

Bahrain go down fighting

Kingdom's senior men's national handball team narrowly lose out on direct berth to Paris Olympics 2024 | P12

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THE DAILY **tribune**



Australia edge New Zealand in epic 11 SPORT

BUSINESS 5 Starlink internet for 'recognised' organisations in Gaza, says Musk

Israel war in Gaza 'entered a new phase': defence minister

Israel's war with Palestinian militant group Hamas "entered a new phase" with the intense overnight bombing of the Gaza Strip, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Saturday.

"We have entered a new phase in the war. Last night the ground in Gaza shook. We attacked above ground and below ground," Gallant said in a video statement, alluding to the network of military tunnels Hamas has built under Gaza.

Hamas demands Israel free all Palestinian prisoners

TDT | agencies

Hamas's armed wing said yesterday it was ready to release the hostages it abducted during its shock attack on October 7 if Israel freed all Palestinians held in its prisons.

"The price to pay for the large number of enemy hostages in our hands is to empty the (Israeli) prisons of all Palestinian prisoners," Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida said in a statement broadcast by the Hamas-run Al-Aqsa television channel.

"If the enemy wants to close this file of detainees in one go, we are ready for it. If it wants to do it step-by-step, we are ready for that too."

Shell hits UN peacekeeping HQ in south Lebanon

A shell hit the headquarters of the UN peacekeeping mission in south Lebanon yesterday, its spokesman said in the second such incident since the Israel-Hamas war erupted in Gaza.

"A shell hit inside the base" in Naqura, said Andrea Tenenti, spokesperson for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, indicating there were "no injuries but some damage".

He said UNIFIL was seeking to verify who fired the shell.

Bombs batter Gaza day and night

With Israeli jets increasing airstrikes and the possibility of a long-anticipated ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza, the besieged population had limited communication with the outside world.



'Stop this madness', says Turkish President Erdogan

Hamas is trying to locate eight Russian-Israeli dual citizens among nearly 230 taken hostage during its attack on Israel after Moscow's request to free them, Russian news agencies reported yesterday.

● Israeli jets strikes Gaza 150 times as toll hits 7,703

● Gaza's phone and internet services have been almost completely cut since Friday evening

● The United Nations warned thousands more civilians could die

● Israeli strikes had killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, with more than 3,500 of them children, said Hamas Health Ministry

TDT | agencies



People walk past wrecked cars in the aftermath of Israeli bombing in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

Bombs, one after another, rained down for hours overnight, much of the Gaza Strip has become an indistinguishable wasteland of rubble, with residents likening the devastation to that of a natural disaster.

Death toll from the Israeli bombing campaign has crossed 7,703, with more than 3,500 of them children, said the health

ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "Israel must immediately stop this madness and end its attacks" in a post on X on Saturday, after the UN General Assembly called for an "immediate humanitarian truce" in Gaza.

The toll, the United Nations warned, will soon add thousands more to it as Israel escalated ground operations, while the families of Israeli hostages held by Hamas said the government snubbed them when asking about the captives' fate.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk warned of "the possibly catastrophic consequences of large-scale ground operations in Gaza," saying "thousands more civilians" could die.

"When these hostilities end, those who have survived will face the rubble of their homes and the graves of their family



Israel's bombardment has displaced more than 1.4 million people inside Gaza, according to the UN, while supplies of food, water and power to the crowded territory have been almost completely cut off.



members," Turk said. (Continued on page 2)

End 'unjustified' incursion

Bahrain, Gulf states sound alarm on Israel's Gaza ground ops

TDT | agencies

Arab Gulf states yesterday warned Israel against further ground operations in the Gaza Strip, with Saudi Arabia denouncing land incursions as "unjustified" and Oman condemning possible "war crimes".

The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council condemned the military escalation in Gaza as a "violation of international law," urging an immediate end to hostilities.

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs condemned and denounced the escalation of the war, noting its serious repercussions on exacerbating the catastrophic humanitarian situation and threat to the lives of innocent Palestinians, especially children and women.

The war, the Kingdom said, is clear violations of the rules of international humanitarian law and resolutions of international legitimacy. The Ministry urges the international community to assume its humanitarian responsibilities, calling for the es-

tablishment of truce, ensuring full and uninterrupted humanitarian assistance, including water, food, medical supplies, fuel and electricity. The statement strongly rejects any attempts at forced displacement of the population, and preventing further destabilization and escalation of violence in the region.

Saudi Arabia "condemns and denounces any ground operations carried out by Israel due to the threat they pose to the lives of Palestinian civilians", the kingdom's foreign ministry

said in a statement. It cautioned against "the danger of continuing to carry out these blatant and unjustified violations of international law against the brotherly Palestinian people", warning of "serious repercussions for the stability of the region".

Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said on X, formerly Twitter, that an "Israeli ground escalation would have dire consequences for civilians and devastating humanitarian and economic impacts."

Oman on Saturday accused Israel of committing "war crimes" in Gaza and warned against any further ground maneuvers.

The escalation in Israel's "brutal war on the Gaza Strip constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity," said a foreign ministry statement.

Kuwait charged that "any ground invasion of Gaza... will prove that the Israeli occupation is determined to continue committing crimes against the brotherly Palestinian people", according to a statement.



100th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic of Türkiye

With great pride, today we realize the 100th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye.

A century ago, on 29 October 1923, Grand National Assembly of Türkiye who is the sole power to represent the will of Turkish nation, proclaimed the country's status as a republic.

Since that day, Türkiye has been built by her nation as a democratic and prosperous state with her firm belief on peace and humanitarian values.

The year 2023 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Bahrain.



ESIN CAKIL



The founder of our Republic, Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk defined Türkiye's direction briefly: "Peace at home, peace in the world".

For a century, the Republic of Türkiye has followed this vision without any interruption.

Under the leadership of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, we implement an Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy that enables us to play a pioneering role at the global level for mediation to achieve sustained peace, stability and prosperity in our neighborhood and beyond.

Celebrating its centenary this year, the Republic of Türkiye will continue to work for the benefit of entire humanity and towards peace, prosperity and security for all.

The year 2023 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Over the past 50 years, the relationship between our two countries has been significantly

improved not only in political and economic fields but also in the fields of defense, health, education, tourism and culture.

I believe there is an immense potential for cooperation to be cultivated in bilateral, regional and global levels. We are decisive to fulfil this potential in the period ahead.

Türkiye-Bahrain relationship will continue to thrive over the next 50 years and beyond.

On the centenary of our Republic and the 500th anniversary of the founding of our Foreign Ministry, we are stepping into the "Century of Türkiye."

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Turkish citizens residing in Bahrain on the 100th anniversary of our Republic.

I sincerely extend my appreciation to them for representing Türkiye adequately by exerting their efforts in the best manner, in line with the values of Türkiye. With these feelings, I congratulate the 100th anniversary of the Proclamation of our Republic.

