

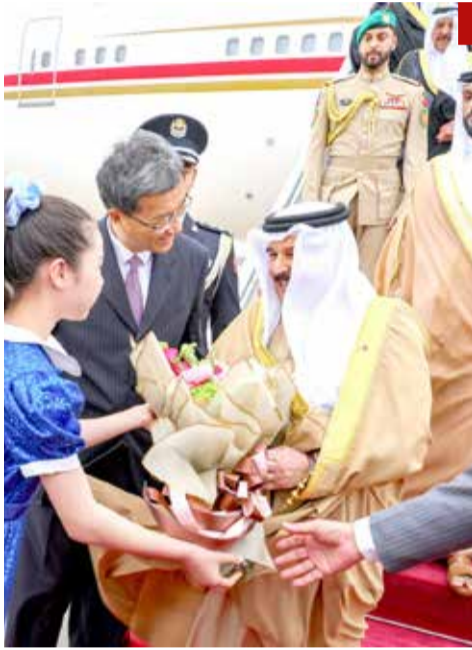
Alcaraz survives scare

Alcaraz weathered a third-set blip against world number 176 Jesper de Jong before the Spaniard came through 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier. | P12

WORLD **6** Nikki Haley writes 'finish them' on Israeli shell: lawmaker

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BUSINESS **5** Nuwah Foundation joins hands with UK's Revoke



HM King arrives in China
 His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, President of the 33rd Arab Summit, arrived in China on an official state visit, at the invitation of President Xi Jinping. HM the King will hold talks focusing on further enhancing relations and developing strategic cooperation between the two countries, as well as the latest regional and international developments. During his visit, His Majesty will also participate in the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. Upon his arrival, HM King Hamad was received by HE Mr. Huai Jinpeng, Minister of Education of China; Dr. Mohammed Ghassan Adnan Sheikh, Ambassador of Bahrain to China; HE Mr. Ni Ruchi, the Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain; Oscar Chow, Honorary Consul of Bahrain to Hong Kong; Ivan Tam, Honorary Vice Consul of Bahrain to Hong Kong; and Olivia Cheng, First Assistant Honorary Counsel of Bahrain to Hong Kong.

More EU nations urged to recognise Palestinian state
 AFP | Geneva

The move by Spain, Ireland and Norway to recognise the State of Palestine will give a major boost to the cause, the Palestinian Authority's health minister said yesterday, urging other European countries to follow suit. Maged Abu Ramadan thanked the three countries, their people and their governments for their "courageous decision", saying it would have a "great political, positive input on the case of Palestine, wherever it will be discussed".

The minister was in Geneva for the World Health Assembly, where the dire humanitarian and health conditions in the Gaza Strip were being discussed on Wednesday.

The assembly is the World Health Organization's main annual meeting, which sets the agenda for the UN health agency.

"I will urge all other European countries to follow these courageous steps," Abu Ramadan told the UN correspondents' association.

When will this end?

China 'deeply pained' by extremely severe situation in Gaza

- **Beijing hosts Egypt president, several other Arab leaders**
- **Blinken: Israel needs post-war plan 'as soon as possible'**
- **'What are you waiting for?', Erdogan to Islamic world**

AFP | Beijing

President Xi Jinping told his Egyptian counterpart yesterday that China was "deeply pained" by the "extremely severe" situation in Gaza, as Beijing hosts Abdel Fattah Al Sisi and several other Arab leaders.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday that Israel needed a post-war plan as soon as possible after a senior Israeli official predicted that fighting in Gaza would last until the end of the year.

"In the absence of a plan for the day after, there won't be a day after. And this is where we need to go, and (what) we need to get, as quickly as possible," Blinken told reporters on a visit to Moldova.

Such a plan would ensure that Israel is not in control of



Displaced Palestinians at a makeshift displacement camp in Rafah's Mawasi area, which was hit by Israeli bombardment. (AFP)

Gaza's security in the long term, he said.

"If it is, it will simply have an enduring insurgency on his hands for as far as one can see into the future," Blinken said.

'Common voice'

The talks between Xi, Sisi and other Arab dignitaries in China this week are aimed at building consensus between Beijing and the Arab nations, as well as presenting a "common voice" on the conflict between Israel and

Hamas.

China has good relations with Israel but has supported the Palestinian cause for decades and has campaigned for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The current round of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has caused a large number of innocent Palestinian civilian casualties and the humanitarian situation in Gaza is extremely severe. China is deeply pained," Xi told Sisi in Beijing, according to state

broadcaster CCTV.

"The top priority task now is an immediate ceasefire, in order to avoid spillover of conflict, impact on regional peace and stability, and so as to prevent a more serious humanitarian crisis," Xi said.

