



HM the King
Decree to boost Hawar Islands development

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (115) of 2024, establishing the Higher Authority for Hawar Islands Development, based on the proposal of the Prime Minister and following the approval of the Cabinet.

Under Article I, a Higher Authority for Hawar Islands Development, referred to as the "Authority," is established.

It shall be chaired by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), with the following members: His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa; the Minister of Finance and National Economy, the Minister of Oil and Environment; the Minister of Works; the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; the Minister of Tourism; the Minister of Industry and Commerce; the CEO of the Economic Development Board; the CEO of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company; the CEO of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA); and two private sector representatives appointed by the Chair of the Authority.

Israel ends raid on ' Hamas centre'

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's military said yesterday it had ended its raid on "a Hamas command centre" in a north Gaza hospital and detained its director as a suspected Hamas operative.

Since October 6, Israeli operations in the Palestinian territory have concentrated on the north, where they are carrying out a land and air offensive they say aims to prevent Hamas fighters from regrouping.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain marks new tourism milestone

On behalf of HM the King, HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad attends Hawar Resort opening

TDT | Manama

Bahrain continues to achieve milestones in tourism by fostering sustainable tourism practices that showcase its natural beauty, environmental richness, and cultural heritage.

This was emphasised by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa as he attended the official opening of the Hawar Resort yesterday on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The premiere resort's inauguration marked a significant contribution to the Kingdom's tourism sector with its world-class services.

It is the first strategic project implemented under the master plan for Hawar Islands, overseen by the Higher Authority for Hawar Islands Development and developed by Edamah, the real estate arm of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat).

Key officials

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad, the Personal Representative of HM the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), and Chairman of the Higher Authority for



HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, left, presides over the ribbon-cutting ceremony

Hawar Islands Development, was received by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, alongside senior officials, dignitaries, and representatives from the Mantis Hotel Group, which manages the resort. HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad noted the rapid growth of the Kingdom's tourism sector driven by high quality plans, initiatives, and projects, underscoring the importance of building on these achievements to further enhance the sector's contribu-

tions to the Kingdom's economic and developmental goals.

He expressed his honour to inaugurate the resort on behalf of His Majesty, highlighting its valuable contribution to Bahrain's tourism sector.

Offerings

His Highness toured the resort, reviewing its advanced facilities and learning about the project's phases and offerings.

He commended the efforts of those involved in completing the



HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad with H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, and H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, along with other senior government officials

project as planned and wished them continued success.

Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat and Chairman of Edamah, expressed appreciation to His Majesty the King for supporting the event and thanked HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad for attending on His Majesty's behalf.

Commitment

He noted that the resort, managed by Mantis Hotels (a subsidiary of Accor), reflects Bahrain's commitment to sustainable development and the promotion of the island's unique attractions.

The Hawar Resort, set to open in January 2025, features 104 rooms and villas, including over-water and beachfront villas with private pools.

The resort offers a variety of activities, from exploring the island's rich ecosystem to adventure experiences at the "Bear Grylls Adventure Zone," along with innovative dining at five restaurants.

The resort is the first of three exciting tourism projects being developed on Hawar Island under the supervision of the Higher Authority for Hawar Islands Development.



A tour of the resort and its facilities



Fireworks illuminate the night sky, adding sparkle to the resort's opening

Rescue operation successful



The Coast Guard, in coordination with Police Aviation and the main operations room, successfully rescued three citizens whose boat broke down in the northern marine area of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The individuals were in good health, and the boat was safely towed by the Coast Guard patrol. Necessary assistance was promptly provided to the crew members on board.

Free buses for Bahrain fans to Gulf Cup semis

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

Fans of Bahrain's national football team will have free buses to Kuwait for Tuesday's Gulf Cup semi-final, thanks to a collective effort led by Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam and three MPs.

Al Musallam, alongside Hanan Fardan, Hassan Ibrahim, and Mamdouh Al Saleh, announced the plan to help supporters cheer on the national team as they take on Kuwait in the semi-finals of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup.

Transport arrangements have been tailored to local communities.

HM King receives letter of gratitude from HH Shaikh Nasser

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a letter of thanks and appreciation from His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bapco Energies.

In the letter, HH Shaikh Nasser highlighted Bahrain's rich history of achievement and innovation, starting from its pearl trade to the discovery of the first oil well in the Middle East.

His Highness noted the Kingdom's achievements in the energy sector, including the establishment of the region's first oil refinery in 1929, and expressed pride in the ongoing development efforts led by HM the King's vision.

Dedication

In response, HM the King sent a letter to HH Shaikh Nasser, expressing appreciation for His Highness's heartfelt words and dedication.

HM the King commended the significant efforts of HH Shaikh



HM the King

Nasser and his team in completing the strategic Bapco Modernisation Project, which aligns with Bahrain's enduring legacy of development and innovation in the energy sector.

His Majesty the King commended the project's inauguration as a significant achievement coinciding with Bahrain's National Day and the 25th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne.

HM King Hamad expressed gratitude for the contributions of all stakeholders involved in this vital initiative and con-

veyed his wishes for HH Shaikh Nasser's continued success in serving the Kingdom and its people.

His Majesty concluded the letter by wishing Bahrain continued progress and prosperity through the efforts of its dedicated citizens.

Determination

HH Shaikh Nasser underscored the determination of Team Bahrain to overcome challenges and transform them into opportunities, emphasising their commitment to elevating

the Kingdom's global standing through innovation and strategic initiatives.

He said the 25th anniversary of HM the King's accession was a milestone in Bahrain's progress, emphasising unwavering commitment to fulfilling HM the King's aspirations for the Kingdom's future.

His Highness also referred to the launch of the Bapco Modernisation Project as a strategic step towards addressing future energy challenges and advancing Bahrain's leadership in the sector.

Practical step towards 'economic resilience'

Shura to vote today on oil revenue contributions to Future Generations Fund

Mohammed Darwish

TDI | Manama

The Shura Council will vote today on proposed amendments to the Future Generations Reserve Law, which are based on a proposal originally submitted by the Council of Representatives.

The measure aims to increase oil revenue contributions to the fund, strengthening its financial resources and preparing Bahrain for future economic challenges.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council has already given its initial approval to the plan.

The changes would amend Article (1) of Law No. (28) of 2006, enhancing the fund's capacity to act as a financial safeguard for Bahrain during uncertain times.

Resources

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has supported the proposed amendments, describing them as a practical step to expand the fund's resources.

According to the ministry, the adjustments would allow for increased deductions from oil revenues, particularly when prices exceed \$40 per barrel.

This approach is expected to generate additional income for the fund while ensuring its continued role in supporting Bahrain during periods of financial strain.

Proposal

The Ministry of Oil and Environment has also endorsed the proposal.

It highlighted that 82% of Bapco Refining Company's 2023 sales came from international



Shura Council faces key vote today



If enacted, the proposed adjustments would enable the fund to grow further and expand its investments, securing resources for future generations while helping Bahrain weather unexpected economic shifts.

exports of petroleum products, with revenue channelled into operational costs and capital projects.

The ministry noted that the proposed changes would build on existing mechanisms by re-directing a greater share of oil income to the fund when prices rise.

Key pillar

The Shura committee emphasised that the Future Generations Reserve Reserve is a key pillar of Bahrain's economic resilience.

It cited the fund's role during

the COVID-19 pandemic, when \$450 million was drawn to support the economy without compromising essential services.

The proposed adjustments, if enacted, would enable the fund to grow further and expand its investments, securing resources for future generations while helping Bahrain weather unexpected economic shifts.

Amendments

If approved during today's session and ratified by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the amendments would come into force at the start of

the new fiscal year in January 2025.

The updated provisions would replace existing regulations, increasing oil revenue deductions and further enhancing the fund's capacity to support Bahrain's economic stability.

The Council of Representatives recently agreed with the government's recommendation to exclude petroleum derivatives from the scope of the deductions.

Challenges

The change addresses challenges in implementing deductions for derivatives, whose prices and units of measurement differ significantly from crude oil.

As of the end of 2023, the fund's reserves stood at approximately \$769 million.

The proposed changes are expected to build on this foundation, allowing Bahrain to save more from its oil revenues and prepare for future needs.

Automotive boom

Nearly 36,000 cars imported in 2024



H Naser

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's automotive market experienced a significant surge in 2024, with customs data revealing that nearly 35,873 cars were imported between January and November, totaling BD201.8 million (approximately \$535 million).

This represents a continued upward trend in vehicle imports, following a substantial increase in 2023.

China and Japan dominated the import market, leading both in terms of volume and value.

China secured the top spot as the largest supplier by volume, contributing 8,978 vehicles – a substantial 25% of the total imports – valued at BD50.2 million.

Japan, while closely behind in volume with 8,877 vehicles (24.7% of the total), significantly surpassed China in value, contributing over BD100.1 million to the total import value, making it the highest-value exporter to Bahrain.

Third place

India secured third place in the import rankings, with 5,466 vehicles valued at BD24.1 million.

The US followed in fourth position, with 2,253 vehicles imported for a total value of BD27.5 million.

Thailand rounded out the top five, contributing 1,923 vehicles worth BD10.8 million.

Beyond the top five, other countries, including South Korea and the United Kingdom, also contributed to Bahrain's automotive import market in 2024.

Trade relationship

The data highlights a strong and diverse international automotive trade relationship for the Kingdom.

This year's import figures represent a further increase from the 34,400 vehicles imported in 2023, which itself was a significant jump from the approximately 27,300 vehicles imported in 2022.

This sustained growth indicates a robust and expanding automotive sector in Bahrain.

2,746 labour violations for foreigners in nine months

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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) in Bahrain has reported a significant number of labour violations in the first nine months of 2024.

A total of 2,746 violations were issued for foreign workers operating on "free visas" without the necessary permits.

Of these, a substantial 2,238 cases (81%) have been referred to the Public Prosecution for legal action, and 508 settled their cases by paying fines.