(Esin Cakil is the Ambassador of Türkiye to Bahrain)

35 dead in Egypt road accident; Bahrain expresses sympathy

TDT | Manama

Bahrain extended its sympathy and solidarity to Egypt in the wake of a tragic road accident that claimed the lives of at least 35 individuals.

The accident, which occurred on the Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road and involved a bus and multiple cars, left over 50 people injured.

In an official statement, the Ministry conveyed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Egyptian government, its people, and the families of the victims and their loved ones. The statement also expressed wishes for the swift recovery of all those who sustained injuries in this unfortunate incident.

Images shared on social me-



Heavy black smoke billows from charred vehicles following a collision on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road near Wadi al-Natrun

dia depicted a scene of devastation, with an overturned lorry blocking the fast lane on charred asphalt. Further along, there were at least one bus and a minibus, both extensively damaged by fire, as well as numerous cars, some of which were still engulfed in flames. Onlookers stood by the roadside, observing the crash site, while queues of cars lined up nearby, with thick black smoke billowing into the air.

'Strikes left wide craters in the streets'

Continued from page 1

Witnesses said most of the bombing was concentrated in the Jabaliya district of northern Gaza.

The strikes left wide craters in the streets and flattened many buildings in the area.

Huge orange flashes lit up the night sky over Gaza City as air strike after air strike hit the shattered territory, where internet access and the phone network were cut.

Hamas's armed wing said it was fighting Israeli forces in Beit Hanoun (in the northern Gaza Strip) and in east Bureij (in the centre) and violent engagements are taking place on the ground," the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement.

Hamas said that Israel had "doubled" the number of air strikes on Friday night as it made a new appeal for international efforts to halt the attacks. But the Palestinian group declared itself "ready" for any invasion ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

"The remains of his soldiers will be swallowed up by the land of Gaza," senior Hamas political bureau member Ezzat al-Rishaq said on Telegram.

Hamas said all internet connections and communications across Gaza had been cut, and accused Israel of taking the measure "to perpetrate massacres with bloody retaliatory strikes from the air, land and



People gather amid the destruction following Israeli strikes on Al-Shateh camp in Gaza City

sea".

AFP journalists in Gaza confirmed they were only able to communicate in limited areas where they could connect to Israeli networks across the border.

Between the bombardments and the fuel shortages, 12 of Gaza's 35 hospitals have been forced to close.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said ambulance services had been disrupted.

"We have completely lost contact with the operations room in the Gaza Strip and all our teams operating there," it said on X, the former Twitter.

Israel has blocked all deliveries of fuel, saying it would be exploited by Hamas to manufacture weapons and explosives.

A first tranche of aid was allowed on October 21, but only 84 have crossed in total, according to the UN, which says

a daily average of 500 trucks had entered Gaza before the conflict.

UNRWA chief Philippe Lazarini said Gazans were "not only dying from bombs and strikes, soon many more will die from the consequences of (the) siege".



Israeli air strikes destroyed hundreds of buildings in the Gaza Strip overnight, the civil defence service in the Hamas-controlled Palestinian territory said



Palestinians collect boxes and bags from a UN-run aid supply center, distributing food to local Palestinians and people displaced following Israel's call for more than 1 million residents in northern Gaza to move south for their safety, in Deir al-Balah

FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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Shura debates investment of surplus funds in sports and youth sector

TDI | Manama

The Shura Council will discuss today a proposal to empower organisations in the youth and sports sector to redirect surplus funds towards profitable ventures.

The primary objective of this proposed law is to enable associations to invest their surplus funds in secure, low-risk investments. It also stipulates that these investments should ensure a financial return, optimising their goals.

Today's session aims to amend the existing legislation, which currently prohibits associations from engaging in financial speculation, thus preventing them from venturing into high-risk investment instruments.

The discussion on the report



by the Services Committee will be during the fourth sitting of the second session of the sixth legislative term and aims at amending Article (18) of Decree Law No. (21) of 1989, which per-

tains to the Law on Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, and Bodies.

This proposal has been put forth by Councillors Dr Ebtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal, Jamal Mohamed Al-Fakhro, Sadiq Eid Al Rahma, Dr Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali, and Dr Hani Al Saati.

According to the members, these amendments would bolster the development of civil society associations in Bahrain, ensuring their sustainability, overcoming challenges by diversifying their income streams, and enhancing their financial stability.

The goal is to aid these associations in achieving their objectives and providing optimal services to a wider segment of beneficiaries while encouraging

them to expand their range of activities and programmes.

In addition to this, the Council is reviewing the report from the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee on a draft law that seeks to amend Article (180) of Decree Law No. (55) of 2002, concerning the internal regulations of the Shura Council. The committee recommends, in principle, the approval of this draft law.

The objective of the draft law is to enhance the safeguarding of public funds by granting the General Secretariat of the Shura Council a longer timeframe for preparing the final account of the Shura Council and its audited financial statements. The current period, estimated at thirty days, is deemed insufficient for this purpose.



Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, met with received HeonSang Koo, the Ambassador of Korea to Bahrain. The minister commended the Bahraini-South Korean bilateral relations and the development they continues to witness in various domains. The meeting discussed ways of cooperation in the youth field through exchanges of expertise, and providing joint youth programmes. The ambassador praised the two countries ties and affirmed his keenness to further enhance joint work in various fields including the youth sector.



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President, arrived in Qatar yesterday to attend the final of the Asian Men's Handball Qualification Tournament for the 2024 Paris Olympics between Bahrain and Japan. Upon arrival, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad was welcomed by Shaikh Thani bin Hamad Al Thani. HH Shaikh Khalid expressed pride in the solid fraternal relations bonding Bahrain and Qatar. HH Shaikh Khalid lauded Qatar's outstanding success in hosting the Asian Men's Handball Qualification Tournament for the 2024 Paris Olympics, consolidating its status as an important centre for mega sports championships, wishing the Qatari leadership, government and people further progress and prosperity.



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation has announced the receipt of a generous financial donation of 25,000 Bahraini dinars from the LuLu International Group for the Bahraini National Campaign aimed at supporting the Palestinian people in Gaza. Dr. Mustafa Al-Sayed, the Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation and the CEO of the Bahraini National Committee for Supporting the Palestinian People in Gaza, officially accepted this donation from Juzer Rupawala, the Regional Director of the Lulu International Group in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Egypt.



Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfor, Minister of Social Development, held talks with Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed, Board of Directors Chairman of "Better Life" Association for charitable work, alongside board members. The minister reviewed the Association's fields of work and development goals, citing the economic and social services it delivers to boost charity work, in cooperation and coordination with various government and private entities. He underlined the Social Development Ministry's support for the efforts and initiatives of NGOs, as part of its keenness to consolidate charity and humanitarian work principles.