Egypt, along with Qatar and the US, have been engaged for months in talks aimed at securing a lasting truce between Israel and Hamas, accompanied by the release of hostages kidnapped by the Palestinian group.

"China appreciates the important role played by Egypt in cooling down the situation and delivering humanitarian relief," Xi said.

He said China was ready to work with Egypt to continue to assist the people of Gaza "and push for an early, comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue".

United action

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday called on the "Islamic world" to take united action following the latest Israeli strikes on Gaza.

"I have some words to say to the Islamic world: what are you waiting for to take a common decision?" Erdogan told lawmakers from his AKP party, adding that "Israel is not just a threat to Gaza but to all of humanity."

Casualties

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 36,171 people have been killed in the territory during more than seven months of war between Israel and Palestinian militants.

The toll includes at least 75 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said, adding that 81,420 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7.

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Partners in progress, security and stability

HRH Prince Salman highlights Arab media sector's 'pivotal role'

TDT | Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, affirmed the pivotal role of the media sector in supporting wide-ranging development efforts.

HRH highlighted the media's responsibility to uphold regional and global security and stability by providing accurate, credible, and objective information on various issues and challenges.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday with several Arab Ministers of Information Affairs who took part in the 54th session of the Arab Information Ministers' Council meeting held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Ministers conveyed the greetings of the leaders of their countries to His Majesty the King and to His Royal Highness.

In turn HRH Prince Salman conveyed the greetings of His



HRH Prince Salman with the Arab Ministers of Information Affairs



"It is important to strengthen Arab media cooperation to support growth and development across Arab countries and achieve the aspirations of citizens, in line with the visions of Arab leaders."

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY KING AND PRIME MINISTER

Majesty the King and his greetings to the leaders of the Arab countries. HRH expressed his aspirations that the meeting's outcomes would foster greater integration and collaboration among Arab countries, advancing collective goals.

HRH the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister noted the importance of strengthening Arab media cooperation to support growth and development across Arab countries to achieve the aspirations of citizens, in line with the visions of Arab leaders.

The Arab Ministers of Information Affairs expressed their

gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HRH Prince Salman, noting their appreciation of His Royal Highness' unwavering support for joint Arab collaboration across various fields.

They concluded by wishing the Kingdom further development and progress.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and several senior officials also attended the meeting.

Sustaining growing Bahrain-US private sector cooperation



HRH the Deputy King meets with Brendan Bechtel

TDT | Manama

The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed the advanced levels of cooperation between the private sectors of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US on the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries.

HRH Prince Salman as speaking as he met yesterday with the Chairman and CEO of the Bechtel Corporation, Brendan Bechtel, at Gudabiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the importance of creating investment opportunities that contribute to strategic collaboration and create job opportunities that benefit the Kingdom's citizens.

He noted the cooperation between the Kingdom and Bechtel Corporation across various vital projects.

HRH the Deputy King reiterated the Kingdom's unwavering commitment to providing an environment that nurtures development, encompasses all the necessary elements for success, and attracts investment, thereby solidifying the Kingdom's investment position in the region.

Bechtel expressed his gratitude for His Royal Highness's commitment to furthering Bahrain-US investment collaboration and wished the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and several senior officials, also attended the meeting.

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Al Dana Award ceremony

Al Dana Drama Awards ceremony and the launch of the Gulf Radio and Television Festival in its (16th) session was held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee. H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, the Minister of Information; Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi, GCC Secretary General; and other Arab Ministers of Information and Media attended the ceremony. HH Shaikh Khalid congratulated the winners of Al Dana Drama Award, expressing his appreciation for their role and contributions to elevating the Arab drama through their works.

Classroom horror

Teacher caught on camera brutally beating students at Wadi AlSail School

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education issued a stern statement yesterday, announcing an investigation into a distressing incident at a local public school.

According to the report, a staff member at Wadi AlSail Primary Intermediate Boys School has been accused of repeatedly physically assaulting students.

Surveillance footage from the school brought to light the appalling scenes, prompting the Ministry to take immediate action.



The use of corporal or verbal punishment towards students in educational institutions is a professional violation.

The staff member in question has been referred to an administrative investigation, with the Ministry recommending his immediate dismissal.

The Ministry stressed emphatically that any form of corporal or verbal punishment against students is considered a serious professional violation.

Termination

The penalties for such actions can lead to the termination of employment in the educational

sector.

The Ministry pointed out the importance of ensuring a safe, nurturing, and non-violent learning environment for all students.

It reiterated the necessity for all educational institutions to completely avoid employing such unacceptable disciplinary methods.

The Ministry has vowed to carry out all requisite measures to uphold the highest standards of student welfare and educational professionalism.