This data, provided to the Council of Representatives,

is part of a larger three-year overview (2022-September 2024) showing 10,785 total violations related to unlicensed foreign workers.

This figure includes 6,596 violations for working without permits and 4,189 violations for employing workers without permits or in breach of permit conditions.

The number of violations has increased year-on-year.

Specifically, in 2022, 1,538 violations were issued for working without permits and 973 for illegal employment.

In 2023, these figures rose to 3,428 and 2,100, respectively.

Travel agency manager jailed for defrauding 52 customers

TDI | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced the manager of a travel agency to three years imprisonment with immediate effect for defrauding 52 customers.

The manager was found guilty

of embezzling the funds paid for airline tickets that were never booked. The court, however, acquitted the former female owner of the agency and an employee of any wrongdoing.

According to the lawyer representing the former owner (the second defendant), Mohammed

Madour, the Public Prosecution charged the agency manager (the first defendant), the former owner, and an employee (the third defendant) with embezzlement.

The manager, who has a prior criminal record, accepted payments from 52 clients for tickets

but failed to secure the bookings, and pocketed the money.

Upon arriving at Bahrain International Airport, the clients discovered their tickets were invalid. Investigations revealed that the manager had used a fraudulent method to deceive his victims.

A helping hand for job seekers

MPs discuss ending salary deductions for unemployment insurance and raising jobless benefits



The Parliament's Services Committee members with key government officials

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Plans to stop salary deductions for unemployment insurance and increase monthly benefits were at the heart of discussions in Parliament's Services Committee during a recent session.

The Labour Minister and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) chief joined the meeting, accompanied by a government delegation, as MPs debated wide-ranging proposals to amend current laws.

One key suggestion involves scrapping the 1 per cent salary deduction for employees in the public and private sectors.

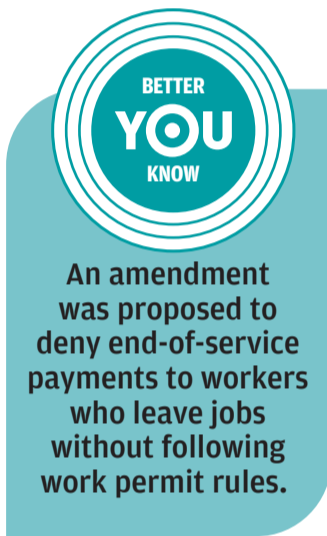
Instead, the unemployment insurance fund would be financed through VAT revenues collected over recent years.

The committee also considered proposals to extend unemployment benefits until claimants secure work, with payments rising to BD300 a month for university graduates and BD200 for others.

Financial pressures

These increases aim to ease financial pressures on jobseekers.

MPs discussed removing limits on how long people can



claim unemployment benefits and allowing repeated claims.

Programme

Another proposal seeks to return funds used for the voluntary retirement programme to the unemployment insurance fund within five years.

Turning to worker rights, an amendment was tabled to deny end-of-service payments to domestic workers and others who leave jobs without following work permit rules.

Expatriate workers also came under the spotlight.

Two years

A draft law would require expats to stay with their current employer for at least two years before switching jobs, with a minimum notice period of one month.

Employers would no longer be responsible for covering the costs of repatriating the bodies of deceased expatriate workers under this plan.

Another debated proposal would Bahrainise specific private-sector jobs within two years, requiring companies to replace foreign workers with Bahrainis in designated roles.

Businesses would need to adjust their operations to meet these requirements.

Stricter rules

Social media advertising was also addressed, with MPs pushing for stricter rules to protect all parties involved and ensure fair practices.

The proposals include capping the total number of work permits issued annually to manage the labour market more effectively.

In another move, the committee considered extending the probation period for domestic workers and similar roles from three months to six months, giving employers more time to evaluate their suitability.

Former board member jailed for mismanaging company

TDT | Manama

A former board member of a Bahraini company has been sentenced to two years in prison by the Court of Cassation, the highest court in the country.

The ruling, which is final, upholds previous convictions from the Court of First Instance and the Appeals Court.

The individual was found guilty of intentionally harming the company's interests while serving as a board member and holding significant managerial responsibilities.

The case details reveal that in 2018, the defendant collaborated with plaintiff to establish a company.

The plaintiff subsequently discovered that the defendant had failed to conduct an ex-



tended audit of the company's accounts for that year.

Upon requesting access to the accounts for an independent audit, the defendant refused.

Balance

A review of the company's bank account revealed a balance of only BD230.

A detailed bank statement showed that the defendant had withdrawn significant sums without the plaintiff's knowledge.

Consequently, the plaintiff appointed a forensic accountant to audit the company's operations and accounts.

Drunk driver to pay BD12,000 in accident claim

TDT | Manama

The High Commercial Court has rejected a claim by an insurance company seeking BD12,000 in compensation from a business and its employee for an accident caused by the employee's drunk driving.

The court ruled that the company was not liable, as the employee acted outside the scope of his employment and stole the

vehicle keys.

The court did, however, order the employee to repay the insurance company.

The insurance company filed the lawsuit against both the company and its employee, seeking joint and several liability for the BD 12,000 already paid to the victim.

The accident occurred when the employee, driving the company vehicle while intoxicated,

caused an accident resulting in the amputation of the victim's leg and a 35% disability.

The lawyer for the company, Khalifa Isa, argued that the employee stole the vehicle keys outside of working hours and was not authorised to drive the vehicle.

He contended that the company bore no responsibility for the accident and that the lawsuit should be dismissed.

Insurance company to pay tourist storm compensation

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court has ordered an insurance company to pay a GCC citizen BD4,814 in compensation for damage to his vehicle caused by falling metal sheets during a storm.

The incident occurred in March of this year while the vehicle was parked in front of a Hoorah hotel where the citizen was staying.

Lawyer Bandar Shamal Al Dosari represented the citizen in the case.

He stated that his client parked his car in the designated parking area of the hotel.

During a night of strong winds, metal sheets fell from the hotel, causing significant damage to the vehicle, which was valued at BD30,000.

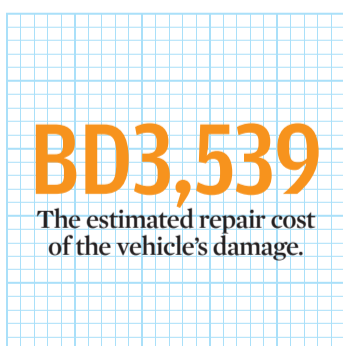
An expert assessment estimated the repair costs at BD3,539.



Bandar Shamal Al Dosari, lawyer

The hotel, a defendant in the case, presented evidence that its facilities were insured by the insurance company (the second defendant).

The hotel also provided documentation showing that it had reported the damage to the insurance company and



the estimated repair cost of BD3,539.

The plaintiff sued for compensation, claiming negligence. The final judgment ordered the insurance company to pay BD4,814 in compensation.

While the lawyer had requested BD3,539 for repairs and an additional BD5,000 for depreciation in the vehicle's market value, the court awarded compensation only for the direct repair costs.

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Powering up revenue

EWA reports nearly BD990m in billing earnings from November 2022 to October 2024

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, His Excellency Yasser Humaidan, has announced that the total revenue from bills issued by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) between November 2022 and October 2024 reached approximately BD990 million.

He noted that a significant portion of this revenue, around BD610 million, came from non-residential facilities.

During this period, the authority issued nearly 900 million bills, with non-residential accounts accounting for the majority at approximately 550 million bills.

Bills
The minister highlighted that the total revenue collected



Notification

Initially, a notification is included in the bill along with several reminder text messages regarding the outstanding amounts.

If payment is not received, a final text and email notification is sent before the last resort of disconnecting the service on the 53rd day of the process.

He emphasised that the readings from the smart meters are accurate and are obtained remotely, eliminating the need for physical visits to properties.

New technology

Currently, 99% of the meters in use are smart meters, and the authority is in the process of replacing the remaining 1% of older meters with new technology.

With these measures, the EWA aims to enhance efficiency in billing and collection, ensuring

from supported residential bills amounted to about BD110 million, derived from around 100 million bills.

In contrast, the total revenue from 250 million unsupported bills reached approximately BD280 million.

Humaidan outlined the authority's procedures for managing overdue payments, which extend over a period of 53 days



The readings from the smart meters are accurate and are obtained remotely, eliminating the need for physical visits to properties

H.E. YASSER HUMAIDAN, MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER AFFAIRS

reliable service for all customers.

EWA legal dispute contract sparks tender board clarification

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tender Board has affirmed that its regulations and laws apply equally across all sectors in government tenders, ensuring consistent standards for supplier and contractor participation.

This aligns with the objectives of the Law Regulating Government Tenders, Auctions, Purchases, and Sales and its executive regulations.

Inquiry

Responding to an inquiry from MP Dr Hisham Ahmed Al Asheeri, the board explained that bids must meet the tender document's conditions and required documentation to be accepted.

"Suppliers and contractors must also possess necessary qualifications, professional and technical competence, financial resources, equipment, and administrative and technical capabilities to fulfill the contract. Further requirements include eligibility to enter into a contract, absence of bankruptcy or insolvency, and adherence to Bahraini laws and regulations," the Board's response stated.

Procurement procedures

The board highlighted that contracting authorities employ trained and board-ap-

proved teams to manage procurement procedures.

In direct contracting, these teams verify that goods, constructions, or services meet specifications and requirements, ensuring prices are market-competitive based on received bids.

Addressing a specific inquiry regarding a contract with a legal consultancy firm, the board clarified that the initial contract, awarded in 2021, utilised direct contracting as permitted by law under specific circumstances.

A subsequent amendment in 2024, increasing the contract value, was for a change order to the original agreement.

Legal consultancy services

The contract, initially valued at BD 1.5 million, involved providing legal consultancy services to the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) in a dispute with a litigating company before the Bahrain Dispute Resolution Centre.