Inmate dies after fight with another in Jaw prison

TDI | Manama

A 22-year-old inmate tragically lost his life within a maximum-security prison in the Kingdom following a fight involving another prisoner, officials said.

The inmate, whose identi-

ty has not been disclosed, has been lodged in the Jaw Central Reform and Rehabilitation Centre in a robbery case, as indicated by the General Administration of Reform and Rehabilitation.

According to the jail officials, the brawl, leading to the inmate's

death, broke out on Friday afternoon.

The incident was captured on closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras.

Based on the surveillance footage, officials reported that the confrontation among the inmates occurred at approximate-

ly 12:39 PM on October 27, 2023. In response, prison officials promptly intervened to regain control of the situation.

Unfortunately, one of the inmates suffered severe injuries and was swiftly transferred for urgent medical attention, but, regrettably, he did not survive.

The administration affirmed that all required legal protocols were followed, including notifying the Public Prosecution and informing the Ombudsman and the National Institution for Human Rights.

The General Administration of Reform and Rehabilitation em-

phasised its unwavering commitment to upholding the law impartially.

Additional information remains limited at this time, as an ongoing investigation seeks to uncover the circumstances surrounding the altercation and the resulting fatality.

CAPTAINS CORNER

Our beloved King led prayers for the people of Palestine



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The world is watching in horror as the worst atrocities befall the civilians of Gaza. More than 3,000 children, the flowers of our youth have been crushed. Women and old people, the sick and infirm among our most vulnerable, have been targeted.

All of us who raise a hue and cry about exposing our beloved children and young people in Bahrain to senseless violence and how it desensitizes viewers – we must remember that what holds good for movies and comic books, holds true for the blanket coverage of the war as well. Day in and day out, seeing the bombed out stretches of Gaza where once homes and shops and lives were, puts enormous strain on all of us. But for the young, who don't understand the larger context, and who often play violent video games without feeling the damage or loss, it is more difficult to process that this is real and that people are suffering.

Do not think that the war is happening far away – because of broadcasting and television it has reached our doorstep – our living rooms. To ignore its impact can cause mental and psychological health setbacks for our young ones.

Do not think that the war is happening far away – because of broadcasting and television it has reached our doorstep – our living rooms. To ignore its impact can cause mental and psychological health setbacks for our young ones.

Parents, teachers and caregivers must make the extra effort to explain to their charges what is happening and how we can all help to alleviate the suffering. Make our children become stakeholders in the ongoing healing process. Even if it means simply donating one's ice cream money or saying an extra prayer for Palestine, let us follow the lead of HM the King who led prayers for the people of Palestine and ever since the fighting broke out, has worked tirelessly to promote peace and dialogue.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

UTB hosts ICETAS 2023: A gateway to the future of technology and education

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

In the presence of Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, the International Conference on Engineering Technologies and Applied Sciences (ICETAS 2023) recently took place in Bahrain. This event was organized by the University of Technology Bahrain (UTB) in partnership with the IEEE Bahrain Section and ETSSM Global.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma expressed the government's commitment to attracting high-quality international events to Bahrain. He stated, "The academy plays a special role in supporting sustainable development efforts."

He also highlighted the significant role of technology in education, offering numerous benefits such as improved teaching and learning processes, increased access to resources, collaboration opportunities, enhanced engagement and motivation, and better preparation for the future. "Effectively integrating technology into education can enhance the overall educational experience and provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world."

Dr Hasan Almula, President of UTB, emphasised that the future of technology holds immense potential for creating positive societal impact, enhancing efficiency, and improving



Dr. Hasan Almula, President of UTB, presenting memento to Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, in the presence of Dr. Mahmood Shah and other officials.

the quality of life. However, he also noted that it brings ethical, privacy, and security challenges that need to be addressed to ensure responsible and beneficial technological advancements.

He told the Daily Tribune that the conference came at the right time to showcase the latest research in engineering technologies and applied sciences and would contribute to the university's goal of focusing on high-impact research.

Participants, when interviewed by the Daily Tribune, expressed their satisfaction with the diverse range of topics covered during the

presentations. They highlighted the significance of networking with fellow experts, as it allowed them to establish new connections, exchange ideas, and potentially collaborate on future projects.

The conference, themed "Shaping the Future of Technology through Smart Computing and Engineering," brought together dignitaries, speakers, and industry experts from various fields to discuss and explore the latest advancements and innovations in engineering technologies and applied sciences. It featured presentations on a wide range of topics, including but not limited to

artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, computer vision, the Internet of Things, and the impact of technology in higher education.

With UTB's offering of technology programs, the university is committed to continuously providing industry-relevant and responsive higher education in support of Bahrain's efforts to strengthen its position as a leading centre for scientific, commercial, and educational conferences. By organising and participating in events like ICETAS 2023, UTB aims to contribute to the knowledge exchange and advancement of technology-related fields on a global scale.

Bahrain expands agricultural land

Invests in renewables for food security

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is embarking on an initiative to increase its agricultural land, aiming to bolster the Kingdom's food security while ensuring efficient water use.

To support this endeavour, the Kingdom is committed to investing in cutting-edge renewable energy technology.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture underscores that this strategic move is geared towards sustainability and determining the



Representative picture

feasibility of cultivating high-value crops.

In line with this development, the ministry has initiated tenders to attract investors interested in acquiring land plots in the Buri area. These plots of land come in varying sizes, with one spanning 11,916.8 square meters and another

offering 7,439.8 square meters. Each of these plots has garnered significant interest from potential investors.

Among the bidders, Safa Poultry Farm submitted a bid of BHD 72,820,550 for plot number 88000518, while Mashtal Sanwan quoted BHD 0.342 for Plot No.: 88000517 in the Buri area. Sanwan's bid is currently under review by the authorities.

The ministry envisions this step will raise the percentage of agricultural self-sufficiency in the Kingdom, enhance the economic viability of the sector, foster national capabilities in food industries, and elevate the share of locally produced crops.

In a similar development, a plot of agriculture land is on offer for investment by Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah) in Hamala attracted three bids. According to the tender board, the plot attracted three bids BHD 83,046,798 from Rayhan Agricultural Development, BHD 6,050,000 from Meat and Spices and BHD 103,080,000 from Dyna Contracting.

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Bahrain Polytechnic gears up for transformation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Polytechnic is poised for a significant transformation, aimed at aligning its operations with international standards. The institution is moving ahead with a 10-year work strategy dedicated to rejuvenating the existing campuses and establishing a centre for vocational education.

To this end, the Department of Facilities: Projects & Maintenance at Bahrain Polytechnic has embarked on an internal 10-Year Work Strategy, endeavouring to formulate a



comprehensive and contemporary plan that meets global standards while simultaneously charting a 10-year course for the revitalization of the current campuses.

In pursuit, Bahrain Polytechnic has introduced the "Bahrain Polytechnic Campuses Master plan 2023-2033." Additionally, the institution has appointed Gulf House Engineering

as its consultant for this transformative journey. The development of the campuses will ensure minimal disruption to the ongoing educational experience, maintaining a conducive environment for learning.

