine.

Its army now occupies the West Bank and blockades the Gaza Strip, fuelling anger across the Arab and Muslim world.

As Israel marks a half-century since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, its arms industry is earning billions, much of it now driven by the sharply heightened tensions between NATO and Russia.

Aramco announces first global LNG deal



Dhahran oil plants, in eastern Saudi Arabia

● Aramco reported record profits totalling \$161.1 billion last year

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Aramco on Thursday announced its first global investment in liquefied natural gas, part of a broader bid by the energy giant to expand beyond oil.

The company seen as the jewel of the Saudi economy said it would acquire a minority stake worth \$500 million in MidOcean Energy, which is managed by the US investment firm EIG.

"We anticipate strong demand-led growth for LNG as the world continues on its energy transition journey, with gas being a vital fuel and feedstock in various industries," Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement.

"The world's rising need for secure, accessible and more sustainable energy."

He noted that the deal "marks Aramco's first international investment in LNG".

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, owns 90 percent of Aramco's

shares and is depending on its revenue for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's sweeping economic and social reform programme known as Vision 2030, which aims to shift the economy away from fossil fuels.

Aramco wants to become "a leading global LNG player", the firm's upstream president Nasir K. al-Naimi said in Thursday's statement, adding that it sees "significant opportunities in this market, which is positioned for structural, long-term growth". MidOcean Energy "is currently in the process of acquiring interests in four Australian LNG projects, with a growth strategy to create a diversified global LNG business," the statement said.

Aramco reported record profits totalling \$161.1 billion last year, allowing the kingdom to notch up its first annual budget surplus in nearly a decade, though year-on-year performance fell during the first two quarters of 2023.

Aramco has pledged to achieve "operational net-zero" carbon emissions by 2050.

That applies to emissions that are produced directly by Aramco's industrial sites, but not the CO2 produced when clients burn Saudi oil in their cars, power plants and furnaces.

ChatGPT can now search for data on the internet



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman
New York, United States

The generative AI platform ChatGPT can now fetch data directly from the internet and gather up-to-date information in real-time, its creator OpenAI said Wednesday, in a major milestone for the software.

Until now, ChatGPT's responses to user queries were based on a vast database, which did not contain information from after August 2021.

"ChatGPT can now browse the internet to provide you with current and authoritative

information, complete with direct links to sources," OpenAI said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "It is no longer limited to data before September 2021."

It also said that the latest feature would allow sites to control how ChatGPT interacts with them.

OpenAI launched the update for its paying subscribers in June, but suspended it after users managed to bypass paywalls on internet content.

The feature, dubbed "Browse with Bing", is also reserved for paying subscribers of ChatGPT Plus and Enterprise services, but OpenAI said it would soon be available to all users.

OpenAI partner Microsoft already offers Bing Chat, an integration of GPT-4, the language model used to develop ChatGPT, with its internet search engine, as does Google with its conversational robot Bard.

ChatGPT will provide direct sources alongside its responses, which will no longer be based on the single database the program's publisher controls.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD. MAHATMA GANDHI

News in brief

◆ **French President Emmanuel Macron**

proposed to give a form of autonomy to the Mediterranean island of Corsica, a region that often chafes at rule from Paris. "We should have the courage to establish a form of autonomy for Corsica within France," Macron told the island's parliament in Ajaccio, which is currently controlled by nationalists. "We would all be failing if we left things as they are," he added. Corsica shot to the top of the French political agenda last year when widespread violence broke out over the killing in a mainland prison of Yvan Colonna. The independence fighter -- jailed for life over the 1998 murder of the region's prefect Claude Erignac -- was stabbed to death by another inmate. Colonna's killing triggered "unbelievable violence that brought Corsica to the brink of widespread conflict", the island's executive Gilles Simeoni told the president. Corsicans have long wanted more say on their own affairs, as well as official status for their language and protection from outsiders buying up land -- two thorny requests that Paris is reluctant to grant.



France's Macron proposes 'autonomy' for island of Corsica

◆ **Karabakh separatists to disband after surrender to Azerbaijan**



rounds of talks. But it also raised the levels of anger in Yerevan.