The EWA requested direct contracting due to the urgency of the matter and the tight deadline imposed by the Centre, given the litigating company's claims totaling BD 11.44 million.

The firm's extensive experience in local and international disputes, including prior work for EWA, justified the direct contracting approach.

Bahraini deceives wife, fleeing to Bahrain with infant

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man is facing legal action after allegedly deceiving his Arab wife, sending her back to her home country alone, and then fleeing to Bah-

rain with their infant son.

The case, detailed by lawyer Afaf Salman Al Banna, reveals a complex story of deception and legal maneuvering. According to Al Banna, the man married her client under a valid and legally

documented marriage contract.

After the birth of their son, the couple traveled to another country with the agreement that they would return to the wife's home country so her family could meet their grandson for the first time.

However, the man said he could not find flights back to the wife's country. After days, he told her he had secured a single ticket for her to return home, promising to follow with their son the next day.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die".

John 11: 25

Obituary

The Board Members, the Management and the Staff of the



مستشفى الإرسالية الأمريكية
American Mission Hospital

offer heartfelt condolences to the family, and celebrate the life, of



Yousuf Haider
1931 - 2024

The former administrator of the hospital who, with his family had served the hospital for several years.

His wife Layla Elias Abu Rumman and children Ola, Basel and Arwa have announced the following.

Condolences will be accepted at the **National Evangelical Church, Fellowship Hall** on both, **Sunday, 29 December** and **Monday, 30 December** from **3 pm to 6 pm**

Bahrain-Pakistan military drill ends

TDT | Manama

The Al Badr 9 joint military drill, conducted by Bahrain's National Guard and the Pakistan Army, has commenced, coinciding with the 28th anniversary of the National Guard's founding.

Al Badr drill series, held as part of a cooperation protocol between the National Guard

and the Pakistan Army, is conducted under the directives of His Highness General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, National Guard Commander.

The drill aims to enhance leadership capabilities and operational efficiency, and readiness to address shared security challenges.

It also facilitates expertise

exchange and skill development through joint training in planning, combat procedures, and logistics.

The annual series strengthens military cooperation between Bahrain and Pakistan, reflecting the close ties between the two countries and their shared commitment to addressing challenges.

'Simbang Gabi' brings Filipinos together

TDT | Manama

It was truly a night of Christmas spirit as Katolikong Pinoy sa Bahrain concluded its annual Simbang Gabi at the Sacred Heart Church.

From 15th to 23rd December, around 1,000 Filipino parishioners were in attendance to join the anticipated Mass at 8:30pm each evening was officiated by Fr. Anthony Almazan, OFM Cap, the Assistant Parish Priest and Spiritual Director of the community, together with the visiting priest, Fr. Jeffrey Torres, OFM Cap.

The nine-day devotional period culminated in a festive Christmas Eve, highlighted by the continuation of the Dawn Masses at 4:00am.

This year, the final Mass held particular significance as it was officiated by His Excellency Bishop Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T.

Enhancing the Christmas Eve celebration, a special Panunuyan play was performed at the start of the ninth day Dawn Mass.

It is a beautiful tradition that touches the heart of the Christmas story with emphasis on hope and hospitality.



Filipinos celebrating an early morning tradition

It brings the community together in the search for shelter of the Holy Family to remind everyone of the compassion and generosity that must be opened up to them in this season.

This touching reenactment not only entertains the parishioners but also binds them closer to the true meaning of Christmas, thus making the Dawn Mass a real celebration.

Reflecting on the meaning of Simbang Gabi this holiday season, Salve Nicodemus, a teacher

at Philippine School Bahrain, shared her thoughts on Simbang Gabi — a tradition that resonates deeply with overseas workers, "Simbang Gabi reminds me of spiritual preparation for Christmas. It gives me an avenue toward reconnecting with my faith, as well as the people surrounding me. It gives that sense of community and warmth, therefore enabling me to appreciate gratitude and humility toward the blessings in this season".

NEC opens new branch in Askar



The grand opening ceremony took place on December 06, 2024, and was officiated by CEO Mr. Fuad Nonoo. TDT | Manama

NEC, a leading money transfer and currency exchange provider with over 30 years of experience in Bahrain, announced the inauguration of its latest branch in Askar.

The grand opening ceremony took place on December 06, 2024, and was officiated by CEO Mr. Fuad Nonoo.

The new Askar branch marks an important milestone in NEC's commitment to enhancing access to its services for both residents and businesses in the region.



For over three decades, NEC has been synonymous with reliability and excellence in money transfer and currency exchange services. This new location will undoubtedly serve as a vital resource for the local community, contributing to the financial well-being of our citizens and fostering economic growth.

NEC's expansion to Askar underscores its dedication to customer satisfaction and community engagement with friendly, knowledgeable staff always ready to assist, the new branch aligns with NEC's core values of integrity and service excellence.

Fog hampers UK air travel



Representative picture

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Air travellers in the UK faced further disruption on Saturday, as fog that has blanketed much of the country in recent days grounded flights and hampered landings and take-offs.

Disruption grew through the day at London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports, as well as at Manchester and Belfast, according to Flightradar24, which tracks plane movements in real-time.

Hundreds of flights were delayed into and out of Heathrow -- the country's busiest hub -- and Gatwick, while both each saw more than a dozen departures cancelled, the site reported.

More than half of Heathrow's departing flights were showing as delayed, according to Flightradar24.

The same airports also saw disruption on Friday due to the foggy conditions.

"As widespread fog continues to affect some UK airports today, temporary air traffic restrictions remain in place at locations with low visibility," the air traffic control authority NATS said.

It said the restrictions were to maintain safety and that its teams were working closely with the airports and airlines to minimise disruption.

In some areas, thick fog patches could reduce visibility down to just 100 metres (328 feet), Britain's weather agency, the Met Office, said.

EU universal charger rules come into force



A USB-C cable, which will become the standardized charger for all electronic devices sold in the European Union (EU).

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU rules requiring all new smartphones, tablets and cameras to use the same charger came into force on Saturday, in a change Brussels said will cut costs and waste.

Manufacturers are now obliged to fit devices sold in the 27-nation bloc with a USB-C, the port chosen by the European Union as the common standard for charging electronic tools.

"Starting today, all new mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones, speakers, keyboards and many other electronics sold in the EU will have to be equipped with a USB Type-C charging port," the EU Parliament wrote on social media X.

The EU has said the single charger rule will simplify the life of Europeans and slash costs for consumers.

By allowing consumers to purchase a new device without a new charger, it will also reduce the mountain of obsolete chargers, the bloc has argued.

The law was first approved in 2022 following a tussle with US tech giant Apple. It allowed companies until December 28 this year to adapt.

Makers of laptops will have extra time, from early 2026, to also follow suit.

Most devices already use

these cables, but Apple was more than a little reluctant.

The firm said in 2021 that such regulation "stifles innovation", but by September last year it had begun shipping phones with the new port.

Makers of electronic consumer items in Europe had agreed on a single charging norm from dozens on the market a decade ago under a voluntary agreement with the European Commission.

But Apple, the world's biggest seller of smartphones, refused to abide by it and ditch its Lightning ports.

Other manufacturers kept their alternative cables going, meaning there were about half a dozen types knocking around, creating a jumble of cables for consumers.

USB-C ports can charge at up to 100 Watts, transfer data up to 40 gigabits per second, and can serve to hook up to external displays.

At the time of its approval, the commission said the law was expected to save at least 200 million euros (\$208 million) per year and cut more than a thousand tonnes of EU electronic waste every year.

"It's time for THE charger," the European Commission wrote on X on Saturday.

"It means better-charging technology, reduced e-waste, and less fuss to find the chargers you need."

Trump asks US Supreme Court to pause law threatening TikTok ban

Washington, United States

US President-elect Donald Trump filed a brief Friday urging the Supreme Court to pause a law that would ban TikTok the day before his January 20 inauguration if it is not sold by its Chinese owner ByteDance.

"In light of the novelty and difficulty of this case, the court should consider staying the statutory deadline to grant more breathing space to address these issues," Trump's legal team wrote, to give him "the opportunity to pursue a political resolution."

Trump was fiercely opposed to TikTok during his 2017-21 first term, and tried in vain to ban the video app on national security grounds.

The Republican voiced concerns -- echoed by political rivals -- that the Chinese government might tap into US TikTok users' data or manipulate what they see on the platform.

US officials had also voiced alarm over the popularity of the video-sharing app with young people, alleging that its parent company is subservient to Beijing and that the app is used to spread propaganda, claims denied by the company and the Chinese government.



Trump called for a US company to buy TikTok, with the government sharing in the sale price, and his successor Joe Biden went one stage further -- signing a law to ban the app for the same reasons.

Reversing course

Trump has now, however, reversed course.

At a press conference last week, Trump said he has "a warm spot" for TikTok and that his administration would take a look at the app and the potential ban.

Earlier this month, the president-elect met with TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

Recently, Trump told Bloomberg he had changed his mind about the app: "Now (that) I'm thinking about it, I'm for TikTok, because you need competition."

"If you don't have TikTok, you have Facebook and Instagram -- and that's, you know, that's Zuckerberg."

Facebook, founded by Mark Zuckerberg and part of his Meta tech empire, was among the social media networks that banned Trump after attacks by his supporters on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The ban was driven by concerns that he would use the platform to promote more violence. Those bans on major social media platforms were later lifted.

'Unprecedented'

In the brief filed on Friday, Trump's lawyer made it clear the president-elect did not take a position on the legal merits of the current case.

"President Trump takes no position on the underlying merits of this dispute," John Sauer

wrote in the amicus curiae -- or "friend of the court" -- brief.

"Instead, he respectfully requests that the court consider staying the act's deadline for divestment of January 19, 2025, while it considers the merits of this case, thus permitting President Trump's incoming Administration the opportunity to pursue a political resolution of the questions at issue in the case."