Central to Bahrain Polytechnic's success tender document said, is the delicate equilibrium it seeks to strike: expanding class-

Madinat Khalifa to add 280 new housing units

TDT | Manama

The Madinat Khalifa Housing Project, part of the Government Land Development Programme, is set to expand with the addition of 280 new housing units.

This development, to be executed by the private sector, has been awarded to Dadabhai Construction for BHD 5,360,472,000. Dadabhai Construction stood as the sole bidder in the tender process initiated by the Housing Ministry.

As per the ministry's guidelines, the bidder will be responsible for designing, constructing, and financing the project, including the necessary secondary infrastructure. Upon project completion, the Project Company will offer these units for commercial sale to both Mazaya and eligible beneficiaries of social housing loans, along with making an agreed Land Value payment to the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and the Environment (MoHUP).

MoHUP, in turn, will establish a buy-back arrangement for any units that remain unsold after a 24-month sales period.

Starlink internet for 'recognised' organisations in Gaza, says Musk

AFP | Paris, France

Billionaire Elon Musk yesterday said that his Starlink satellite service would support internet access for "internationally recognised aid organisations in Gaza," which have faced a telecommunications blackout since Friday.

Musk, who owns Starlink operator SpaceX, was responding to a post by US Democrat congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in which she called the communications blackout in Gaza "unacceptable".

"Starlink will support connectivity to internationally recognised aid organisations in Gaza," Musk wrote on X, formerly Twitter, which he also owns.

Head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "We could really benefit from Starlink to try getting in touch with our staff and health facilities in Gaza. How can we make it happen?"

UN agencies and NGOs had earlier on Saturday reported that they had lost contact with their teams in the Gaza Strip.

"Hospitals and humanitar-



Elon Musk

ian operations can't continue without communications," Lynn Hastings, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, wrote on X.

Israel unleashed its bombing campaign after Hamas gunmen stormed across the Gaza border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing more than 220 hostages, according to Israeli officials.

The Hamas-controlled health ministry in Gaza said Israeli strikes had killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, including 3,500

children.

Musk's Starlink satellite internet service was also deployed in Ukraine shortly after the Russian invasion in February 2022.

The network, which helps increasingly high-tech soldiers to operate in areas where other means of communication are down, is a key battlefield tool for Kyiv.

In September, Musk said he had prevented Ukraine from wiping out Russia's Black Sea navy fleet last year by denying Starlink internet access.

"There was an emergency request from government authorities to activate Starlink all the way to Sevastopol. The obvious intent being to sink most of the Russian fleet at anchor," Musk wrote on X.

The statement sparked sharp condemnation from Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.



Starlink is a network of satellites in low Earth orbit that can provide internet to remote locations, or areas that have had normal communications infrastructure disabled.

Al Liwan wins 'Design and Development' award



The award ceremony

TDT | Manama

Al Liwan won the prestigious 'Design and Development' category at the 2023 Middle East Shopping Centre and Retailer Awards. The announcement was made at the 2023 Retail Congress Gala event held at the Samaya Ballroom, Ritz-Carlton Hotel DIFC in Dubai.

This achievement recognizes Al Liwan's integration with residential developments, which aims to enhance com-

munity living in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Seef Properties Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf said: "Al Liwan aims to create a space that goes beyond the traditional retail experience, embodying innovation through lifestyle integration and connectivity. This achievement highlights the property's unique positioning among mixed-use developments in the Kingdom, as well as its dedication to excellence and sustainability."

Bahrain Bourse awarded ICT Leadership award at GITEX 2023



The award presentation

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange by the Central Bank of Bahrain, has won the ICT Leadership Award 2023 at the 43rd Gulf and Middle East Information Technology Exhibition and Conference (GITEX Global) that was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain Bourse has adopted an offsite Business Continuity Planning (BCP) environment by implementing a secure, managed desktop-as-a-service (DaaS) solution which offers its employees access to a secure, cloud-based virtual desktop that can be accessed

from anywhere at any time. This means that employees can use their work computers from anywhere in the world, as long as they have an internet connection.

Hussain Abdulmohsen Al-Jamri, Senior Director of Information Technology commented on the award, "In today's rapidly changing, competitive environment, agility is essential for success. At Bahrain Bourse, we recognize this and have placed innovation and digitization at the heart of our operations. This enables us to quickly sense and respond to change, ensuring that our business and operating models remain agile."

Australia 'hopeful' of EU trade deal

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Australia's trade minister says he is "hopeful" of striking a free trade deal with the European Union ahead of talks in Japan this weekend, more than five years after negotiations began.

The two sides have tussled over how far Europe should prise open its markets to Australia's sheep meat, beef and sugar exports.

At the same time, Europe wants better access to Australia's rich deposits of "critical minerals", easing its reliance on Russia and China for the key ingredients in clean-energy products such as wind turbines and electric car batteries.

"I am hopeful that with some goodwill on the part of both our groups that we can successfully conclude a free trade agreement," Australia's trade minister, Don Farrell, said in a video statement late Friday after landing at Osaka's Kansai airport.

Farrell confirmed he would



try to seal the deal in discussions with his European counterpart, Valdis Dombrovskis, on the sidelines of the Group of Seven trade talks in Osaka.

Any outline agreement reached there would have to be ratified in Brussels and Canberra.

France's trade minister, Olivier Becht, said Friday he did not rule out the possibility of a "technical agreement" between the two sides this weekend, citing "a number of very positive advances".

In July, the two parties failed to reach a deal during talks in

Brussels, with Australia saying it had not been guaranteed "significant" access to the European market for its agricultural products.

Australia has also been resisting European demands that it abide by EU geographic indications, which mean that Roquefort cheese for example can only come from the region in France of the same name.

Farrell said the issue of European geographical indications had yet not been settled, in a podcast interview with The Conversation released mid-week.



Australia's trade minister, Don Farrell

He promised to consult with farmers' groups on any deal, and insisted that the EU would have to improve its July offer on access to its markets.

"But at the end of the day, my job is to make a decision on the national interest," he said.

"If on balance the things that are good about the European trade agreement outweigh the things that are bad -- because there's always bad things in agreements -- then I feel I've got an obligation to the Australian people to say: 'Yes, we'll sign this agreement'."

Bankman-Fried takes stand, says he made 'small mistakes'

AFP | New York, United States

Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX, took the stand at his trial on Friday and said that while he may have made mistakes, he did not commit fraud or steal from customers.

"I made a number of small mistakes and a number of large mistakes," the onetime crypto wunderkind said in reply to a question from one of his lawyers, Mark Cohen.

"By far, the biggest mistake was that we didn't have a team dedicated to risk management,"



Samuel Bankman-Fried

Bankman-Fried said.