◆ **Ethnic Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh**

on Thursday agreed to dissolve their government by the end of the year and become a full part of Azerbaijan in the wake of Baku's lightning offensive. The dramatic announcement came moments after it became clear that more than half of the rebel region's population had fled the advancing Azerbaijani forces. It drew the curtain on one of the world's longest and seemingly most irreconcilable "frozen conflicts" -- one that successive administrations in Washington and leaders across Europe had failed to resolve in ceaseless

◆ **UK's Sunak eyes election as ruling Tories meet**



◆ **Britain's ruling Conservatives** gather this weekend for their annual conference, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak bidding to revive the party's flagging fortunes with an apparent reset. The four-day event from Sunday in Manchester, northwest England, comes with a general election expected next year that Sunak's Tories -- in power since 2010 -- look set to lose to the main Labour opposition. The UK leader, whose keynote speech next Wednesday will close the conference, appears to be shifting his beleaguered party onto an election footing by trying to refocus attention onto a broader policy agenda.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

One of Britain's most famous trees 'deliberately felled'



Pictures of the tree before and after London, United Kingdom



One of the UK's most photographed trees, located next to the Roman-era Hadrian's Wall in northeast England, has been "deliberately felled," the authority responsible for the local National Park said yesterday. "Northumberland National Park Authority can confirm that sadly, the famous tree at Sycamore Gap has come down overnight," it said in a statement. "We have reason to believe it has been deliberately felled. "We are working with the relevant agencies and partners with an interest in this iconic North East landmark and will issue more details once they are known." The tree was notable not only for being next to the ancient wall, but also for its

cinematic setting -- standing alone in a dramatic dip -- and featured in Kevin Costner's 1991 blockbuster film "Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves". Pictures posted on social media show the sycamore, which won the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year in 2016, reduced to a short stump, with the rest of the tree dumped on the wall. Northumbria Police said they had launched an investigation and that they were trying to establish if a criminal offence had occurred. Local MP Mary Foy called it "a heartbreaking act of mindless vandalism of a much loved, famous landmark in the North East. "A very sad day for the iconic Sycamore Gap, which will upset so many people around the country -- and even across the world," she added.

Soldier back in US after release by North Korea

AFP | Washington, United States

American soldier Travis King has returned to the United States after being freed by North Korea, a Defense Department official said yesterday.



Travis King

"I can confirm that he has landed in the US," the official told AFP, without providing further details.

A US official previously said King would be taken to the Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas upon his return to the United States -- the same place that American basketball star Brittney Griner was evaluated after being released by Russia.

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, he snuck away, joined a Demilitarized Zone sightseeing trip and slipped over the border.

Last month, Pyongyang con-

firmed it was holding him, saying King had defected to North Korea to escape "mistreatment and racial discrimination in the US Army."

But after completing its investigation, Pyongyang has "decided to expel Travis King, a soldier of the US 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 acronym.

Poland says missile that killed two in 2022 was Ukrainian

◆ **Two workers at a grain drying facility died in the blast in Przewodow**

AFP | Warsaw, Poland

A missile that killed two people in a Polish village in November, raising fears of a dangerous spike in the Ukraine conflict, belonged to Kyiv's forces, Warsaw said yesterday.

Two workers at a grain drying facility died in the blast in Przewodow, some six kilometres (four miles) from the Ukrainian border, raising fears of an escalation in the war between Moscow and Kyiv.

But Warsaw and the NATO military alliance, of which Po-

land is member, later said the explosion was likely caused by a Ukrainian air-defence missile launched to intercept a Russian barrage.

Polish Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro on Thursday said an "investigation carried out by Polish prosecutors led to ... an unequivocal opinion... that this missile was Ukrainian".

He said the finding was based on the "place where the missile was fired from", adding that the projectile was of Soviet production.

Ziobro also said he regretted that "for months, there was no cooperation" from Ukraine over the probe.

Poland's far-right Confederation party has said Kyiv should pay compensation for the incident.

Taiwan unveils first domestically built submarine

AFP | Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Taiwan unveiled its first domestically built submarine yesterday as the massively out-gunned island seeks to bolster defences against China, which slammed the strategy as "idiotic nonsense".

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory, and has in the past year stepped up military and political pressure, ramping up the number of war-plane incursions around the island while diplomatically isolating it. Taiwan has increased defence spending -- allotting a record \$19 billion for 2024 -- to acquire military equipment, particularly from its key ally the United States, but its quest to obtain a submarine has faced obstacles.

President Tsai Ing-wen -- strongly opposed by Beijing



Taiwan's first locally built submarine "Narwhal" is seen before Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen unveils it at the CSBC Corporation shipbuilding company in Kaohsiung

for her refusal to accept China's authority over the island -- launched a submarine programme in 2016 with the aim of delivering a fleet of eight vessels. The first prototype, named

China, Saudi Arabia to hold joint naval drills next month: Beijing



China's defence ministry spokesperson Wu Qian

AFP | Beijing, China

China and Saudi Arabia will hold their second-ever joint naval drills next month, Beijing's defence ministry announced yesterday, as China forges deeper ties with the Middle Eastern power.