A coalition of free speech groups -- including the American Civil Liberties Union -- also filed a separate brief to the Supreme Court opposing enforcement of the law, citing censorship concerns.



TikTok was the most downloaded app globally in 2020 and 2021, surpassing even long-standing giants like Facebook and Instagram. This meteoric rise was fueled by its unique algorithm, which personalises content so effectively that the average user spends over 90 minutes per day on the platform.



News in brief



Russia says oil spill 'critical' as Crimea declares emergency

Russia warned yesterday of severe environmental damage from a huge oil spill in the Black Sea caused when two tankers collided in a storm near Crimea, which declared a state of emergency. One tanker sank and another ran aground on December 15 in the Kerch Strait between Russia and the annexed Crimean peninsula. Thousands of volunteers have been mobilised for clean-up operations that have been criticised as insufficient by some Russian scientists. The tankers were carrying 9,200 tonnes of fuel oil, around 40 percent of which may have spilled into the sea, according to authorities. "The situation is truly critical," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, quoted by Russian press agencies. "It is unfortunately impossible to calculate for the moment the extent of the environmental damage but specialists are working regularly on it," he said. The Moscow-installed governor of Crimea, Sergei Aksionov, said on Telegram he had declared a state of emergency "because of the oil products spill in the Kerch Strait".

New bird flu mutation discovered in US as cat infections cause alarm

The ongoing spread of bird flu in the United States has alarmed experts -- not just because of human cases causing severe illness, but also due to troubling new instances of infections in cats. A sample of the virus found in a critically ill patient in the United States has shown signs of mutating to better suit human airways, although there is no indication it has spread beyond that individual, authorities report. Earlier this month, officials announced that an elderly Louisiana patient was in "critical condition" with a severe H5N1 infection. An analysis posted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Thursday revealed that a small percentage of the virus in the patient's throat carried genetic changes that could increase the virus's ability to bind to certain cell receptors found in the human upper respiratory tract.

US homelessness hits new record in 2024: report

The number of people in the United States experiencing homelessness reached a new record this year, with lingering inflation and high housing prices among likely drivers, a government report said Friday. An estimated 771,480 people were homeless on a single night in January 2024, rising 18 percent from 2023, said the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in an annual assessment. This translates to about 23 in every 10,000 people in the country, home to the world's biggest economy. The uptick came as households felt the pressure from housing costs, with the median rent for January 2024 being 20 percent higher than that in January 2021, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Apart from housing costs, the HUD report flagged "stagnating wages among middle- and lower-income households, and the persisting effects of systemic racism" as other factors.

SPOTLIGHT

Winning ticket sold for bonanza \$1.22 bn US lottery



Representative picture

A gas station in the town of Cottonwood, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of the city of Sacramento, Mega Millions said.

The winning numbers were: 3, 7, 37, 49, 55 and 6. The winner can claim the full \$1.22 billion in annual payments over a period of 30 years or opt for a one-off cash payout of \$549.7 million before tax.

The prize is the fifth largest jackpot in history offered by Mega Millions -- which sells tickets across 45 states. The largest lottery bonanza in history was \$2.04 billion. The winning ticket for that Powerball prize was also sold in California.

They bought the ticket at

WHO chief says narrowly escaped death in Israeli strikes on Yemen airport

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

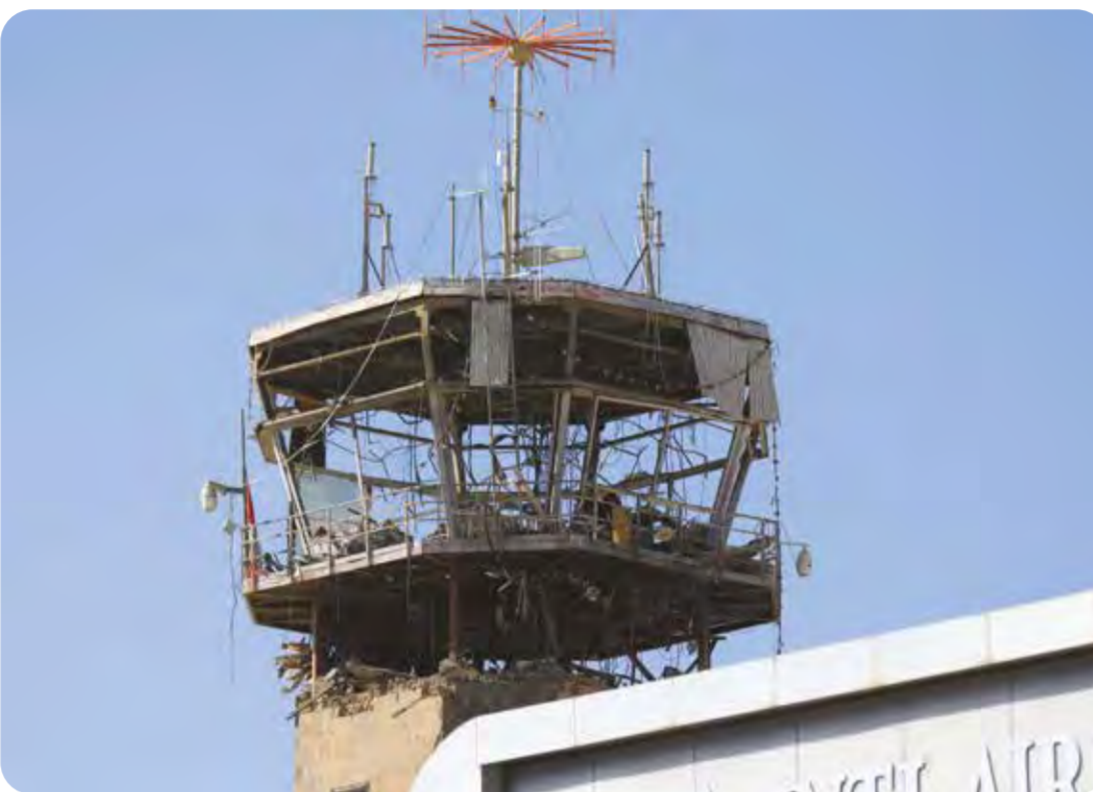
The head of the World Health Organization said yesterday he only narrowly escaped death in fatal Israeli strikes on the airport in Yemen's Huthi rebel-held capital.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told BBC radio his ears were still ringing following Thursday's attack as he prepared to board a flight in Sanaa, and stressed that the protection for civilian installations under international law must be respected.

Israeli air strikes hit Sanaa's international airport and other targets in Yemen on Thursday. The attacks against what Israel's military called rebel "military targets" marked the second time since December 19 that Israel has hit targets in Yemen after rebel missile fire towards Israel.

The UN health agency's chief described the scene as the first strike hit. "We heard a heavy explosion nearby, and then I think repeated," Tedros said. "The sound was so, so loud... So deafening, actually. Still my ear rings. It's already more than 24 hours now. I don't know if it affected my ear. The explosion was so heavy."

"It was the departure lounge next to us that was hit, and later on the control tower. "It was very chaotic. People



This picture shows the damaged control tower of Sanaa's international airport

were in disarray and running everywhere and no shelter: we were completely exposed. "It's a matter of luck. Otherwise, if the missile deviated just slightly, it could have been on our heads... my colleague actually said after all that, we escaped death narrowly."

"Very dangerous"

Huthi Deputy Transport Minister Yahya al-Sayani said four people were killed and 20 wounded in the strikes. Tedros was visiting Yemen on behalf of UN chief Antonio Guterres as part of a mission to seek the release of detained UN staff and assess the health and humanitarian situations in the war-torn country.

As for whether Israel knew he was at the airport at the time, Tedros said: "Our flights and so on are internationally known. So I would assume that the people who like to know, know. I would assume that. But I think it would be good to ask Israel on this. "It doesn't matter whether I am there or not... if it's a civilian installation, it has to be protected,



"We heard a heavy explosion nearby, and then I think repeated. The sound was so, so loud... So deafening, actually. Still my ear rings. It's already more than 24 hours now. I don't know if it affected my ear. The explosion was so heavy"

TEDROS

Putin tells Azerbaijan leader Russian air defence active at time of plane landing: Kremlin



Emergency specialists work at the crash site of an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger jet near the western Kazakh city of Aktau

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian leader Vladimir Putin told his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on Saturday that Russian air defence was active when an Azerbaijan Airlines plane tried to land in Grozny before it crashed, the Kremlin said. Putin called Aliyev as speculation grew that Russian air defence may have accidentally shot down the plane, which crashed in western Kazakhstan, killing 38 people, earlier this week.

Putin told Aliyev that the plane had tried to land in Grozny "several times" and that "during this time, Grozny (the town of) Mozdok and Vladikavkaz were being attacked by Ukrainian combat drones and Russian air defence was repelling these attacks." The Russian leader did not

claim responsibility for crash, while apologising to Aliyev that the incident took place in Russian airspace. "Vladimir Putin had presented his apologies that the tragic incident happened in Russia's air space and again expressed his deep and genuine condolences to the families of the dead, wishing a quick recovery to those affected," the statement said. "The Kremlin said the pair had discussed questions around the crash "in detail."

It also said it was "closely cooperating with Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan on the crash. Statements by Azerbaijani officials suggest Baku believes the plane was hit mid-air, while the US has said it had "early indications" Russian air defence may have been responsible for the crash.

Several airlines cancel flights to Russia

AFP | Moscow, Russia

December 27 and January 3. Kazakhstan's Qazaq Air has suspended its flights to Russia's Ural city of Yekaterinburg until the end of January. Earlier this week, Israeli airline El Al said it was suspending its flights to Moscow for a week.

The Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 crashed near the western Kazakh city of Aktau, on the shores of the Caspian Sea. It was carrying out a flight between Azerbaijan's capital Baku and the city of Grozny in Russia. For several days, some Western experts have been pointing to a crash caused by a Russian anti-aircraft missile. Citing preliminary results of an investigation, Azerbaijan's transport minister said Friday that the crash suffered physical "external interference."