'Speaking solutions' for children with speech delays

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The utterance of a child's first words is akin to uncovering precious gems; they represent a major turning point in their language development. Yet, when these words are delayed, a shadow of anxiety may settle over parents, weighed down by uncertainty and fear.

Zahra Reyadh, a seasoned speech therapist with 12 years of experience, spoke to The Daily Tribune, highlighting the limited availability of comprehensive data and studies on the local incidence of autism, mental disabilities, and misdiagnosis rates in Bahrain. This lack of detailed information can heighten parental anxieties and lead to erroneous assumptions.

To assuage such concerns, Zahra advises, "Should you observe signs of developmental delay in your child and have doubts, I recommend starting language therapy as soon as possible. The



"Should you observe signs of developmental delay in your child and have doubts, I recommend starting language therapy as soon as possible. The condition may be less severe than your anxiety makes out."

- ZAHRA REYADH, SPEECH THERAPIST



Zahra Reyadh guides children with development delays

condition may be less severe than your anxiety makes out."

She further explains, "In addition to speech therapy sessions, a period of at least three months focusing on strengthening parent-child bonds, reducing screen time, and engaging in activities like bedtime stories can significantly aid speech development. In today's fast-paced lifestyle, a lack of connection can

severely impact a child's linguistic progress."

She added, "At my clinic, Speak Out, we adopt a per exclusionem method of diagnosis, involving multiple sessions to determine the root causes of developmental delays. It is crucial to understand that autism and speech delay are not mutually exclusive and often coexist."

"There are instances where a

young child's speech difficulties could be the first obvious indication of autism," she continued, "leading to an initial misdiagnosis of an isolated language disorder. Thus, it is imperative to take one's time when diagnosing in order to guarantee precise evaluation and suitable action."

Challenges

To reduce these challenges, Reyadh suggests, "At the institutional level, we need awareness campaigns for health institutions and multidisciplinary therapeutic and diagnostic teams with oversight power, regulated by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), rather than relying solely on individual efforts."

Moving on to the subject of technology, a topic she said is very close to her heart, she asked her about the promising technology and how AI can be instrumental in diagnosing and managing language developmental issues.

Bahrain attends conference on Beijing +30

Amman

Lulwa Ali Al Rumaihi, the Deputy Chairperson of the Services Committee, and Eman Hasan Showaiter, the Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee, led the Council of Representatives to the Arab Parliament's Dialogue Conference on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action thirty years after its adoption (Beijing +30).

The conference was organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the UN-Women Regional Office for Arab States, and the Arab League.

The delegation emphasised that Bahrain has made significant progress in promoting gender parity and empowering women in various areas.

Salman City housing units construction set to begin



H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi at the groundbreaking ceremony

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, in collaboration with Delmon Gate Real Estate Company, has announced the start of construction on 131 housing units in Salman City.

This initiative is part of the government's land development rights programme (Sharaka), a public-private partnership scheme.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; Mr Abdullah Ali, CEO of Delmon Gate Company, and other senior officials from the ministry and the project's implementing company.

Minister Al Rumaihi stated that this project aligns with the ministry's plan to expand the land development rights programme across all governorates of the Kingdom, building on the positive results achieved in the pilot "Suhail housing" project in the Al Lawzi area.

The programme has seen strong demand from beneficiaries, who can access financing options through the ministry's "Tas'heel" and "Mazaya" schemes.

The minister noted that the current stage of the project, which involves laying the foundations for the residential units, is progressing according to the established timeline, developed in coordination with Delmon Gate Company.

Bahrain promotes women's rights with legislation

TDT | Manama

H.E. Dr. Ebtisam AlDalal, Head of the Services Committee of the Shura Council, announced that Bahrain has significantly advanced women's rights through a strong legislative framework.

This progress has positioned Bahraini women as exemplary in various fields as part of the comprehensive reform project led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Dr. AlDalal's remarks were made during the "Arab Parliaments Dialogue on Regional Reviews of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after Thirty Years," organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN Women, and the League of Arab States in Amman, Jordan.

The Shura Council delegation, led by Dr. Jihad AlFadhel, the Second Vice President, included Dr. Ebtisam AlDalal and Dr. Fatima Al Kooheji, who participated in the dialogue sessions.

Dr. AlDalal highlighted that the Bahraini government continually reviews its legislation to align with the evolving work en-



H.E. Dr. Ebtisam AlDalal, Dr. Jihad AlFadhel and Dr. Ebtisam AlDalal and Dr. Fatima Al Kooheji make up the Shura Council delegation

vironment and global changes.

Active role

Collaboration among parliamentarians is essential to proposing best practices, ensuring laws and proposals remain relevant, and enabling women to play an active role in sustainable economic growth.