The drills, dubbed "Blue Sword 2023", will take place in China's southern province of Guangdong in October, Beijing said.

"This joint training focuses on overseas maritime counter-terrorism operations, conducting exercises on sniper tactics, boat driving, helicopter landing, and joint rescue," defence ministry spokesperson Wu Qian told a press briefing.

The two countries previously held joint naval drills in 2019, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

They are "aiming to deepen practical and friendly cooperation between the two militaries and improve the level of practical training for the troops", Wu said.

The exercises come as Beijing forges deeper ties with Riyadh and plays peacemaker in the Middle East.

This year, China brokered a deal that saw longtime regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran agree to restore ties and reopen their respective embassies.

Spain stabs

◆ **The boy, who has not been named, allegedly stabbed them repeatedly shortly after classes started at the school**

AFP | Madrid, Spain

A 14-year-old stabbed three teachers and two students in a school in Spain yesterday, sparking soul-searching in a country where violent crime is fairly rare.

The boy, who has not been named, allegedly stabbed them repeatedly shortly after classes started at the school in Jerez de la Frontera in the southern Andalusia region, police spokesman Adrian Dominguez told reporters at the scene.

"Police located the suspect on the third floor. He had in his pos-

Farm scientist bel

◆ **Time Magazine ranked him as one of the three most influential Indians of the 20th century,**

AFP | New Delhi, India

India yesterday mourned the death of scientist Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, the architect of the 1960s "green revolution" that brought an end to the chronic food shortages then plaguing the country.

The plant geneticist died at the age of 98 in Chennai after an illustrious academic career that garnered him 84 honorary doctorates from some of the world's top universities.

His work breeding wheat and rice strains with improved yields, and training farmers to cultivate them, helped transform India from a starving nation into a food exporter.

"At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

"His passion to see India pro-

Two 'catastro

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Two consecutive years of extreme warming in the Alps have obliterated 10% of Swiss glacier volume -- the amount lost in the three decades prior to 1990, a report revealed yesterday.

Amid growing concerns over the toll of climate change, the study by the Cryospheric Commission (CC) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences show

522BC

Darius I of Persia kills Magian usurper Gaumata, securing his hold as king of the Persian Empire

480BC

Battle of Salamis: The Greek fleet under Themistocles defeats the Persian fleet under Xerxes I



1829

The first units of the London Metropolitan Police appear on the streets of the British capital, the city's 1st modern police force

2008

Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 777.68 points, its largest single-day point loss, following the bankruptcies of Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual

Spain shocked as 14-year-old kills five people in school



Several students told Spanish media the pupil first stabbed members of his class and the teacher

session the two knives used to attack three teachers and two students," Dominguez said, adding the suspect had been taken to a

by the pupil, the regional government's education minister, Patricia del Pozo, told reporters. Several students told Spanish media the pupil first stabbed members of his class and the teacher who suffered the eye injury before he ran to another classroom and continued his attack.

One student, who was not identified, told private television La Sexta the attacker ran to the back of the class, "dropped his backpack on the floor and pulled out the knives before shouting 'I'm going to kill you!'"

"He was running, chasing people, everyone went out into the playground," he added.

Another unnamed student told Canal Sur television the pupil had "a look on his face like he wanted to stab everyone."

'Devastating and dramatic' Parents rushed to the school, gathering outside the gates which were cordoned off by police, im-



Spain has a low crime rate -- especially of violent crime -- compared to other European countries. Excluding 2020, when incidents of crime were especially rare because of pandemic-induced lockdowns, 2021's crime rate of 41.4 incidents per 1,000 people was the lowest in recent history, according to the government.

ages broadcast on Spanish TV showed. Students were evacuated from the school and given the rest of the day off.

"It was devastating and dramatic because all the parents were outside the school wishing they could hug their children," Jerez de la Frontera mayor Maria Jose Garcia-Pelayo told reporters, adding that the teachers managed to disarm the suspect.

"They acted very diligently to protect the children...what happened is very serious and it requires us to reflect."

The head of Andalusia's re-

gional government, Juan Manuel Moreno, said the trigger for the attack was not clear but flayed "extreme violence" on television and elsewhere.

"We should all reflect on the role played by violence on television, in the movies, in games. The violence which we very often see on social media, gratuitous, sometimes extreme violence," he added. The head of the Spanish bishops' conference, Archbishop Francisco Cesar Garcia Mogan, called for "urgent reflection" and a focus on mental health in education.