His high-stakes decision to testify on his own behalf, which opens him up to cross-examination, came after three weeks of devastating testimony against the 31-year-old accused of stealing billions of dollars from cli-

ents.

Bankman-Fried, who was wearing a grey suit and tie, denied any criminal wrongdoing under questioning from Cohen.

"Did you defraud anyone?" his lawyer asked.

"I did not," Bankman-Fried replied.

"Did you steal customer funds?"

"No," he said.

Bankman-Fried, once one of the most respected figures in crypto, is accused of illegally using FTX funds for often risky trading by hedge fund Alameda Research, his personally owned

trading company.

He has been charged with seven counts of fraud, embezzlement and criminal conspiracy and, if convicted, could face decades in prison.

Bankman-Fried, known as SBF, began his testimony by recounting how he founded Alameda Research in 2017, and the crypto platform FTX in 2019.

Under questioning from his lawyer, he depicted himself as a young entrepreneur swamped with work, handling dozens of tasks at once and bombarded by thousands of emails every day.

"As FTX grew, it became un-

tenable for me to run both companies," he said. "By 2021, I was not involved in day to day operations at Alameda."

He defended decisions which allowed Alameda to borrow massively from FTX, saying that "if there was a liquidation of Alameda, it would have disastrous consequences for the platform."

\$8.7 billion unaccounted for

At the time of FTX's bankruptcy in November 2022, some \$8.7 billion was unaccounted for. Most of the funds have since been recovered by liquidators

and should be paid out to customers in early 2024.

Bankman-Fried has blamed former colleagues for FTX's sudden collapse, and on Friday he took aim at Caroline Ellison, his former business partner and girlfriend, who ran Alameda.

He claimed to have demanded of Ellison at the end of 2021 that Alameda hedge itself financially against a possible plunge in the cryptocurrency market.

"She was less enthusiastic than I was" about the plan and never put the protections in place, Bankman-Fried testified.

New India School students tour Indian Embassy



Students of the New Indian School visited the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain. The 'Visit Embassy' programme was launched by the school with the objective of familiarizing the students with the functioning of an embassy. Officials welcomed the first batch of the students under the 'Visit Embassy' programme and briefed them about the various roles and different sections within the Embassy. His Excellency Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, interacted with the students and held a Q&A session with the children.

Nepal Embassy bids farewell to Third Secretary, welcomes Attache



The Embassy of Nepal, Kingdom of Bahrain bid farewell to Ms. Sunita Lakandri, Third Secretary of the Embassy, as she is returning to Nepal upon completing her four-year tenure. The Embassy also welcomed the new Attache, Mr. Deep Raj Joshi.

Keraleeya Samajam celebrates Vidyardambham



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, a prominent organization representing the people of the south Indian state of Kerala in the Kingdom, organized 'Vidyardambham', a ceremony to mark the beginning of formal education by children, at Manama. Dr B Sandhya, a former officer of the Indian Police Service and former Director General of Police in Kerala, was the guest of honour at the event.

ICRF organizes 'Think Pink Day'



Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) in coordination with Al Hilal Hospital, Adliya organized "Think Pink Day" on October 27, 2023. In this specialized event, nearly 60 female domestic helpers were given a comprehensive briefing in their native language about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Complimentary blood tests were done for them and they were given vouchers for free consultation with a gynaecologist for a month. Dr. Krishna Kavitha, a gynaecologist at Al Hilal Hospital, led the talk about the importance of breast cancer awareness. ICRF Women's Wing volunteers Ms. Nisha Ranga, Ms. Kalpana Patil, Ms. Deepshika, Ms. Paprika, and Ms. Swapna were they key organizers of the event. All participants were distributed breakfast boxes from Ananda Bhavan and EarPods that were sponsored by BFC.

Indian Club elections held

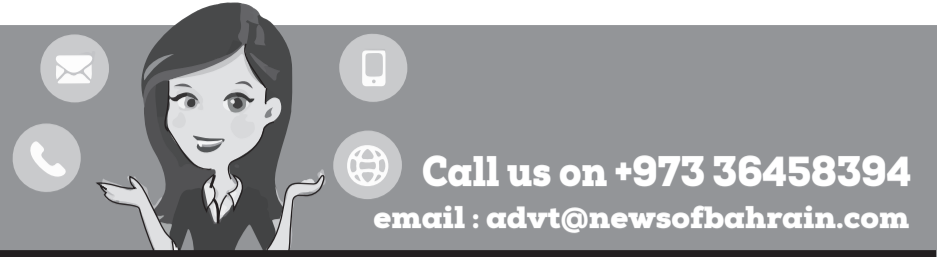
Cassius Camilo Pereira was elected president of executive committee 2023-25 of The Indian Club on Friday. Others who were elected to the committee included Joseph Joy (vice president), Anil Kumar R (general secretary), Gopakumar PR (assistant general secretary), Hary R Unnithan treasurer), Bijoy Kambrath (assistant treasurer), Sankara Subbu Nandakumar (entertainment secretary), and Raison Varghese (assistant entertainment secretary).

KDPF holds breast cancer awareness camp with Al Hilal, Muharraq



The ladies wing of Kozhikode District Pravasi Forum (KDPF) organized a breast cancer awareness camp at Al Hilal Multi Specialty Hospital at Muharraq. Dr. Amarjit Kaur Sandhu, senior gynaecologist, inaugurated the event. Dr. Maimuna Liakat, obstetrician and gynaecologist at Al Hilal Hospital, spoke about breast cancer awareness during the camp.

Classifieds



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Qatar, Myanmar promoted in Davis Cup

Qatar defeat Mongolia, Myanmar oust Laos in play-off match-ups for Asia/Oceania Group IV

● Qataris sweep Mongolia 3-0 in their match-up

● Myanmar beat Laos 2-1 to claim promotion

TDT | Manama

Qatar and Myanmar both won promotion yesterday to Asia/Oceania Group IV for next year's Davis Cup competition.

The pair claimed their places after finishing as the top two teams in this year's Asia/Oceania Group V tournament, hosted by the Kingdom.

The Qataris swept Mongolia 3-0 in their promotional play-off, while Myanmar defeated Laos 2-1.

This year's Asia/Oceania Group V event wrapped up yesterday at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

In Qatar's triumph yesterday, Mashari Naif kicked things off with a tough 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over Munkhbaatar Badrakh in



Myanmar players with officials celebrate their promotion

their singles clash, and then Mubarak Alharasi beat Oyunbat Baatar 6-2, 6-2 in the follow-up singles match. The Qataris completed their triumph with Issa Alharasi and Rashed Naif taking a 6-1, 6-3 win against Mongolia's Sonompuntsag Enkhjargal and Undrakh Purevdorj.