National legislation supporting gender balance and women's empowerment reflects the leadership's interest, with support from Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, the President of the Supreme Council for Women. This is evident in the rise of

women's participation in the private sector, which reached over 50% in 2022.

The Bahraini Constitution and the National Charter affirm equality among all citizens without discrimination in rights and duties. Amendments to the Bahraini Labour Law in the private sector have reinforced women's rights in the workplace, granting them the same entitlements as men.

Working mothers

The legislation also addresses the needs of working mothers, providing 60 days of paid maternity leave, two hours of

childcare per day until the child reaches six months, and two half-hour care periods until the child's first birthday. Additionally, the law prohibits the dismissal or termination of a female worker due to marriage or maternity leave.

Dr. Jihad AlFadhel, the Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council, confirmed that Bahrain's legislative, executive, and judicial authorities are collaborating to implement initiatives for gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad Al Khalifa.

Defamation backfires

Liar lawyer sentenced to six months in prison for falsely reporting trainee

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Grand Court of Appeal yesterday delivered a decisive ruling in favour of the Public Prosecution's appeal against a lawyer who had been acquitted of falsely reporting a trainee.

The court sentenced the lawyer to six months in prison for submitting a false report aimed at harming and defaming the trainee.

This case originated from a conflict between the lawyer and

the trainee, who was employed at the lawyer's office. The contention came about over unpaid wages following the cessation of support from the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

The aggrieved trainee pursued legal action to claim these unpaid wages, and the court ruled in his favour, instructing the lawyer to pay the outstanding amounts.

In an act of retaliation, the lawyer filed a false report with the Public Prosecution, accusing the trainee of forging an employment contract and passing it off



to the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO), as well as forging an experience certificate and submitting it to the Ministry of Justice's Office of the General Registrar.

Fraudulent

Upon thorough investigation, the Public Prosecution discerned the report to be fraudulent. The lawyer was thus brought up on charges and stood trial, where the court of first instance initially acquitted him. However, the Public Prosecution contested this decision.

The Grand Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal, sentencing the lawyer to six months' imprisonment. The court concluded that the lawyer's actions were deliberate attempts to damage the trainee's reputation and constituted a criminal offence.

The Chief of the Appeals Prosecution proclaimed that this verdict serves as an unequivocal warning: the legal system will brook no tolerance for false reporting, and individuals engaging in such deceitful conduct will be held to account with the full weight of the law.

Bahrain tourism shines at global fair in China

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has made its mark at the prestigious International Tourism Fair of China (ITB China 2024), held in Shanghai.

With over 600 exhibitors from 80 countries worldwide, the event served as a significant platform for global tourism.

BTEA officials visited the Kingdom of Bahrain's pavilion at the exhibition, showcasing a collective effort alongside Gulf Air, the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, and an array of hotels, resorts, and destination management companies.

During the exhibition, the Bahraini delegation showcased the Kingdom's burgeoning tourism sector, highlighting its key attractions and tourist destinations.

They also presented Bahrain's vibrant agenda, featuring cultural festivals like the Bahrain Food



The Bahrain delegation at the event



The Bahrain pavilion offers tourism packages



Tourists from various countries flock to the Bahrain pavilion

Festival, the Bahrain Holiday Season, and the Spring of Culture, as well as prestigious international events such as the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

Commenting on the participation, Her Excellency Sarah Ahmed Buhiji, CEO of the BTEA, emphasised the pivotal role of the tourism sector in strengthening bilateral relations between Bahrain and China.

Commitment

She underscored the Authority's commitment to positioning the Chinese tourism market as a primary focus of attraction efforts, announcing plans for a forthcoming marketing campaign targeting Chinese markets.

Buhiji further elaborated on the recently launched "China Ready" program, designed to enhance Bahrain's readiness to cater to the specific needs of Chinese tourists and facilitate their travel experiences.

Talks held to address fishermen's concerns

TDT | Manama

A meeting was held to address the pressing concerns raised by a Bahraini fishermen's community regarding the ban on shrimp fishing and the prohibition of certain fish species, namely Al-Safi, Al-Shaari, and Al-Anaq.

This came as House of Representatives Speaker, His Excellency Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, held talks with the President of the Bahraini Professional Fishermen's Association, Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Buainain, along with distinguished representatives including His Excellency Representative Abdunabi Salman Ahmed, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other notable figures.

Central to the discussions was the urgent call for a re-evaluation of the ban on these fish species, ensuring that any decision made does not jeopardise the livelihoods of fishermen nor compromise the marine



Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam with Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Buainain

environment.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of appropriate compensation for the adverse impacts experienced by fishermen due to the ban on shrimp fishing.