Behind India's 'green revolution' dies



The UNESCO ecotechnology director, known as the father of the "Indian Green Revolution", Monkbombu Sambasivan Swaminathan

gress was exemplary."

Swaminathan was awarded his doctorate in genetics from Cambridge University in 1952 but turned down a US professorship after resolving to return to post-independence India and "serve the nation".

Memories were still fresh of the Bengal Famine of 1943 at the twilight of British colonial rule, when up to 3.8 million people died of hunger.

He began collaborating with US agronomist Norman Borlaug, whose own contributions to im-

proving world food supply won him the Nobel Peace Prize.

After prime minister Indira Gandhi took office in 1966, Swaminathan was given free rein to implement a new agricultural programme.

At the time, India's economy was hobbled by chronic food shortages that left it dependent on foreign aid, but by the early 1970s the new techniques had made it self-sufficient.

"Crisis is a mother of invention. We faced a crisis in the 1960s and we succeeded," he told AFP in 2008.

Swaminathan was the 1971 recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, popularly known as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel, along with a laundry list of other accolades.

Time Magazine ranked him as one of the three most influential Indians of the 20th century, alongside independence hero Mahatma Gandhi and the revolutionary poet and artist Rabindranath Tagore.

His later career saw him briefly serve as a member of India's parliament. He was survived by his three daughters following the death of his wife last year, media reports said.

Japanese scientists find microplastics are present in clouds

AFP | Washington, United States

Researchers in Japan have confirmed microplastics are present in clouds, where they are likely affecting the climate in ways that aren't yet fully understood.

In a study published in Environmental Chemistry Letters, scientists climbed Mount Fuji and Mount Oyama in order to collect water from the mists that shroud their peaks, then applied advanced imaging techniques to the samples to determine their physical and chemical properties.

The team identified nine different types of polymers and one type of rubber in the airborne microplastics -- ranging in size from 7.1 to 94.6 micrometers. Each liter of cloud water contained between 6.7 to 13.9 pieces of the plastics.

What's more, "hydrophilic" or water-loving polymers were abundant, suggesting the particles play a significant role in rapid cloud formation and thus climate systems.

"If the issue of 'plastic air pollution' is not addressed proactively, climate change and ecological risks may be-



The team identified nine types of polymers and one type of rubber

come a reality, causing irreversible and serious environmental damage in the future," lead author Hiroshi Okochi of Waseda University warned in a statement Wednesday.

When microplastics reach the upper atmosphere and are exposed to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, they degrade, contributing to greenhouse gasses, added Okochi.

Microplastics -- defined as plastic particles under 5 millimeters -- come from industrial effluent, textiles, synthetic car tires, personal care products and much more.

These tiny fragments have been discovered inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean peppering Arctic sea ice and blanketing the snows on the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain.

Ukraine says 31 drones downed in 'massive' attack

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

The Ukrainian military yesterday said that Russia had launched a "massive" drone attack overnight and that it had destroyed 31 out of the 39 aircraft.

Russian unmanned aerial vehicles were intercepted over Black Sea coastal regions and further inland, said Nataliya Gumenyuk, spokeswoman for the Ukrainian southern military command.

Russia "does not stop the pressure and searching for new tactics: namely, with the use of mass attacks", Gumenyuk said on the messaging platform Telegram.

"Tonight, several groups of strike UAVs were launched... air defence worked along almost the entire southern direction -- in Odesa, Mykolaiv regions. Also, much higher north -- the enemy aimed its attacks on central Ukraine," she said, adding that Ukraine was still assessing the damage.

'Climatic' years melt away 10% of Swiss glacier volume: study



Insulating foam covering a part of the Rhone Glacier to prevent it from melting, and exposing small glacial lakes on its surface due to the ice melting.

dramatic glacial retreat, and warned the situation would only get worse.

"Swiss glaciers are melting at a rapidly increasing rate," it said in a statement.

2022 marked the worst year on record for glacier melt in the Swiss Alps, with six percent of the total ice volume lost.

The glaciers have not fared much better this year, the CC report showed, with another four percent of ice volume destroyed, "representing the second largest

decline since measurements began".

"The acceleration is dramatic, with as much ice being lost in only two years as was the case between 1960 and 1990," it said.

The result of two consecutive extreme years had been collapsing glacier tongues and some smaller glaciers vanishing all together. "All glaciers melted a lot," Matthias Huss, head of Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS), told AFP.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Everyone has the right to seek and receive verified information. Access to information in the digital era enables informed decision-making and promotes inclusivity. Information integrity is key for sustainable development & human rights.