Statements from Azerbaijan citing the investigation into the incident suggest Baku believes the plane was hit mid-air. The decision came after UAE airline flydubai suspended flights between Dubai and the southern Russian cities of Mineralnye Vody and Sochi that were scheduled between

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AFP | Moscow, Russia

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Representative picture

Indian state funeral for former PM Manmohan Singh



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) pays last respect to his late predecessor Manmohan Singh during the state funeral ceremony in New Delhi

AFP | New Delhi, India

India yesterday accorded former premier Manmohan Singh, one of the architects of the country's economic liberalisation in the early 1990s, a state funeral with full military honours, Singh, who held office from 2004 to 2014, died at the age of 92 on Thursday, after which seven days of state mourning were declared. The honours were led by President Draupadi Murmu with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance, along with the country's top civilian and military officials. Bhutan's King Jigme

Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck also attended the ceremony. Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, who called the former prime minister his mentor and guide, joined Singh's family as they prayed before his cremation. Earlier, mourners gathered to pay their respects to Singh. His coffin, draped in garlands of flowers, was flanked by a guard of honour and carried to his Congress Party headquarters in New Delhi. It was then taken through the capital to the cremation grounds, accompanied by guards of soldiers and ac-

corded full state honours. Modi called Singh one of India's "most distinguished leaders". US President Joe Biden called Singh a "true statesman", saying that he "charted pathbreaking progress that will continue to strengthen our nations -- and the world -- for generations to come". The former prime minister was an understated technocrat who was hailed for overseeing an economic boom in his first term. Singh's second stint ended with a series of major corruption scandals, slowing growth and high inflation. He was tapped in 1991 by



Officers lead the coffin of India's late former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, for a state funeral ceremony in New Delhi

AFP | New Delhi, India



Former Indian prime minister and veteran Congress leader Manmohan Singh

Though he had never held an elected post, he was declared the National Congress's candidate for the highest office in 2004. In his first term, Singh steered the economy through a period of nine percent growth, lending India the international clout it had long sought. He also sealed a landmark nuclear deal with the United States that he said would help India meet its growing energy needs. President Murmu said Singh would "always be remembered for his service to the nation, his unblemished political life and his utmost humility".

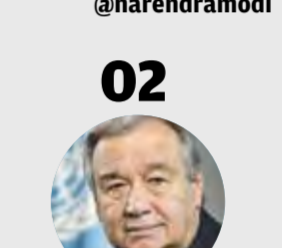
He was tapped in 1991 by

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

TOP 4 TWEETS



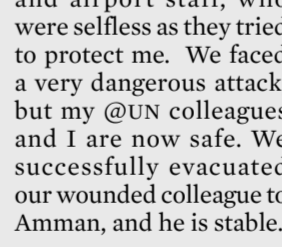
01 Paid last respects to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. His service to India will always be cherished. @narendramodi



02 E ven in the darkest hours, @UN personnel are a constant beacon of hope and light. As 2024 draws to a close, I pay tribute to them, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice in carrying out our vital mission. We will always carry their memory in all we do. @antonoguterres



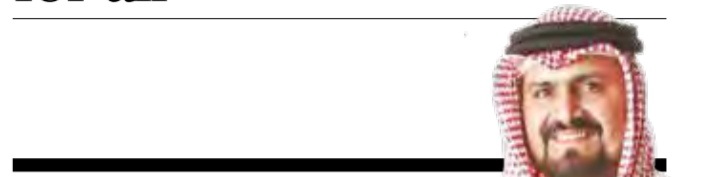
03 Thank you to all my friends, colleagues, and everyone who has wished me well during the ordeal in the past few days. I'm especially grateful to the colleagues and airport staff, who were selfless as they tried to protect me. We faced a very dangerous attack, but my @UN colleagues and I are now safe. We successfully evacuated our wounded colleague to Amman, and he is stable. @DrTedros



04 A merica rose to greatness over the past 150 years, because it was a meritocracy more than anywhere else on Earth. I will fight to my last drop of blood to ensure that it remains that land of freedom and opportunity. @elonmusk

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

An inclusive education for all



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

When schools talk about facilities, they usually list the students to teacher ratio as a compelling factor. This makes sense because a teacher, however well-trained and skilled cannot engage meaningfully with more than a maximum of a dozen students at a time.

Bahrain, which has a robust public education system that delivers quality free education to its population, has been working hard to meet the golden mean of student to teacher ratio and results show that the Kingdom's public schools outshine private schools by a huge margin. A teacher handles the teaching of about 14 students in public schools, whereas in private schools, the ratio is apparently 30 students to each teacher.

As we step into 2025, we must take into consideration the technology of the education system also. Can our classrooms afford to just invest in smart whiteboards and interactive screens for teaching? While teachers pour their energy and knowledge into their profession, where are the pedagogical improvements that make education a more inclusive process for all our students -- including those with special needs and different learning barriers?

Bahrain has successfully touched the cent per cent mark in literacy and with adult education, no person has been left behind even in the older generation. However, we do need to focus more on harnessing technology for students with specific needs. For instance, advanced AI-powered speech recognition tools in the classroom will quicken real-time text-to-speech transcription for hearing impaired students; smart pens and note taking devices will help students with ADHD or dyslexia.

While student-teacher ratio is vital and must be continuously reviewed, we must also not lose sight of the special needs of our students with different challenges. Only if we begin now and integrate them into the school system with the help of technology shall we enable a progressive society of the future. On that note, let me wish all my readers a fruitful 2025!

(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)

Gaza hospital shut after Israeli raid, director held: health officials

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza's severe health crisis, the Palestinian territory's health officials said. The World Health Organization said the operation had put the "last major health facility in north Gaza out of service".

The military said it intercepted two projectiles fired toward Israel from northern Gaza, a rare attack more than 14 months into Israel's war with the Palestinian militants, whose top leaders have been killed.

Since October 6, Israeli operations in Gaza have focused on the north, where they are carrying out a land and air offensive they say aims to prevent Hamas from regrouping but which the United Nations on Tuesday said had left north Gaza "under a near-total siege". The military's assault on Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia has rendered the facility "useless", further worsening



Israel's retaliatory military campaign has killed at least 45,484 people in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the UN considers reliable.

CELEBS celebs

Reese Witherspoon tried to make gingerbread house from scratch: 'Epic disaster'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Reese Witherspoon gets sentimental around the holiday season.

In a recent interview with People, the 48-year-old actress reflected on her family traditions for the Christmas holiday and some of her favorite memories over the years, including the gifts she has received.

"I was obsessed with Teddy Ruxpin," she said of her favorite Christmas present she's ever gotten. "My dad found the last one at some store, and I played with it every single day. It was basically a big glorified tape player, so I put all my music in it. I just loved it."

The actress and businesswoman explores the idea of the best Christmas present in her new children's book, "Busy Betty & the Perfect Christmas Present," which she said she was



Reese Witherspoon

inspired to write after her 12-year-old son, Tennessee, expressed he didn't know what to buy anyone for Christmas.

Witherspoon, who is also a mother to two older kids, Ava, 25, and Deacon, 21, explained she hopes the book "reinforces that homemade gifts are the best" and that people will appreciate the thought behind the gift.

"When one of my kids were little, they gave me a jar filled with very specific memories and compliments," she shared. "It's everything from 'I love when you hug me after school' to 'I love when we sing this song in the car.' To this day it makes me want to cry."

On another occasion, one of her children gave her five letters that she was instructed "to open at different times," calling it "a lovely, lovely gift."

After becoming a mother, Witherspoon began pulling out all the stops to make Christmas a special time for her children by creating their own traditions, including "decorat[ing] the porch with poinsettias and ribbons and garlands," ice skating and making gingerbread houses together.

Blake Lively receives support from Sony Pictures

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles



Blake Lively has received support from Sony Pictures after suing Justin Baldoni.

The 37-year-old actress has taken legal action against her 'It Ends With Us' co-star and director, alleging sexual harassment and accusing him of waging a smear campaign against her and now the studio which made the movie have given her public backing and "strongly condemned" attacks on her reputation.

A spokesperson told Variety: "We have previously expressed our support for Blake in connection with

her work on and for the film. We fully and firmly reiterate that support today.

"Further, we strongly condemn any reputational attacks on her. Any such attacks have no place in our business or in a civil society."

In addition, SAG-AFTRA have also condemned the "startling and troubling allegations" and praised Blake's "courage in speaking out".

A spokesperson for the union told Deadline: "We applaud Blake Lively's courage in speaking out on issues of retaliation and harassment and for her request to have an intimacy coordinator for all scenes with nudity or sexual content. This is an important step that helps ensure a safe set."

"Employees have every right to raise issues of concern or to file complaints. Retaliation for

reporting misconduct or inappropriate behavior is illegal and wrong.

"We all have a right to be treated with dignity and respect on the job and to work in an environment free of harassment, discrimination and retaliation."

Blake submitted her 10-claim complaint with the California Civil Rights Department last week, in which she accused Baldoni, his production company Wayfarer Studios and others involved with making the movie of sexual harassment and a "coordinated effort to destroy her reputation".

The star claimed the film was shot amid a "hostile work environment that nearly derailed production" and alleged a campaign against her was launched by the actor - who also directed the movie - and his company after its release.

Blake Lively

Dolly Parton wants bags and baskets

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles



Dolly Parton

Dolly Parton loves receiving "tote bags and baskets" for Christmas.

The 78-year-old singer insisted she is really easy to buy a gift for because she doesn't have expensive tastes and would rather

receive "fun" jewellery than a flashy piece.

She told Britain's Closer magazine: "People ask me, 'What do you give somebody that has everything?' And I say, 'Something to put it in!'"

"So I'm big on tote bags and baskets, and I love costume

jewellery and colourful, cheap stuff.