Speaker Al Musallam underscored the paramount importance of preserving fish wealth and implementing stringent measures to sustainably manage fisheries, aligning with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the efforts of the government led by His Royal Highness

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Parliamentary support for the fishing profession was reiterated, emphasizing the protection of fishermen's rights, the encouragement of traditional fishing practices, and the conservation of marine resources.

Viable solutions

The Parliament will liaise with relevant authorities to explore viable solutions and ensure that the interests of affected fishermen are duly considered.

'International Embassies Market' event



The Pakistani Women's Association (PWA) collaborated with the Embassy of Pakistan in Bahrain once again for the "International Embassies Market" event held at the Children and Mothers Welfare Society, led by the esteemed Shaikha Hind bint Salman Al Khalifa. Her Excellency Shaikha Aisha bint Rashid Al Khalifa visited the stall at this prestigious event, and the President of the Association, Mrs Shahmeen Islam, together with the Community welfare attache, Tahira Saleem, from the Embassy introduced the unique Pakistani crafts, culture, and cuisine.

Nuwah Foundation joins hands with UK's Revoke

To launch Nafas Well-being & Rehabilitation Centre

● Nafas, to be located in Areen, Bahrain, will support communities in the MENA region with the help of one of the UK's leading mental health organisations

TDT | Manama

Nuwah Foundation (Nuwah), part of Bahrain's GFH Financial Group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom's acclaimed The Revoke Programme to operate the newly launched Nafas Well-being and Rehabilitation Centre in Al Areen, Bahrain.



Officials following the deal signing

Under the guidance of Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, CEO of Nuwah Foundation, and Michael Ishmail, CEO & Founder of The Revoke Programme, the strategic partnership will see the development of a holistic array of services at the Nafas Well-being and Rehabilitation Centre, bridging

expertise and unity of purpose between the two organisations. Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, CEO of Nuwah Foundation, said: "The Middle East and North Africa region is at the cusp of a new era in mental health and wellness. Everyone has the right to live a fulfilling and independent life and

this mindset is reflected in the Nafas Well-being and Rehabilitation Centres' goals, which include promoting independence and self-sufficiency, enhancing quality of life, and promoting community integration."

Michael Ishmail CEO and Founder said: "We look forward to bringing our expertise in mental health treatments, eating disorder treatment, trauma and other specialized treatment plans to Bahrain, inspired by the forward-thinking leadership of Shaikha Hala and the innovative spirit of the MENA region."

Since its launch in February, the Nuwah Foundation, in line with GFH Financial Group's robust Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework, continues to support initiatives that make a lasting impact.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat, recently paid a visit to Silah Gulf, a portfolio company under Mumtalakat. Upon his arrival, he was greeted by Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) and Chairman of Silah Gulf, along with Feras Ahmed, CEO of Silah Gulf. During his visit, Shaikh Abdulla toured the company's facilities and was introduced to its various departments and functions. The visit culminated in a meeting with the chairman of the board and the broader executive management team, where they discussed Silah Gulf's evolution as a customer experience solutions provider, highlighting its numerous industry accolades and its sustained local and regional growth.



Roshcomm announces inaugural PowerList Awards Middle East 2024

TDT | Manama

Roshcomm has announced its inaugural PowerList Awards Middle East 2024 which will be held under the Patronage of Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman, Shura Council on 4th June 2024 at the Intercontinental Regency Hotel, Bahrain.

The Power List Middle East Awards recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements across diverse industries in the Middle East. Designed to honor trailblazers, innovators, and leaders making a significant impact, these awards highlight those driving positive change in their sectors.

With more than 150+ Categories across 15+ Sectors, the mission of the "Power List Middle East" Awards is rooted in celebrating excellence and recognizing outstanding contributions to society. The Award entries will be judged by an independent panel of Jury, who are industry leaders from across various fields.

Announcing this key Patronage, Mr. M. A. Sridhar, CEO of Roshcomm, the event organiser said, "We are extremely pleased that the event will be held under the dynamic



Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman, Shura Council

leadership of Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman, Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain. In recognition of the significant and ongoing contributions made by His Excellency to the overall development of various aspects of the economy and the community in the Kingdom of Bahrain, we are proud, privileged and honoured to have him lead the Power List Awards Middle East 2024. With the leadership of His Excellency, and the support of our various stakeholders, we are confident that The Power-List Awards and related networking events shall become the pre-eminent event geared to recognize and honour outstanding initiatives, leaders, and organizations in the Middle East across 15+ sectors."

New mega-refinery helps Kuwait to record capacity: minister

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwait said Wednesday its refining capacity had reached a record 1.8 million barrels per day as it inaugurated one of the region's biggest refineries which started operating at full capacity in recent months.

Made up of three component units, the huge Al-Zour refinery is one of the biggest in the Middle East. It was officially inaugurated on Wednesday, months after its output reached full capacity of 615,000 bpd.