@antonioguterres

02



Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation.

@narendramodi

03



From training thousands of troops to providing long range missiles, the UK has stood with Ukraine from the beginning.

@RishiSunak

04



Scientist: Explaining the importance of good sleep. Me at Sam watching him explain:



@elonmusk

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

BIC launches 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters

The World Series of Darts, featuring the best players on the planet, returns to Bahrain on 18 and 19 January, 2024

● Three of world's top players already confirmed, including Michael Smith, Peter Wright and Gerwyn Price

● Limited time 20 per cent Early Bird discount on tickets now available, along with VIP Hospitality

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and sports promoter CBX today announced yesterday the return of the Bahrain Darts Masters, supported by Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), featuring the world's best players right here in Bahrain next January.

After its incredible debut last year, the Bahrain Darts Masters will return on 18 and 19 January 2024, with three of the top darts players in the world already confirmed as participants for the opening stage of the Professional Darts Corporation's World Series of Darts global tour.

Tickets to this incredibly popular event are now on sale, with a limited-time 20% Early Bird discount. Tickets for next year's competition start from 20BD



Michael Smith celebrates as the first-ever Bahrain Darts Masters champion last year (File photo)

(after Early Bird discount) for a two-day pass, with premium seating - including stage-side tables - from just BD 32 for two days. VIP hospitality is also available for the event.

All ticket options are available online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450 000. Fans are urged to act quickly, as the Early Bird discount is for a limited time only and the event is expected to sell out, based on the popularity

of the 2023 tournament.

Three of the game's icons have already confirmed their participation in the event; they include the first-ever Bahrain Darts Masters winner and reigning World Champion Michael Smith and former World Champions Peter Wright and Gerwyn Price. The remainder of the competing darts stars will be announced in due course, including details on the Bahrain qualifying tournament.

“The Bahrain Darts Masters is a unique event, which showcases the best darts talent in the world, within the unmistakable electric atmosphere that only a global darts tournament can bring. We were delighted in the way that fans in Bahrain embraced the inaugural event and we will ensure that the 2024 edition is an even more incredible experience

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters will once again take place in BIC's beautifully set-up dome tent, which will host the event's fun and electric atmosphere.

Bringing one of the most renowned sports championships across the UK and worldwide to Bahrain comes in line with the Kingdom's Tourism Strategy (2022-2026), which prioritises sports tourism as one of its main pillars. This will increase interest in the Kingdom and its distinctive tourism initiatives and capabilities on a global scale, placing Bahrain at the forefront of the region's fastest-growing tourism sectors.

Commenting, Dr. Nasser Qaedi, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), stated: “We are delighted to see BIC ramping up its efforts to host the second version of the Bahrain Darts Masters, building on the successful first version last year. This prestigious event is an integral part of BTEA's steady strides to promote Bahrain as an international tourism hub and enhance tourism product diversification through focusing on sports and recreation tourism in relation to the tourism strategy (2022-2026) goals.

“This major sports event will showcase Bahrain to a huge global audience as a favorable tourism destination with plenty of historical monuments, museums, retail centres, beaches, water sports, numerous hotels and resorts, offering an unforgettable experience for all types of travelers seeking a unique holiday.”

Commenting on the launch, Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of Bahrain International Circuit, said: “The Bahrain Darts Masters is a unique event, which showcases the best darts talent in the world, within the unmistakable electric atmosphere that only a global darts tournament can bring.

“We were delighted in the way that fans in Bahrain embraced the inaugural event and we will

ensure that the 2024 edition is an even more incredible experience.

“Without doubt, next year will be even more popular, so I would urge fans to buy their tickets now, as we build up to this phenomenal global sporting spectacle.”

Those attending the Bahrain Darts Masters will be able to show off their flair for colourful costumes and fancy dress, while enjoying two days of the highest level of darts competition in a venue specially designed to replicate the famed Alexandra Palace in the UK, the home of the World Darts Championship.

The inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters attracted large crowds on both nights. There were 16 of the world's biggest names in darts, consisting of eight of the game's juggernauts and another eight of Asia's best players. Michael Smith claimed the title with a masterclass display in an exciting final, where he defeated Gerwyn Price 8-6. The event was broadcast live to a TV audience across the world.

The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters is being supported by the BTEA. BIC and leading sports promoter CBX have teamed up with the PDC to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain, in partnership with the BTEA.