"I'm the easiest person in the world to buy for, because I don't really wear fine jewellery.

"I like dressing up and wearing jewellery that matches my costumes. And so I'm actually fun and easy to buy for."

'Home Alone' director finally answers what the McCallisters did for a living

Fox | Los Angeles

"Home Alone" is a holiday classic that has left viewers with many questions over the years.

During a recent interview on The Hollywood Reporter's "Awards Chatter" podcast, the film's director, Chris Columbus, answered one of the internet's most burning questions: What did the McCallister parents do for a living?

In the film, not only does the family live in a mansion in Chicago, but the parents, played by Catherine O'Hara and John Heard, are able to pay for a trip to Paris, for 15 people, including both their immediate and ex-



Macaulay Culkin in a scene from Home Alone

tended family members. Many fans of the film have been wondering, since the movie's 1990 release, how the couple were able to afford everything.

"Back then, John and I had a

conversation — she was a very successful fashion designer. The father could have, based on John Hughes' own experience, worked in advertising, but I don't remember what the father did."

Columbus also dispelled the popular belief the dad worked in organized crime, explaining that "even though there was, at the time, a lot of organized crime in Chicago," the father was definitely not involved.

The movie focuses on a large family who leave for a vacation to Paris, only to realize they have left behind their youngest son, Kevin (Macaulay Culkin). Kevin must then reconcile with being left behind, while also defending

his home from burglars, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern.

While "Home Alone" went on to become the movie child star Culkin is most known for, Columbus shared he wasn't sold on casting him as the lead when he first signed on to the project. In the end, he conceded that Culkin "was obviously the right kid," but that he had to get over "the ego" he had as a director to recognize it.

"This is why John Hughes was a great producer for a director, and I learned a lot from him," Columbus explained. "He said, 'Will you take a look at meeting Macaulay?' I said, 'Yeah, I'd like to meet Macaulay, but I'd like to meet everyone else,

too.' I ended up meeting 300 other kids, too. Total colossal waste of time, because then I met Macaulay again, and it was magical."

Culkin, of course, would go on to be the ultimate child star of the 1990s, going on to star in the film's sequel, "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," "My Girl," "Richie Rich," "The Pagemaster" and many others.

When it came to casting the other characters, Columbus said he knew the moment he saw Pesci and Stern onscreen together that they were the perfect duo. He also confirmed the rumor that legendary comedian Chris Farley was also up for a role in the movie.

SUDOKU

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4						7		2
				9				6
			4		2			
	2			1				
8		7						1
		5		8				3
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Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Across

1- Sun-dried brick; 6- His, to Henri; 9- Stun gun; 14- Like some bears and icecaps; 15- Notable period; 16- A Bell for ...; 17- Concerning; 19- Rudner and Moreno; 20- Mexican Mrs.; 21- Draft classification; 22- Molars, e.g.; 23- Skin disorder; 25- Evade; 26- Beard type; 29- Facilitate; 31- Doctrine maker; 32- Triumph; 36- ...baked in ...; 37- Suffix with cloth; 38- Attendee; 40- Consider overnight; 43- Door; 45- Lacking slack; 46- Scoffs; 47- Late bloomer; 50- Scottish refusals; 51- Belle or Bart; 52- Billy ... had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 54- ... the season ...; 57- Family car; 58- Under-water vessel; 61- You ... mouthful; 62- Fruit drink; 63- Spiritual sustenance; 64- Alloy of iron and carbon; 65- Aviv preceptor; 66- Collect;

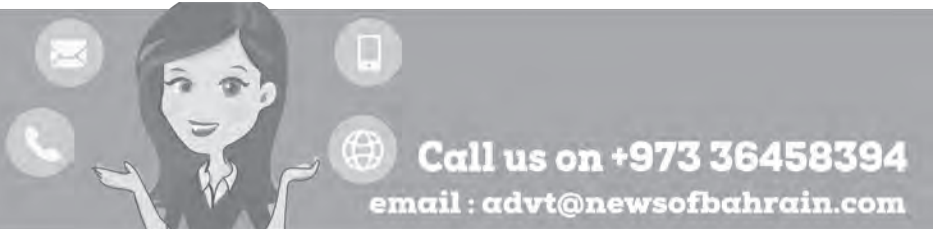
Down

1- Auto loan figs; 2- Person of action; 3- Gymnast Korbut; 4- Sheepish comment; 5- Be off; 6- River that flows through Paris; 7- Sea eagle; 8- It's a long story; 9- Small, sassy woman; 10- French farewell; 11- Satisfied; 12- Maternally related; 13- ... Hashanah; 18- Gift recipient; 23- Up ... (trapped); 24- Boardroom bigwig; 25- PC panic button; 26- "Today" rival, briefly; 27- "My fault!"; 28- Indigo source; 29- Occurrence; 30- Tune; 33- Meanies; 34- Learning method; 35- Age unit; 37- Acknowledgment of debt; 39- "Treasure Island" monogram; 41- Endless; 42- Acceptable score for a professional golfer; 43- Sacred song; 44- Inseparable; 47- Bothered; 48- Hawkins of Dogpatch; 49- Swap; 50- Prestigious prize; 51- Flat sound; 52- The wolf ... the door; 53- Type of ranch; 54- She played Ginger on "Gilligan's Island"; 55- Taverns; 56- Oceans; 59- Doc's bloc; 60- Male sheep who may play football for Los Angeles;

Yesterday's solution

L	A	L	A	R	E	W	E	D	P	L	A	T	
A	L	A	S	A	L	O	N	E	I	A	T	E	
R	O	S	H	P	A	N	D	A	O	N	E	A	
D	E	S	T	A	I	N	S	L	E	N	D	E	
O	T	A	L	L	Y	U	R	G	E	N	C	Y	
A	C	E	V	E	L	L	S	R	O	N	C	H	
T	H	E	R	E	A	I	T	N	O	S			
A	R	U	T	U	S	E	R	S	C	O	R	E	
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T	S	A	R	S	T	E	A	D	S	A	U	L	

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ASIAN FLAVOURS RESTAURANTS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17253030 or MOTOROX17@GMAIL.COM

WHITE HAND CLEANING CO partnership has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17672227 or modern.laundry.mail@gmail.com

SERAX CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33697714 or NADA.SERAXCO@GMAIL.COM

ALNAKHLATEEN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077311 or ALNAKHLATEEN@GMAIL.COM

SEA VIEW REAL ESTATE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33642855 or RBHO666@GMAIL.COM

PLUTO INTERIOR DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38230025 or FAISALGONDAL71@GMAIL.COM

ABDUL BASIT DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35910314 or KM689885@GMAIL.COM

SHAKEEL AHMAD SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34518198 or SHAKEELSERVICESBH@GMAIL.COM

SUWAILEH COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17678227 or ABDULLASOWAILEH@GMAIL.COM

RAOUF CONTRACTING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784497 or raouf@BATELCO.COM.BH

MARWA LAND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32161615 or M1995-33@hotmail.com

AL HILAL MULTI SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER RIFFA B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER(HOSPITALS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344700 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

GREET CARGO SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34474481 or ABDULQUDDOSS123@GMAIL.COM

ALANAQAH COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17254343 or albaroon.manpower@yahoo.com

TECTON ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH OFFICE has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36500766 or info@tectonme.com

E TECH SOLUTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16161600 or MUNIRSIDDIQ@GMAIL.COM

WA Tech Water Technology W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720671 or CONTACT@WATECHMENA.COM

PEPPER TEA BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or HASH22@HOTMAIL.COM

CITY MAX FASHIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39118999 or ALI.RADHI31999@GMAIL.COM

NEW MORNING SUN CAR SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36446755 or WEHELP4U@GMAIL.COM

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

WOLFPACK TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888675 or ABDULMUNEER@HOTMAIL.COM

CHANNAI CARS SERVICE & MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39169293 or IBRAHIM973.BH@GMAIL.COM

FIVE STAR TAILORING BAHRAINI

PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39273180 or SHAMEER67@HOTMAIL.COM

GULF EXHAUST SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY) GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701112 or idawani@fabtechbahrain.com

AL FAHAD CARGO HANDLING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36966006 or NADEEM.6038@GMAIL.COM

Top One Laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66994556 or 3AL155ABDULLA@GMAIL.COM

EMIRATES GIFT MARKET CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66999906 or EMIRATESGM@GMAIL.COM

RASHID REPAIRING WORKSHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC (AIR-CONDITIONING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35109067 or RASHIDNAZEER336@GMAIL.COM

ZIRI SALON AND SPA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39411377 or HUSSAINALMODAWEB14@GMAIL.COM

AL DEMISTAN LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17602445 or MOHAD.1581@GMAIL.COM

BLACK LADDER CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66666461 or NAZZARALI9@GMAIL.COM

ADEEL SHAHZAD PACKAGING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33576656 or ADEELROSES@YAHOO.COM

TRUST LINE BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34194751 or RAFIPLY@GMAIL.COM

COLOURLAB PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33857534 or COLOURLAB.GCC@GMAIL.COM

GRAND AJK MARKETING SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33423579 or SALEEMJAVED290@GMAIL.COM

HOME PROMISES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33178430 or MOONG2476@GMAIL.COM

KADHEMEYA EBRAHIM ALI KOWAID has a vacancy for the occupation of CONCIERGE IN APPARTMENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33103299 or KALKOWAID@GMAIL.COM

ASHRAFS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211211 or aqeel@almoayyed.com.bh

PROPER WAY SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37539255 or KASHIFKPR41@GMAIL.COM

ALBUSAITEN WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17253012 or hussain_597@icloud.com

STAR TECHNICAL AND TRADING SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783780 or STARTECH@BATELCO.COM.BH

MOHAMMAD SHAREEF NOOR MOHAMMAD MAWLA BAKHSH has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36898975 or DELWAR54321@GMAIL.COM