"We have succeeded in reaching an unprecedented refining capacity of 1.83 million bpd both domestically and abroad," Oil Minister Emad Mohammed al-Atiqi said.

"The refining capacity of domestic refineries amounts to 1.415 million bpd," more than double the 2021 capacity of 600,000 bpd, he added.

OPEC member Kuwait aims to reach a production capacity of 4 million bpd by 2035.

Kuwait operates three refineries at home and three abroad -- in Oman, Vietnam and Italy.

Al Salam Bank launches new watercraft finance offering

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank has recently introduced its newest financing solution tailored for clients purchasing various watercraft, including boats, jet skis, jetties, and more. In line with the product launch, the Bank will also be rolling out an exclusive campaign for clients applying for financing from 29 May to 31 July 2024, where 5 winners will have the chance to win 3 months of paid installment (capped at BD 1,000) each.

As the first of its kind in Bahrain, this initiative reflects the Bank's leading efforts to support the maritime sector through suitable financial solutions including financing new watercraft, "Buy Now Pay Later" for debit and credit cardholders, and other banking products and services with added benefits.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Anwar Murad, Deputy CEO - Banking at Al Salam Bank said: "Through this campaign, we hope to facilitate the ownership of watercraft for our clients. To meet the demand for proper fi-



Al Salam Bank launches new Watercraft Finance offering Sea World

ancial solutions for the maritime sector, we are pleased to be launching this new campaign for clients seeking to purchase a boat, ship, or other watercraft. As such, we would like to encourage clients to complete their financing applications during the campaign period for the opportunity to become one of 5 winners to receive our valuable prizes."

He added: "We are proud to be the first bank in Bahrain to launch an initiative of this kind, with the hope that it contributes to achieving our clients' dreams. We are also pleased to be partnering with Sea World and Yamaha to enrich our overall banking experience by providing clients with more options and exclusive offers."

On his end, Mr. Bader Khalifa

Abdulla AlKhalifa, Vice Chairman at Sea World, said: "We are delighted to be collaborating with Al Salam Bank to extend exclusive offers for the Bank's clients which includes an extended warranty and special service packages, in addition to 3% discounts on an array of watercrafts available for the summer season. This partnership also aims to meet our goal



Launches new Watercraft finance offering Yamaha

of facilitating the ownership of watercraft that meet the needs of our clientele."

Mr. Abduljabbar Al Kooheji, General Manager at Yamaha, expressed: "Our partnership with Al Salam Bank provides an opportunity to deliver exclusive service packages and financing solutions for those seeking to purchase a product."

Both new and existing clients

can apply for financing at the showroom or by contacting the dedicated relationship managers. Once the application has been completed, clients can enjoy the following features: a 6-month grace period, competitive profit rates, seamless processing, flexible monthly payments, facilitated financing conditions, and loyalty rewards points.

autobuzz

BMW unveils Retro-Futuristic 'Concept Skytop'

TDT | agencies

BMW recently unveiled the "Concept Skytop" at the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este near Lake Como, Italy. This one-off show car harkens back to a more sophisticated design era of the brand, while also providing a glimpse into the potential future of BMW's stylish road-going cars.

The Concept Skytop is based on the existing 8 Series but features bespoke body panels and a targa-style open cockpit. It incorporates nostalgic elements from older BMW models, such as a joystick gear lever, replacing the current toggle switches.

Under the hood, the Concept Skytop boasts a pure combustion powertrain with a 4.4-liter



twin-turbocharged V8 engine. Although BMW has not released official power figures, reports suggest it produces around 520 BHP. The engine is mated to an 8-speed automatic gearbox, delivering power to all four wheels.

Aesthetically, the Concept Skytop stands out with its relatively small, illuminated kidney grille at the front, reminiscent of the iconic shark nose of the original CS Coupe. It is flanked by sleek headlights with clean interiors. The sides and rear continue the minimalist design theme with few creases and a sleek pair of taillights. Inside, the Concept Skytop retains the 8 Series origins with a straightforward dashboard layout equipped with plenty of advanced technology.



Porsche launches high-performance 911 hybrid

● The new Porsche 911 Carrera GTS now features a 3.6-liter turbocharged 6-cylinder boxer engine

● Performance-wise, the 911 Hybrid Carrera GTS accelerates from 0-100 km/h in just 3.0 seconds, 0.4 seconds faster than the non-hybrid version

● The 911 Carrera GTS is equipped with a 400V lithium-ion battery pack

TDT | agencies

Porsche has globally unveiled the 911 Hybrid, marking a significant update for the model's mid-cycle facelift in its 7th-generation iteration. Alongside the new hybrid powertrain, the facelift includes various de-



sign and aerodynamic enhancements, as well as an updated, tech-rich interior.