For more information, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

Najma get tough group for handball Super Globe

● Bahrain and Asian champions in Group D with Industria Kielce of Poland and San Francisco Calheat from the US

● Prestigious competition to take place November 7 to 12 in Dammam with 12 champion teams from across the globe

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Asian champions Al Najma were yesterday drawn in a tough group for the preliminary round of the 16th IHF Men's Super Globe.

The prestigious global competition, organised by the International Handball Federation



Najma players and officials celebrate winning the Asian clubs title last June in Isfahan (File photo)

(IHF), will be held from November 7 to 12 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The annual event is to be contested between 12 champion clubs from continental federations, and Najma will be participating for the second time, following the 2018 edition when they were seventh.

The Bahrainis are in Group D along with Industria Kielce

of Poland and San Francisco Calheat from the US.

Group A features Al Ahly of Egypt, Al Noor of Saudi and Barcelona from Spain; Group B includes Kuwait SC of Kuwait, San Fernando HB of Argentina and Fuchse Berlin of Germany; while Group C comprises defending champions SC Magdeburg of Germany, Khaleej from Saudi and University of Queens-

land from Australia.

Najma secured their place in this year's Super Globe after being crowned champions of the 25th Asian Men's Club League Championship, held last June in Isfahan, Iran.

Najma clinched the coveted title with a come-from-behind 31-30 victory in double overtime against Al Duhail of Qatar in a heart-stopping final.

Ashwin replaces injured Axar in India World Cup squad

AFP | New Delhi

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin replaced left-arm spinner Axar Patel on Thursday in India's squad for the Cricket World Cup on home soil after he failed to recover from a thigh injury.

The 37-year-old Ashwin impressed against Australia earlier this month, taking four wickets in two games as he returned to the ODI team for the first time in over 18 months.

He is the only specialist



Ravichandran Ashwin

off-spinner in India's 15-man squad, and one of just two players alongside star batsman Virat

Kohli who featured in India's 2011 World Cup-winning run.

“When we talk about the 15 we are very clear what we want,” India captain Rohit Sharma said Wednesday after the 2-1 series victory over Australia.

“We are not confused, we know where we are headed as a team.

“It's a team sport and we want everyone to come and play their part - that's how we win championships. It's about looking after the body and try and stay fresh for the next one and half

months.”

Ashwin claimed 13 wickets in eight matches as India reached the semi-finals of the 2015 World Cup in Australia, but he was not selected for the 2019 edition in England.

Axar sustained a left quadriceps strain in the recent Asia Cup and the spin-bowling all-rounder missed the final as a result.

Hosts India begin their World Cup campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai on October 8.

Al Hala stun Manama in football league



Manama's Ebrahim Al Khattal looks to keep possession as he is challenged by Hala's Jumai Jallow

● Mohammed Abdulwahab Shaaban fires in late winner for Al Najma against Al Shabab

TDT | Manama

Al Hala posted a stunning 2-1 victory over Manama last night in their week two match of the 2023/2024 Nasser bi Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Mahmoud Al Haiki and Jumai Jallow were both on target for the victors before the break.

Al Haiki opened the scoring in the 26th minute with a shot from outside the penalty box. Jallow doubled their lead with a goal on a quick counterattack in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

Manama scored their lone consolation in the 82nd minute, when Ebrahim Al Khat-

tal fired in with a volley from close range. But it wasn't enough to prevent Hala from coming away with their second straight win of the new campaign. They now have a full six points on the table, while Manama were dealt their first loss following a victory from week one.

In last night's other league fixture, Al Najma came away with a late 3-2 win over Al Shabab.

Mohammed Abdulwahab Shaaban fired in the winner with a minute remaining in regular time. He scored with a brilliant free-kick from just outside the box.

Najma won for the first time this season while Shabab suffered their second loss.

League play continues tonight with three matches on the card. 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.

Bahraini shooters just short of bronze

Tammar Alwatt, Maryam Alasam lose podium chance with defeat to Qatari counterparts in skeet mixed team competition

- Bahraini pair just eight points shy of skeet mixed team bronze
- Kingdom's paddlers bow out of singles, doubles competitions