Meanwhile, in Myanmar's narrow win, Myu Paing Min started the match-up off with a 6-3, 6-1 win against Laos' Xay-

savah Chansomphou. Sataporn Simmalavong then won against Myanmar's Hein Latt Kyaw 6-4, 6-1, but Min and Aung Myo Thant defeated Ananda Khamphoumany and Simmalavong 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 to take the victory for Myanmar.

Also yesterday, Bahrain defeated Brunei 2-1 to claim fifth overall on the competition's final ranking, while Nepal outplayed the Maldives 3-0 to take seventh. Macau were classified ninth af-



Qatar's delegation after securing their place in Asia/Oceania Group IV

ter defeating Bhutan 2-1, while Yemen swept Bangladesh 3-0 to take 11th place.

Thirteen men's national teams from across the continent took part in this year's Asia/Oceania Group V competition. Only two teams gain promotion.

The Davis Cup is one of the premier world competitions for men's tennis, run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The Kingdom is hosting Asia/Oceania group matches for the

third successive year.

This year's event was held directly after the BTF's hosting of the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III.

The two tournaments are to be followed by three successive International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior championships. Two of these competitions will be J30 events, with the first being held from tomorrow to 4 November, followed by a second from 6 November to 11 November. The

BETTER YOU KNOW

The Davis Cup is to be followed by three successive International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior championships. They are a part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors 2023, featuring the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18. The first competition starts tomorrow

third, a J60 tournament, will then take place from 13 November to 18 November.

All three competitions are part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, featuring the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18. Each event in the Kingdom will feature play in boys' and girls' singles and doubles.

Two massive world title showdowns kick off BRAVE International Combat Week

AFP | London

Two huge championship fights have been announced for BRAVE CF 77, which takes place on December 5, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena, in Isa Town, Bahrain.

In the main event of BRAVE CF 77, Lightweight world champion Abdisalam Kubanychbek defends his title against former titleholder Lucas "Mineiro" Martins, while Super Welterweight king Marcin Bandel battles top contender Kamal Magomedov with his gold belt on the line.

BRAVE CF 77 is one of three pro events that make up the last 2023 edition of the BRAVE International Combat Week, the biggest combat sports festival in the world.



After rattling off back-to-back TKO/KO wins in BRAVE CF, Martins has all the confidence in the world going into a huge clash for the title. The former titleholder, a BRAVE CF legend, will look to become the first-ever two-time Lightweight champion in the company, but will have to do something no man has done yet - beat Abdisalam Kubanychbek

in the BRAVE CF arena. Undeclared since joining BRAVE CF, Kubanychbek won the interim title at BRAVE CF 59 when he beat Olzhas Eskaraev in a gruelling five-round fight and then became the lineal titleholder by beating training partner Kamil Magomedov in one of 2023's finest fights. The Kyrgyz champion is riding a 13-fight



undefeated streak (12 wins and one No Contest) and is eager to become the first-ever BRAVE CF lineal Lightweight champion to successfully defend his title.

In the co-main event, Polish sensation Marcin Bandel will look to maintain his status as the number one 175-pounder on the planet when he defends his Su-

per Welterweight throne against undefeated finishing machine Kamal Magomedov. Two of the division's best grapplers, this promises to be one of the best fights of 2023.

Bandel shocked the world last year when he knocked down Ismail Naurdiev and then submitted him with an armbar to capture the vacant Super Wel-

BRAVE CF's End of Year Calendar

18 Nov	BRAVE CF 75 - Tenerife, Spain
25 Nov	BRAVE CF 76 - Jakarta, Indonesia
5 Dec	BRAVE CF 77 - Isa Town, Bahrain
7 Dec	BRAVE CF 78 - Victorious - Fortaleza, Brazil
8 Dec	BRAVE CF 79 - Isa Town, Bahrain
15 Dec	BRAVE CF 80 - Isa Town, Bahrain

terweight world title. It was Bandel's third straight BRAVE CF victory, and earned the champion the Polish MMA Sub of The Year award.

"Bomba" will now face 10-0 Russian sensation Kamal Magomedov, a ruthless finisher, who has never seen the judges' scorecards, with two BRAVE CF finishes, a TKO over Olli Santalahti, and an armbar submission against Vitaly Tverdokhlebov.

Australia edge New Zealand in epic

Australia secures a narrow five-run victory against New Zealand in the highest-scoring World Cup match

● **Australia score 388 all out with Head hitting 109 and Warner making 81**

● **New Zealand fall short despite Neesham's late heroics**

AFP | Dharamsala

Five-time champions Australia edged out gallant New Zealand by just five runs in the highest-scoring World Cup game in history yesterday.

Australia piled up 388 all out as Travis Head top scored with 109 and fellow opener David Warner made 81.

New Zealand battled hard with Rachin Ravindra making 116, Daryl Mitchell adding 54 and Jimmy Neesham supplying late fireworks with a 33-ball fifty before they finished on 383-9 in 50 overs.

With a total of 771 runs, it was the highest scoring game at a World Cup, beating the 754 scored in South Africa's win against Sri Lanka earlier in the tournament.

"That was awesome. Sometimes I have to remember I'm out in the field, not a spectator. A fantastic game, they kept coming at us," said Australia skipper Pat Cummins.

In a dramatic final over played out in the shadow of the Himalayas, New Zealand needed 19

to win.

Trent Boult scampered for a single before Mitchell Starc donated five wickets.

Neesham, one of the stars of the 2019 final which New Zealand lost to England, then took six



“That was awesome. Sometimes I have to remember I’m out in the field, not a spectator. A fantastic game, they kept coming at us”

AUSTRALIA SKIPPER PAT CUMMINS

runs off the next three balls.

However, attempting another two, he was run out from a fine throw by Marnus Labuschagne from the fence.

That left Lockie Ferguson, who had injured his Achilles in the field, needing to perform the heroics off the last ball.

Starc fired the ball in on a full length and Ferguson could only push it to the covers, leaving the Kiwis heartbroken.

"It was a fantastic game of cricket. There were ebbs and flows throughout the 100 overs," said New Zealand captain Tom Latham.

"To get so close hurts. It was a fantastic game."

The result left both sides with four wins and two defeats each and well-placed for the semi-finals.

Earlier, Head, playing his first match of the tournament after being sidelined with a broken hand, reached his fourth one-day international hundred off 59 balls with 10 fours and six sixes.

The 29-year-old had brought Travis Head and David Warner share a moment



Jimmy Neesham of New Zealand is run out by Wicketkeeper Josh Inglis of Australia

Scorecard

Australia 388 (Head 109, Warner 81, Phillips 3-37, Boult 3-77) beat New Zealand 383 for 9 (Ravindra 116, Neesham 58, Mitchell 54, Zampa 3-74) by five runs

up his 50 off 28 balls and then made the most of being dropped on 70 and 75.

He was eventually clean-bowled by off-spinner Glenn Phillips with Australia reaching 206-2 at the halfway stage.