The new Porsche 911 Carrera GTS now features a 3.6-liter turbocharged 6-cylinder boxer engine, combined with a gear-box-mounted electric motor and a liquid-cooled lithium-ion battery pack. This hybrid setup produces a total of 541 BHP and 610 Nm of torque, which is an increase of 60 BHP and 40 Nm over the non-hybrid 3.0-liter engine. The powertrain is paired with an 8-speed automatic gearbox.

Performance-wise, the 911 Hybrid Carrera GTS acceler-

ates from 0-100 km/h in just 3.0 seconds, 0.4 seconds faster than the non-hybrid version, and reaches a top speed of 312 km/h. It has also achieved an impressive Nurburgring lap time of 7 minutes 16.93 seconds, 8.7 seconds quicker than its predecessor and only 4 seconds shy of the Porsche 918 Spyder.

The hybrid system adds 50 kg to the 911, bringing the total weight to 1,595 kg. Despite this, Porsche has optimized weight distribution to a 37:63 front-to-rear ratio, enhancing the car's

handling.

The 911 Carrera GTS is equipped with a 400V lithium-ion battery pack, resulting in a 6-liter reduction in fuel tank capacity. Initially offered as a rear-wheel-drive model,

Porsche has confirmed that the hybrid unit is compatible with four-wheel-drive systems, suggesting future variants.

Design and aerodynamic updates include new active front air ducts with louvres that open and close, a redesigned front bumper with radar and ultrasonic sensors, and headlights with integrated turn indicators. The rear features new OLED taillights, a revised spoiler, and an updated diffuser.

Inside, the 911 Hybrid Carrera GTS replaces the analogue tachometer with an all-digital driver's display and adds hybrid-specific displays to the touchscreen, providing a modern and tech-savvy driving experience.

Xpeng AeroHT X2 Flying Car



An Xpeng AeroHT X2 Flying Car is seen on display in Hong Kong on May 17, 2024 during the launch of Xpeng vehicles into the city for the first time.

The Xpeng AeroHT X2 is a cutting-edge flying car developed by Xpeng's subsidiary AeroHT, showcasing the future of urban air mobility. This innovative vehicle combines the capabilities of a traditional electric car with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) technology, enabling it to navigate both roads and airspace.



Hollande's love affair scooter auctioned off in France

AFP | Montbazon

The scooter at the centre of a headline-grabbing love affair between then-French president François Hollande and his actress lover Julie Gayet sold for 20,500 euros at an auction in France on Sunday.

A huge scandal erupted in 2014 when French glossy magazine Closer said Hollande, who then lived with his partner Valerie Trierweiler, routinely hopped on a scooter to spend the night with his 41-year-old mistress, publishing pictures of the three-wheeler.

Hollande went on to marry Gayet in 2022, and on Sunday, France's most famous scooter was auctioned off at a chateau in the town of Montbazon in western France, according to an AFP correspondent.



President of the Correze General Council and candidate for the French Socialist Party 2012 primary elections, Francois Hollande

The auction, which was organised by the Rouillac auction house and attended by around 40 people, lasted just 10 minutes.

The grey Piaggio MP3 125 was purchased by Denis Breheret, owner of a car museum.

Breheret wants to exhibit the scooter at his museum in the town of Jallais so that "everyone can enjoy it".

"The scooter 'is part of French history," he said.

"I will be presenting it among the 120 vehicles that I already own, which range from 1922 to the present day."

The Elysee Palace, which was the first owner of the scooter, sold it in 2015. The starting price for the vehicle at the auction on Sunday was 10,000 euros.

"It's the Rolls (Royce) of scooters, but its value on the second-hand market is only es-

timated at between 1,300 euros and 4,000 euros", said auctioneer Aymeric Rouillac.

"In January 2014, François Hollande's scooter entered the category of legendary vehicles," the Rouillac auction house said in a statement.

"It tells the story of a man like any other and of a nation torn between its desire for power and the realisation of its decline."

Trierweiler took revenge on Hollande for spurning her for Gayet with a sensational 2014

kiss-and-tell memoir called "Thank You for This Moment", which all but sank Hollande's presidency.

Before his relationship with the journalist Trierweiler, Hollande was involved for three decades with Segolene Royal, a French Socialist politician who unsuccessfully ran for president in 2007. They have four children.

Speaking on television in April, a smiling Hollande, 69, said: "I've always had scooters, and this was the last one."



The Piaggio MP3 125 is a versatile and innovative three-wheeled scooter designed for urban mobility and comfort. Featuring a 124cc engine, the MP3 125 offers a blend of power and efficiency suitable for city commuting. Its unique three-wheel configuration provides enhanced stability and safety, making it a reliable choice for riders of all experience levels.