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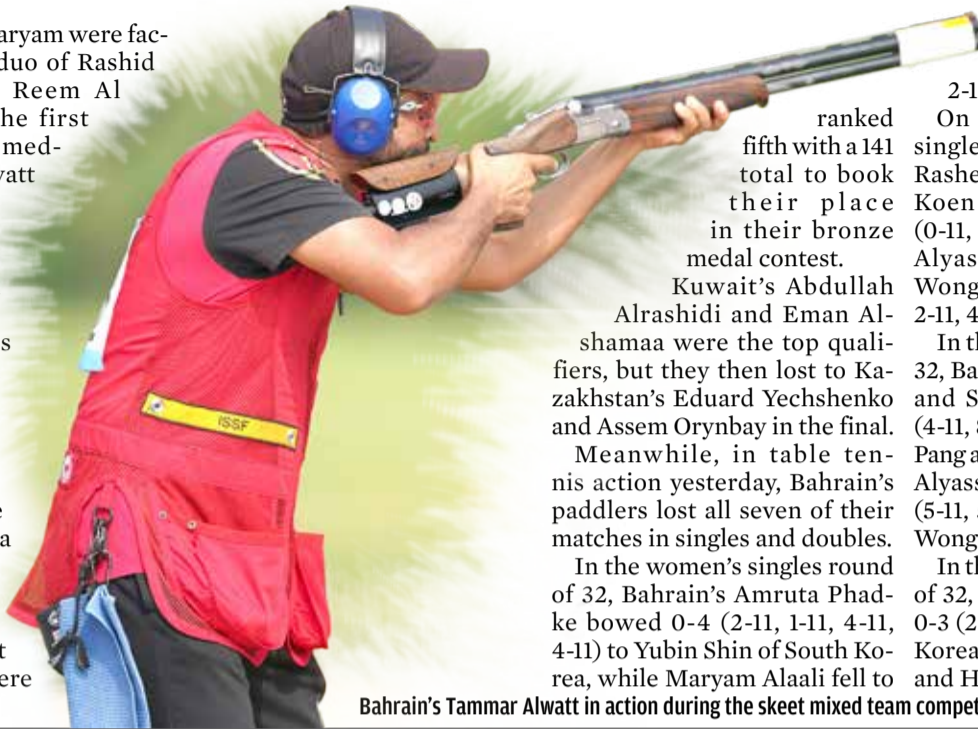
Bahrain narrowly missed out yesterday on securing their first medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Bahraini tandem of Tammar Alwatt and Maryam Alasam came eight points shy of securing the bronze medals in the skeet mixed team competition in shooting.

Alwatt and Maryam were facing the Qatari duo of Rashid Al Athba and Reem Al Sharshani in the first of two bronze medal matches. Alwatt and Alasam finished with a 37 total, while Al Athba and Reem had a 44 score.

The Qataris thus joined gold-medallists Kazakhstan, silver-medallists Kuwait and fellow-bronze medallists China on the podium.

Earlier, in the qualification round, Alwatt and Maryam were



Bahrain's Tammar Alwatt in action during the skeet mixed team competition yesterday

Suthasini Sawettabut of Thailand 0-4 (3-11, 2-11, 6-11).

ranked fifth with a 141 total to book their place in their bronze medal contest.

Kuwait's Abdullah Alrashidi and Eman Alshamaa were the top qualifiers, but they then lost to Kazakhstan's Eduard Yechshenko and Assem Orynbay in the final.

Meanwhile, in table tennis action yesterday, Bahrain's paddlers lost all seven of their matches in singles and doubles.

In the women's singles round of 32, Bahrain's Amruta Phadke bowed 0-4 (2-11, 1-11, 4-11, 4-11) to Yubin Shin of South Korea, while Maryam Alaali fell to

On the distaff in the men's singles round of 32, Bahrain's Rashed Rashed fell to Yew En Koen Pang of Singapore 0-4 (0-11, 5-11, 9-11, 1-11), and Alyas Alyassi bowed to Chun Ting Wong of Hong 0-4 (2-11, 7-11, 2-11, 4-11).

In the men's doubles round of 32, Bahrainis Salman Mohamed and Sayed Murtadha lost 0-3 (4-11, 8-11, 5-11) to Singaporeans Pang and Isaac Quek Yong, while Alyassi and Rashed bowed 0-3 (5-11, 5-11, 8-11) to Hong Kong's Wong and Kwan Kit Ho.

In the women's doubles round of 32, Maryam and Amruta lost 0-3 (2-11, 3-11, 9-11) to the South Korean tandem of Eunhye Lee and Ha Eun Yang.



The skeet mixed team bronze medal match was Bahrain's second chance so far to step onto the podium at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. Bahraini Askerbii Gerbekov earlier this week came up just short in his under-81kg bronze medal contest in men's judo

Basketball team suffer defeat to Jordan

- Mustafa Hussain scores 16 points to pace nationals in second straight loss

- Nationals face must-win against Thailand tomorrow to advance to next stage

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Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team suffered their second successive loss in the men's basketball preliminary round at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Bahrainis bowed to Jordan 60-84 in their Group C affair. It followed their opening defeat to the Philippines on Tuesday.