3 SUPER SALAR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34016513 or MHDFAZAL101520@GMAIL.COM

THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO OF BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of REGIONAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784141 or TSARA@COCA-COLA.COM.BH

MARWA LAND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32161615 or M1995-33@hotmail.com

EVERSHINE TAILORS has a vacancy for the

occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38147550 or RAHIM8351@GMAIL.COM

FALCON ISLAND CLEANING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454414 or falcon-i@hotmail.com

EZAT BODY WORKING AND PAINTING GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642292 or ALIAZET@HOTMAIL.COM

ALUSERV MIDDLE EAST has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION QUALITY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830002 or mjaleel@harsco.com

SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39976477 or hr@7hills-group.com

LOOK GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(FINANCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39635935 or ADEL_AL_DHAEN@HOTMAIL.COM

A k decor for life has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17406262 or UM0099@GMAIL.COM

UNIVERSAL ROLLING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17467477 or amin.hameed@unirol.com

SEVEN HILLS BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17403548 or info@7hills-group.com

ARABIAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39677780 or AWALSERV@BATELCO.COM.BH

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

ENERFLEX MIDDLE EAST W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(GAS COMPRESSOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667675 or bshuqair@enerflex.com

GOLDEN SAND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35187505 or BLOSUMFASHION@GMAIL.COM

MOHTASHIM CAR ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17214919 or FABFEROZE@HOTMAIL.COM

AL SABAH AIRCONDITIONING has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33945756 or info@salsabahac.com

Al Awan Mecanical Work Shop has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773759 or M035MALIK@HOTMAIL.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

ALJOUF COMMUNICATIONS AND MOBILE ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641119 or UMALMUDON@GMAIL.COM

CAFETERIA ALSALAM has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33169704 or WAL-AL-B@HOTMAIL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

AL HASEEB A/C WORK SHOPE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33572848 or a.hafeez62@yahoo.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

GRAND MART TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736030 or GRANDMART.T@GMAIL.COM

NAWAH CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39158777 or RMOHD63@YAHOO.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY

GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822202 or info@jssbahrain.com

ZENITH FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33087278 or HAIDRALI286983@GMAIL.COM

THOIBA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77998636 or PDC434@GMAIL.COM

RANJIT SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33179673 or RANJITSERVICES9@GMAIL.COM

TIKIZ JUICE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39991192 or DHIYAALASFOOR@LIVE.COM

81 SPECIAL SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255335 or 81SPECIALCONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM

Grant Thornton Advisory W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39605262 or JASSIM.ABDULAL@BH.GT.COM

ARATHY CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39179224 or BADERB77@HOTMAIL.COM

GREEN SKENAR ELECTRIC WORKSHOP CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of INSTALLATIONS TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33161222 or SARBJEET2003@YAHOO.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. l. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

DESHLIAR WORLD FOR GENERAL TRADING AND CATTLE CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66993322 or deshliarworld@batelco.com.bh

ALMANAR ALSHAMIL PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36470770 or AL.MANAR.CT@GMAIL.COM

ENERSERV TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(GAS EXTRACTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17599031 or ABDULLA.HASAN@ENERSERV.COM.BH

AL SABAH AIRCONDITIONING has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33945756 or info@salsabahac.com

MAKE CHANCE ADVERTISING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34002030 or BAHRAINBLOCKBUSTER@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLASTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

AL HEEBA PHONE has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRER(ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36895635 or ALHEEBA.PHONE@GMAIL.COM

GULF PEARL SHIP MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37080322 or healthyvat@gmail.com

NEW PYRAMID GENERAL CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33645746 or MIFTIKHAR087@GMAIL.COM

HANISHA MECH W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39191811 or KUMARELIM@GMAIL.COM

GLOBAL TENT EVENTS CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66913216 or NAVEEDTANOLI94@GMAIL.COM

SEE ME CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34376160 or ONTITA24@GMAIL.COM

ZEEZ CAR SPA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER (GARAGE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923307 or MAHMOOD.ALSAMMAK@GMAIL.COM

MORGA MARKETING AND PROMOTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34509344 or ASIFAFRIDI911@GMAIL.COM

DIDAR SHAHID TRAVELS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 36860675 or DIDARSHAHIDTRAVELS@GMAIL.COM

RAINBOW STAR CLEANING MATERIAL AND GENERAL TRADE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36657757 or MUHAMMADSAIF3581@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD AZAM MEHMOOD CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33953818 or MR.AZAM818@GMAIL.COM

CHANDIA ANMOL CARGO HANDLINGS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33883145 or YASEENANMOL3145@GMAIL.COM

DAR ALHEKMA BAHRAINI SOCIETY has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17626361 or ALMANSY.D.C@GMAIL.COM

YAFA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13109990 or HASANALIMADAN@HOTMAIL.COM

ROMA CAR SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33032011 or roma.motors@hotmail.com

GULF ESTEEM CONTRACTING CO. Bahraini partnership co has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35586225 or GECWLL.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

NIDUKKI TRADING COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17731648 or OPERATIONS@NIDUKKI.BH

Isfahani restaurant persian food has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39861666 or admin@isfahanigrup.com

VANILLA HEJIYATH MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33533133 or ITS.NOORA87@GMAIL.COM

DILSHAD EVERCORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35327841 or TARIQ35327841@GMAIL.COM

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

ARAD FORT RESTAURANT 2 has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36000154 or BRIGHTALKALEEJ@GMAIL.COM

MILLENIUM CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35588880 or millemiumb183@gmail.com

SPECTRUM ADVERTISING CALLIGRAPHY DRAWING has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77019726 or HAMED71BH@GMAIL.COM

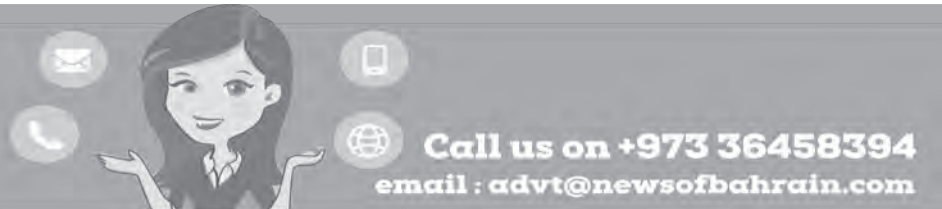
Zema Cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33337747 or SADEQ.HOHSEN@GMAIL.COM

NOOR ALKHALEEJ CONTRACTING - Bahraini partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335969 or ALNOORMW@YAHOO.COM

MANAMA STEEL INDUSTRIES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500266 or m.marhoon@manamasteel.com

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L. has a vacancy

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

NASHVILLE BURGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33450050 or ISKOOHEJI@GMAIL.COM

HABSTONE INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33752942 or HABSTONE.BH@GMAIL.COM

AL GHOSIA FINISHING, AND DECOR BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33971414 or CALIBERBAH@GMAIL.COM

CLASSIC EVENTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ORGANISER(EXHIBITIONS & PUBLICITY CAMPAINS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956025 or STONES4U@GMAIL.COM

HOLA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36071141 or ALIYAN.AAMIR@SHAHICO.NET

SAJ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36190122 or ARSHADJAVED1100@GMAIL.COM

TURKISH STYLE SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38492002 or FAREEDMUHAMMAD197@GMAIL.COM

WASEEM & USMAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38045248 or RAFAQATMALIK71@GMAIL.COM

ALNAKHLATAIN TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66676861 or TWOPALM03@GMAIL.COM

ZEESHAN AHMAD SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33218761 or ZEESHANAHMEDBH1214@GMAIL.COM

ABDULHUSAIN KHUDHUR & AHMED AND YOUSIF SNOS OF ALI AHMED has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500331 or hr@eraprojects.net

ORIENTAL SECURITY PRINTING SOLUTIONS B.S.C.CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17501000 or ORIENTAL@ORIENTALPRESS.COM

BOKHOWA CONTRACTING & TRADING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIESEL MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255980 or ADEEBAL@BOKHOWAGROUP.COM

ABNA ZUHAIR TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17591881 or AMZUHAIR84@HOTMAIL.COM

ALAMEER RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330800 or ALAMEER.RESTAURANTS@GMAIL.COM

AHMED MOHAMMED JASSIM CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784584 or HR@AMJASSIM.COM

ALJABER AC REPAIR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(VEHICLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17340003 or mohdjabery7@GMAIL.COM

G4S Secure Solutions Bahrain W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or ossama.ibrahim@BH.G4S.COM

LARA VAPE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33470032 or almasbahrain@gmail.com

ADAM PASTRIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39600998 or ADAMRESTAURANTGROUP@GMAIL.COM

GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or khalid.alawadi@gulfhotelbahrain.com

ALTHALRA SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39733449 or ALIABDULLAAA8@GMAIL.COM

NEW PYRAMID GENERAL CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33645746 or MIFTIKHAR087@

GMAIL.COM

EY Consulting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38899982 or sara.ebrahim@bh.ey.com

DSV SOLUTIONS B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17461000 or bincy.varghese@dsv.com

MUHAMMAD UZAIR CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-PACKER-(BOXES-HAND-), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36803636 or UK2367576@GMAIL.COM

RAMEE PALACE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811688 or hrg.bh@rameehotels.com

QUTUBPUR SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37433737 or QUTUBPURSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

Saad Abdulghani engineering has a vacancy for the occupation of CIVIL ENGINEER (BUILDING CONST.), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291091 or sky.star6446@gmail.com

A G DYNAMICS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38205373 or info@aguldynamics.com

MAR WAT SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35188197 or DARKMOONBH276@GMAIL.COM

USMANS on way cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33379334 or USMAN_DC@YAHOO.COM

ALHASSANAIN B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17559999 or JAAFAR@ALHASSANAINCO.COM

ANWAR ALBAHRAIN PHONES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886398 or ALIHASANABDALI@GMAIL.COM

RAMSIS ENGINEERING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830801 or Abbas@ramsisis.com.bh