With Warner, Head had put on 175 in the first 20 overs before his veteran partner was dismissed.

Head, Warner blitz

Warner, who turned 37 on Friday, had been looking for a third

successive century but eventually fell for 81 when he chipped a catch back to Phillips.

Phillips then accounted for Steve Smith (18) as he claimed career-best figures of 3-37 before fellow spinner Mitchell Santner got in on the act.

Santner beat the defences of Mitchell Marsh (36) and the left-armers then dismissed Labuschagne (18) after the batsman had been dropped on one.

Neesham had middle-order dangerman Glenn Maxwell caught at long-off by Trent Boult for a 24-ball 41.

Maxwell had come into the match fresh from a World Cup record 40-ball hundred against the Netherlands.

Josh Inglis raced to a 28-ball 38, putting on 62 for the seventh

YOU KNOW WHAT
The total of 771 runs in the match sets a record for the highest-scoring World Cup game

wicket with skipper Pat Cummins (37).

In reply, New Zealand, runners-up in the last two World Cups, saw Will Young (32) and Devon Conway (28) put on 61 for the first wicket before both fell to Josh Hazlewood.

Mitchell hit his third fifty of the tournament to follow his 130 last time out against India but fell on 54 when leg-spinner Adam Zampa had him holing out to long-on with his team on 168-3 after 24 overs.

Mitchell put on 96 for the third wicket with Ravindra.

The 23-year-old Ravindra, who scored 123 in the opening win over England, reached three figures from 77 balls with seven fours and five sixes.

But with New Zealand needing 97 to win off 60 balls, Ravindra was caught in the deep off Australian skipper Pat Cummins for a fine 116.

That left the Kiwis on 293-6 but they battled hard to take the game to the final over thriller.

Edwards leads Netherlands' rout of Bangladesh

● **Netherlands bounce back from record World Cup defeat to beat Bangladesh by 87 runs**

● **Bangladesh suffer fifth defeat in six matches**

AFP | Kolkata

Netherlands captain Scott Edwards led from the front as they bounced back from a record World Cup defeat by Australia with an 87-run hammering of Bangladesh.

Yesterday's victory in Kolkata was the non-Test side's second win of the tournament after their shock defeat of South Africa.

The Netherlands, as was the case against South Africa, were indebted to wicketkeeper-batsman Ed-wards, whose innings top-score of 68 led a recovery from 63-4 to 229 all out.

The Tigers, chasing a seemingly modest target of 230, collapsed to 70-6 and were eventually dismissed for 142 as they suffered a fifth defeat in six World Cup games.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz's 35 was the top score against a Netherlands attack missing spinner Roelof van der Merwe through illness.

The Netherlands' win was all the more creditable as it came just days after their World Cup record 309-run defeat by Aus-



Netherlands' Scott Edwards plays a shot

Scorecard

Netherlands 229 (Edwards 68, Barresi 41, Mustafizur 2-36, Mahedi 2-40) beat Bangladesh 142 (Mehidy 35, van Meekeren 4-23, de Leede 2-25) by 87 runs

tralia.

Edwards, however, was dropped twice on nought in the same Mustafizur Rahman over, Liton Das flooring him in the gully before wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim grassed a tougher, diving chance.

Netherlands paceman Paul van Meekeren then returned fine figures 4-23 as the Tigers were bowled out with more than seven overs remaining.

"We thought that if we could get somewhere around 220 plus, we would have a chance," said Ed-wards.

He added: "We spoke at the start of the tournament about giving ourselves a chance at the

semis. That looks tricky, but that'll remain our goal."

'As bad as it gets'

Bangladesh, for all they had plenty of support at Eden Gardens in what is a Bengali-speaking region of India, were "sloppy" in the field according to Tigers captain Shakib Al Hasan and even worse with the bat.

"We have been poor with the bat all tournament and this is as bad as it gets," said star all-rounder Shakib, appearing in his fifth World Cup.

Bangladesh lost both their openers on 19.

Edwards held a simple chance after Liton miscued a reverse sweep off spinner Aryan Dutt before taking another catch when Tanzid Hasan edged Logan van Beek.

Van Meekeren then had Shakib, trying to cut a lifting ball that was too close to him caught behind for just five.

“We want to try and get the International Cricket Council’s attention to start looking at us as a potentially bigger nation in the coming years”

NETHERLANDS' BAS DE LEEDE

The Tigers were all but beaten at 70-6 when Mushfiqur was bowled for one by a fine van Meekeren delivery that jagged back.

Fellow veteran Mahmudullah, fresh from a hundred against South Africa, only managed 20 before he was well caught by Dutt off Bas de Leede.

Van Meekeren ended the match when he had Taskin Ahmed caught in the deep. Earlier, the 27-year-old Edwards shared partnerships of 44 with de Leede and 78 with Sybrand Engelbrecht, who made a useful 35.

The Netherlands were struggling at 4-2 following the loss of openers Vikramjit Singh and Max O'Dowd after Edwards won the toss.

But Wesley Barresi, 39, in his first match of the tournament, made a run-a-ball 41 before he was caught off a mistimed drive.

Edwards, who made 78 not out against South Africa, then overcame a faltering start to post a 78-ball fifty before he spooned Mustafizur to backward point.

Bellingham brace earns Real Madrid Clasico win at Barcelona



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham scores the equalizing goal

AFP | Barcelona

Jude Bellingham's stunning double snatched Real Madrid a 2-1 comeback victory at Barcelona in his first La Liga Clasico yesterday.

The England international, who has started his Madrid career in remarkable goalscoring form, unleashed a rocket into the top corner from distance after Ilkay Gundogan had sent hosts Barcelona ahead at the Olympic Stadium.

Bellingham then fired home a second in stoppage time to silence Barcelona fans and reach 10 goals in the top flight this season.

Barcelona hit the woodwork twice and had the better of the game but Bellingham, La Liga's top goalscorer, is in unstoppable form and inevitably made his mark in his first Clasico.

Bellingham's brace sent

Madrid to the top of La Liga, ahead of Girona on goal difference, with both teams four points ahead of Barcelona in third.

"He seems like a veteran... the goal to level it totally changed the game," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said of his 20-year-old match-winner. "What was surprising today was his shot, he's always arriving in the box, today he scored a stupendous goal from in front of the area."

Bellingham has now scored 13 goals in 13 games for Real Madrid across all competitions.

"He can get to 20 or 25 goals, because he has started very well," added Ancelotti.

"We don't have it in our heads that he's a goalscoring striker, we have in our heads that he's a very important player for us."

Bahrain go down fighting

Kingdom's senior men's national handball team narrowly lose out on direct berth to Paris Olympics 2024

● Bahrainis rally after trailing 13-18 at the half, but could not complete comeback

● South Korea take bronze in qualifiers after defeating Qatar in third place game

TDT | Manama

Bahrain narrowly missed their chance last night to claim a direct qualification berth for the men's handball tournament at next year's Paris Olympic Games.