The nationals now need to win their final game of this stage against Thailand tomorrow at 12.30pm, Bahrain time, at Zhejiang University Zijingang Gymnasium. The Thais succumbed to the Philippines 72-87 in yesterday's other Group C game.

Jordan and the Philippines face off in tomorrow's other divisional fixture, scheduled for a similar tip-off time at a different venue.

In Bahrain's loss yesterday, the nationals had a tough start,



Bahrain's Wayne Chism is fouled by the Jordanian defence as he goes for a basket during their game yesterday

being held to just single digits in the first quarter and going down 8-28 heading into the second. They raised their efforts over the ensuing three periods, but could not make up the deficit, trailing by as many as 24 points

the rest of the way.

Mustafa Hussain scored 16 points to lead the Bahrainis while Mohammed Ameer added 11 to go with nine rebounds. Maitham Jameel and Mohammed Buallay chipped in with

GROUP C STANDINGS

	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Jordan	2	2	0	58	4
Philippines	2	2	0	43	4
Thailand	2	0	2	-49	2
Bahrain	2	0	2	-52	2

eight markers apiece, while Ali Aqeel had six and Wayne Chism five points.

Rondae Jefferson paced the Jordanians with 17 points, while John Bohannon had 13.

Both Jordan and the Philippines are unbeaten in Group C heading into their head-to-head.

Bahrain must win their game against the Thais in order to secure a place in the next round.

There are 16 nations competing in men's basketball at Hangzhou, divided into four groups for the preliminaries. After a single round-robin, the top teams in each group will qualify directly for the quarter-finals on Wednesday next week. Meanwhile, the second and third-ranked sides will play each other in a play-off round on Monday for the right to determine the four other quarter-finalists.

The semi-finals and fifth-to-eighth ranking games are then scheduled for Thursday; and then the gold and bronze medal games, plus the final classification contests, will be held on Saturday next week.

Bahrain athletics team begin medal hunt

- Bahrainis Violah Jepchumba, Bontu Rebitu and Noora Salem Jasim to go for gold today in respective events

- Former world champions Salwa Eid Naser, Kemi Adekoya and Edidiong Odiong in action in opening heats

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Bahrain's national athletics team get their medal bids underway today at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Kingdom's delegation features 32 track and field stars, who are considered to be Bahrain's best hopes for winning medals at this year's Asiad.

Bahrain's athletics squad were responsible for winning all but one of the total medals at each of the previous two editions of the Asian Games in 2014 and 2018.

In 2014 in Incheon, South Korea, the Kingdom's elite track and field talents came away with 18 of the 19 medals, including nine gold, six silver and three bronze. Then, in 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia, Bahrain's athletes clinched 23 of the 24 medals, with 10 gold, seven silver and six bronze medals.

Going for gold today in the women's 10,000m final at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium will be Bahrainis

Violah Jepchumba and Bontu Rebitu. Their race is scheduled for a 3.05pm start, Bahrain time.

Bahrain's Noora Salem Jasim will also be vying for a podium place in the women's shot put final, starting at 3.45pm, Bahrain.

Meanwhile, former world champions Salwa Eid Naser and Kemi Adekoya are also set to hit the track in the women's 400 metres.

Salwa, the event's 2019 world champion, will be running the first of three heats in the distance's first round. Kemi, the event's world indoor champion in 2016, will be contesting heat two. Only the first two in each heat along with the next two fastest advance to the final.

Bahrain's Abbas Yusuf Abbas will also be in action, competing in heat one of the men's 400m opening round. There are three heats in all, with first two in each and the next two fastest going through to the medal race.

Others set to compete in their respective first round heats are Edidiong Odiong, another former world champion, and fellow-sprinters Hajar Alkhalidi and Saeed Alkhalidi.

Edidiong, the women's 200m under-20 world champion in 2016, will be in heat one of the women's 100m, while Hajar will be running heat two. The first two in each of the three first-round heats, along with the next two fastest, move on to the final.

Saeed will be running heat four of the men's 100m opening phase. There are five heats in all, with the first four in each heat and the next four fastest advancing to the semi-finals.

Bahrain's Hajar Alkhalidi (File photo)



Bahrain's delegation head at the Hangzhou Asian Games and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa held a dinner ceremony in honour of the Kingdom's athletes participating in the multi-sport event. Among those in attendance were BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, BOC board members Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa and Ali Issa, Bahrain Esports Federation president Hussain Al Kooheji, Bahrain's Chef de Mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar, and the athletes and other delegation officials. Above, officials and athletes at the gathering