BOKHOWA CONTRACTING & TRADING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIESEL MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255980 or ADEEBAL@BOKHOWAGROUP.COM

GREY SCALE STEEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224157 or SHEHZAD@GREYSCALE-BH.COM

BHANWARIYA BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37774616 or ABBAS33901@GMAIL.COM

ATAMEK COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39238561 or YTR212@GMAIL.COM

LASHEEN JEWELLERY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39723400 or LASHEENJEWELRY@YAHOO.COM

PLATINA LEE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33217634 or ASLAMBH896@GMAIL.COM

THE HIDDEN BEAUTY LOUNGE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39997994 or THEHIDDEN.BEAUTYLOUNGE@GMAIL.COM

ANSU PACKAGING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36653831 or MUHAMMADMU9822@GMAIL.COM

EduCom Management Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36655456 or hr@suhainvestments.com

ALHASSANAIN B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17559999 or JAAFAR@ALHASSANAINCO.COM

SAMARKANDI RESTAURANT FOR BUKHARI RICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37454646 or INFO@3BROTAVEL.COM

ARABIAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39677780 or AWALSERV@BATELCO.COM.BH

SAPPHIRE ALUMINIUM COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(METAL SPRAYER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38383956 or TMBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALHASSANAIN B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy

for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17559999 or JAAFAR@ALHASSANAINCO.COM

Bright cool for Repair of electronic, electrical, and optical eq has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33436055 or MUHAMMAD.REHMAN79@GMAIL.COM

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

AZEEM AL MADEENA TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33922311 or PRABHULESH@GMAIL.COM

MAGNIUM ENTERPRISES CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhaldiadiagroup.com

BARISTA SOLUTIONS TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38988575 or yneama@baristasolutions.org

DURRAT AL KHALEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhalej@hotmail.com

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

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Duffy bowls New Zealand to T20 victory over Sri Lanka

New Zealand defends 172, winning by eight runs against Sri Lanka after late bowling heroics

● New Zealand scored 172-8 in 20 overs

● Mitchell and Bracewell had a 105-run partnership

AFP | Mount Maunganui

A late bowling fightback sparked by Jacob Duffy produced a remarkable eight-run victory for New Zealand against Sri Lanka at Mount Maunganui yesterday.

Sri Lanka, with openers Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis in sparkling form, were cruising towards the 173-run target when they reached 95 without loss at the halfway stage.

But in the 14th over, with Sri Lanka 121-0, Duffy changed the game with three wickets in four balls, all caught behind by Mitchell Hay, beginning with the dismissal of Mendis for 46 off 36 deliveries.

Nissanka went on to make 90 off 60, which included seven fours and three sixes for his highest Twenty20 score, while no other Sri Lankan reached



New Zealand's Jacob Duffy (C) celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis

double figures.

"We should have done better," was the succinct summary from Sri Lankan captain Charith Asalanka who was out for three and also dropped a catch.

"Pathum and Kusal batted well, the rest including me should take responsibility for this loss."

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said Duffy changed

the game with his 3-21 after the home side reached 172-8 in their 20 overs with the innings propped up by a century stand by Daryl Mitchell and Michael Bracewell.

The pair came together in the 10th over with New Zealand struggling at 65-5 and put on 105 before both were dismissed in the final over.

Mitchell was stumped for 62

off 42 deliveries while Bracewell was caught behind for 59 off 33. "It was a massive partnership for us, the way they went about it, they soaked it up for a bit then put the pressure back on to put up a pretty good score," Santner said.

Binura Fernando, who removed both New Zealand openers in his second over, finished with 2-22.

BETTER YOU KNOW

Jacob Duffy took three wickets in four balls in the 14th over, derailing Sri Lanka's chase after they were comfortably placed at 121-0

Tim Robinson was caught and bowled for 11 when he drove a short-pitched delivery straight back to the bowler.

Three balls later Rachin Ravindra, on eight, nicked an outswinger and was caught behind.

Mark Chapman, dropped on four, reached 15 before he was caught on the boundary by Kamindu Mendis off the bowling of Matheesha Pathirana.

Glenn Phillips had made eight off nine deliveries when he was trapped in front and Mitchell Hay went first ball when he played and missed at a delivery drifting into the pads.

New mum Bencic wins first tour-level match since 2023 US Open



Belinda Bencic in action
AFP | Sydney

Former Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic won her first tour-level match since the 2023 US Open yesterday to help Switzerland beat France at the United Cup, while Canada downed Croatia.

The 27-year-old Bencic, a one-time world number four who is now ranked 487, took down France's Chloe Paquet 6-3, 6-1 on Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney, winning 10 of the last 11 games.

While she tentatively returned to the court at low-key events in November after having a baby in April, it was her first win at tour-level since her third-round victory at the 2023 US Open.

Her teammate Dominic Stricker crashed 6-3, 7-5 to Ugo Humbert in their singles rubber to send the tie to a deciding mixed doubles.

Bencic fronted up again alongside Stricker to down Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Elixane Lechemia 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) to earn Switzerland the win.

Kyrgios says tennis integrity 'awful' after doping scandals

AFP | Brisbane

Nick Kyrgios lashed out yesterday at what he believes is the lenient treatment of world tennis number one Italian Jannik Sinner for a failed drug test and said integrity in the sport was "awful".

Sinner twice tested positive for the banned steroid clostebol in March.

However, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) accepted his argument that the steroid entered his system due to contamination from his physiotherapist and opted not to suspend him.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) subsequently appealed the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, with a verdict pending.

Kyrgios has been scathing about the ITIA decision in the



Nick Kyrgios reacts during a match

past and didn't hold back in a press conference ahead of his return to the game at the Brisbane International after an 18-month injury lay-off.

"Tennis integrity right now, and everyone knows it, but no one wants to speak about it -- it's

awful," said the Australian.

"It's actually awful and it's not okay. I know that people don't like it when I just speak out about things, be honest about things."

"For a kid that grew up playing tennis, I enjoyed the compe-

Tennis integrity right now, and everyone knows it, but no one wants to speak about it -- it's awful. It's actually awful and it's not okay. I know that people don't like it when I just speak out about things, be honest about things

NICK KYRGIOS

tion, I enjoyed playing.

"I can get emotional, I can throw a racquet, but that's nothing compared to cheating and taking performance-enhancing drugs."

Asked whether he was accusing Sinner of cheating, Kyrgios told journalists to look at the facts.

Dr. Kodange's stellar 44 points caps 2024 at Awali Golf Club

AFP | London

Dr. Kodange delivered a remarkable performance on the final Friday competition of 2024 at Awali Golf Club, amassing an impressive 44 points off a 19 handicap.

Starting his round on the 10th hole, Kodange set the tone with a bogey, followed by a birdie on the 11th, a par on the 12th, and another birdie on the 14th. Maintaining consistent scoring, he capped off his round in spectacular fashion with a birdie on the 9th hole.

The only other player to surpass 40 points was Jasper Meinema, who, playing off a 5 handicap, carded six birdies to



From left: TD Nathan Sundaresan, A&E representative Mohammed Rasel, Overall winner Dr Chaitanya Kodange, Vice captain Balbir Singh

secure 41 points and victory in the first division. Sun Kyu Kwak triumphed in division two with 37 points, while Viddhu Mittal claimed division three with 38 points.

Vice Captain Balbir Singh and Tournament Director Nathan Sundaresan presented the prizes in the clubhouse, alongside African and Eastern Key Accounts Manager Mohammed Rasel.

The club extended its gratitude to African and Eastern for their unwavering support and eagerly anticipates the next sponsored event, the Corona Classic, set to take place in April 2025.

Reddy's maiden ton revives India

Young all-rounder shines with unbeaten 105, keeping India alive in gripping Test against Australia

- India ended day three at 358-9
- Sundar contributed 50 runs
- Boland and Cummins took three wickets each

AFP | Melbourne

Nitish Kumar Reddy scored a defiant maiden century yesterday as India fought back to reach 358-9 on a rain-hit third day of the fourth Test against Australia.

Rising all-rounder Reddy was applauded off the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 105 not out after rain ended play for the day midway through the final session.

Having provided much-needed stability to another shaky Indian batting effort, the 21-year-old will resume on Sunday alongside Mohammed Siraj, on two, with the first-innings deficit reduced to 116 runs.



India's Nitish Kumar Reddy celebrates his century

Australia's push for a much bigger advantage after scoring 474 was stymied by Reddy and spin-bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar, who scored 50 as

the pair put on 127 for the eighth wicket.

To the roar of a large contingent of Indian supporters among a record 83,073 third-day crowd

at the MCG, Reddy lofted Scott Boland over mid-on to reach three figures just before play was halted.

It was an innings memorable

for resolute defence, mixed with classical strokeplay.

Reddy faced 176 balls, hitting 10 fours and one six, continuing the fine batting form at number eight in the order that has marked his debut series.

In his first six Test innings, he has scored 284 runs -- the most in the series by any Indian player -- at an average of 71.

Sundar described Reddy's innings as "unbelievable" and said he always knew a century was well within his team-mate's ability.

"Mentally he's very, very strong," Sundar said.

"I've known him for quite a few years. The way he went about his business today was amazing. He gives a hundred percent, that's his approach to life.

"I'm sure this hundred will be talked about and remembered for a very, very long time."

Seamers Boland, who took 3-57, and Pat Cummins with 3-86 were the most productive Australian bowlers in conditions that offered little assistance despite overcast skies.



Nitish Kumar Reddy's century makes him the leading run-scorer for India in the series, a remarkable feat for a debutant batting at number eight

Boland said Reddy was a "nice player" whose range of shots proved hard to contain.

"It looks like he's got pretty much every shot in the book," Boland said.

"Obviously he's playing really nicely. Coming in down in the lower order, he's trying to put the pressure back on us."

Boland believed Australia were still well placed to push for victory, with the pitch still containing a "bit of nip" for the seamers.

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