The Kingdom's senior men's national handball team went down fighting to their counterparts from Japan 29-32 in the final of the Asian Men's Qualification tournament, which wrapped up yesterday in Doha, Qatar.

Attending the contest was Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Khalid was welcomed upon his arrival in Doha by Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al Thani.

The Japanese claimed the lone place available from the qualifiers at the 2024 Olympiad.



Bahrain's Ali Mirza is stopped by Japan's Tatsuki Yoshino during last night's final

Bahrain, however, still have one chance to punch their tickets to the French capital. But they will yet again face a monumental task as they will be part of a 12-team field of top handball nations from around the world, who will be divided into three Olympic

qualifying tournaments, also to be held next year. Each event will feature four countries, with the top two making it through to Paris.

The men's handball tournament at the Olympic Games will consist of only 12 nations battling it out for the medals.



Despite last night's loss, Bahrain still have one chance to punch their tickets to the French capital. They will be amongst a 12-nation field divided into three Olympic qualifying tournaments, also to be held next year. Each event will feature four countries, with the top two making it through to Paris

Bahrain qualified for the last Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 with their historic victory in the Asian Men's Qualification event in 2019, also held in Doha. This year they have to settle for the qualifiers' silver medals.

The Bahrainis put in a valiant effort last night against Japan, but their opponents were too good on the night, with goalkeeper Takumi Nakamura amongst

those playing a key starring role.

The Japanese went ahead by as many as five goals midway through the second half, but the nationals were able to cut the deficit to just two with less than a minute remaining following an Ali Eid penalty. But their comeback came a little too late and Kosuke Yasuhira sealed the win for Japan with a goal and less than 30 seconds to play. That pegged the final score and signalled the start of the Japanese celebrations.

Earlier in the contest, the two sides exchanged the advantage in the first half, but after the game was tied at 12-all, Japan took control with four unanswered goals, helping them take an 18-13 lead into the break.

Bahrain fought back right after the re-start, and a save by goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain followed by a goal from beyond the half-court line from skipper Hussain Al Sayyad brought the nationals back to within one, 18-19.

A conversion from Tatsuki Yoshino and two straight from Hiroki Motoki gave Japan their four-goal cushion once again, which they maintained for much of the remainder of the contest until a Qassim Qambar strike and Eid's penalty at the very end.

Joining Japan and Bahrain on the qualifiers' podium were South Korea, who defeated Qatar 38-32 in yesterday's bronze medal match.

Riffa edge past Hala in football league

● Abdulaziz Khalid scores winner for Riffa to cap wild three-minute spell in comeback win

● Alyson Romeu Dantas de Andrade supplies decisive goal for Al Shabab against Muharraq

TDT | Manama

Riffa claimed a sensational come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Al Hala last night in their week five match of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

All three goals in the match were scored in a wild three minutes late in the second half, when Hala took the lead but then Riffa scored the equaliser and winner in quick succession.

Hala's Daniel Asante put his team in front in the 80th minute with a fine volley from an



Riffa's Vinicius Vargas Dos Santos battles for possession with Al Hala's Mahmoud Al Haiki

acute angle inside the penalty area. Asante connected on a cross from the right supplied by Hala captain Hussain Mahmood Jaafar, and he made no mistake with his first touch, sending the ball home past Riffa goalkeeper Abdulkarim Al Fardan.

Hala's lead was short-lived, however, as Riffa equalised the very next minute. Komail Al Aswad sent home a rebound after a

Hazza Ali effort from long range was punched away by Hala goalkeeper Godwill Chia Ndang, but the rebound went right into the path of Al Aswad.

Riffa then stunned their opponents with the winning goal just one minute later, with Abdulaziz Khalid finding the target.

With the result, Riffa improved to 10 points on the league table with their third

win in four matches while Hala suffered their third loss of the season and stayed on six points.

Meanwhile, in last night's other match, Al Shabab pulled off a 3-2 upset of Muharraq.

Alyson Romeu Dantas de Andrade scored the winner in the 71st minute. He sent the ball home off a missed penalty, which he also took.

Shabab had earlier scored twice in the first half, but Muharraq replied with two of their own right after the restart. That set the stage for de Andrade's decider.

Shabab claimed their second win and went to six points after four games, while Muharraq lost for the second time in five matches and stayed on five points.

League action continues tonight with another two fixtures on the cards. Sitra take on Al Najma while Hidd face off with East Riffa, both at 7pm.

Tomorrow, defending champions Al Khaldiya lock horns with Manama, while Al Ahli take on Busaiteen, both with 7pm kick-offs.

Chelsea slump again as Nketiah stars for five-star Arsenal



Sheffield United's Luke Thomas (L) vies with Arsenal's Eddie Nketiah

AFP | London

Chelsea slumped to another damaging home defeat against Brentford yesterday as Eddie Nketiah hit a first Premier League hat-trick in a 5-0 win for Arsenal against struggling Sheffield United. Mauricio Pochettino's Chelsea appeared to have turned a corner in recent weeks, taking seven points from their three previous fixtures, but their 2-0 loss means they have just one home win from their past 13 games in the league.

Ethan Pinnock took advantage of non-existent marking to head the visitors in front shortly before the hour mark.

Goalkeeper Robert Sanchez was embarrassed in added time after joining his team's attack for a corner, failing to catch Neal Maupay in a race as he broke with the ball, allowing Bryan Mbeumo to score

in an empty net to compound home fans' woes.

It was a different story for London rivals Arsenal, who roared back from 2-0 down to draw against Chelsea last week to preserve their unbeaten league record.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta shuffled his pack --including dropping captain Martin Odegaard to the bench -- for the visit of bottom club Sheffield United and Nketiah celebrated his recall to the starting lineup in style.

Replacing the injured Gabriel Jesus as Arsenal's target man at the Emirates Stadium, Nketiah proved he was up to the task as a swiftness finish gave the home side a 28th-minute lead. The England forward arrowed a shot into the top corner early in the second half and completed his treble with a stunning strike from distance just before the hour mark.

Medvedev downs Tsitsipas to book Vienna final berth

AFP | Vienna

Daniil Medvedev will defend his title at the ATP event in Vienna against Jannik Sinner in Sunday's final after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) yesterday.

The top-seeded Russian is seeking his sixth title of the sea-

son.

In a high-quality contest, Medvedev committed only 10 unforced errors and saved the three break points he faced, all at 2-1 in the opening set.

The 27-year-old broke his Greek rival's serve at 3-3 and went on to seal the set.

Tsitsipas, relying on his serve

and volley game, held his serve under pressure at 3-3 in the second, only succumbing in the tie-break with two forehand errors from 6/6.

Medvedev, who has already secured his ticket to the end-of-season ATP Finals, will be playing in his 36th tour-level final and ninth of 2023.



Daniil Medvedev