Boxing federation to pay bonuses for Olympic medals



Representative picture

AFP | Lausanne, Switzerland

The International Boxing Association (IBA) said on Wednesday it would follow the example of track and field's global federation by paying prize money for medals at the Paris Olympics.

The IBA has made the move despite the fact that the boxing programme at the Paris Games will be run by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) after the federation was stripped of the role because of concerns about its financial transparency.

The IBA, which is backed by Russian gas giant Gazprom, is going further than World Athletics, which is paying \$50,000 to gold medalists, but nothing to the minor medalists at this year's Games.

The IBA says it will pay gold, silver and bronze medalists bonuses from a total budget of \$3.1 million.

Four-year doping ban for Colombia's Lopez

AFP | Paris, France

Colombia's Miguel Angel Lopez has been banned from cycling for four years over a possession and use offence dating from shortly prior to the 2022 Giro d'Italia, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old is one of Colombia's best loved cyclists and is nicknamed 'Superman' after he beat up a gang of bike thieves as a junior rider. But on Wednesday the man who came third in both the Giro and Vuelta in 2018 was banned until July 2027 for possession and use of prohibited hormone treatment menotropin.

USA looking for wins in T20 World Cup debut

AFP | Fort Lauderdale, United States

The USA will make their debut in the T20 World Cup and while they earned the spot as a result of co-hosting the tournament with the West Indies, they are determined to show they can make an impact among the big boys.

Cricket has a curious history in North America -- the first ever international match featured the USA against Canada in 1844 but the lingering influence of the colonial-era game faded as baseball gained prominence.

The USA has been an associate member of the International Cricket Council since 1965 and frequently competed in the tournaments for non-Test nations. But the Americans have never featured in either the T20 World Cup or the ODI version, with their only appearance in a



The statues of Sir Garfield Sobers (C), Sir Charles Griffith (L) and Sir Wesley Hall (R) ahead of ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados, on May 24, 2024. The ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 will be played in the United States and the Caribbean from June 1 to June 29.

major tournament at the 2004 Champions Trophy, where they were roundly beaten by New Zealand and Australia in the

the T20 format has been used to develop a stronger base with Minor League Cricket and Major League Cricket emerging in the past few years.

It is too soon for those structures to have had an impact on the national side but smart use of the qualification criteria has seen the side become increasingly competitive.

The team coached by Australian Stuart Law head into the tournament on the back of a 2-1 T20I series win over Bangladesh that has provided them with real belief.

The Americans won the opening two games before resting several key starters to provide some opportunity for their back-ups.

The USA, captained by Monank Patel, will have to face giants India and Pakistan along with Ireland and Canada in the group stage.

group stage.

Grassroots participation has grown over recent years though with thriving local leagues and

Djokovic believes Nadal could be back in 2025

AFP | Paris, France

Novak Djokovic believes longtime rival Rafael Nadal could be tempted to play the 2025 French Open despite experiencing the "unique moment" of what was generally accepted to be the great Spaniard's farewell.

Djokovic and Nadal have met 59 times in their careers with 10 of those clashes coming at Roland Garros.

Djokovic was in a star-studded crowd on Court Philippe Chatrier on Monday as 14-time champion Nadal was knocked out in straight sets in the first round by Alexander Zverev.

"It was great. Iga (Swiatek) was there, (Carlos) Alcaraz was there, and we all wanted to get a glimpse of the atmosphere of that possibly unique moment that could be his last. But it

doesn't appear like that," said Djokovic after making the second round on Tuesday.

When asked if he expected to see Nadal play the 2025 French Open when he will celebrate his 39th birthday, the Serb replied: "Yeah, it looks like."

"I think he played very well. Even though he lost in straight sets, the second and third were really close.

"He could have easily won one of those two sets, and maybe the match was going in a different direction."

After the match Nadal said he was unable to make any commitment on his future plans.

Zverev joined Djokovic and

Robin Soderling as the only men to de-

feat Nadal at Roland Garros since 2005.

"He was a bit unlucky with the draw, because Zverev is in a great form, winning Rome, and he was serving extremely well," added Djokovic.

"It's tough to play Sascha when he's feeling the ball so well. But it was great to watch. I don't recall last time I actually watched a set of any match live on that level, other than Davis Cup matches."



India Grand Prix cancelled and replaced by Kazakhstan

AFP | Paris, France

The Indian MotoGP scheduled to take place in September has been cancelled and will be replaced by Kazakhstan, motorcycling event organisers Dorna said on Wednesday.

The race in India has been scrapped due to "operational considerations" but will return early in the 2025 season.

Kazakhstan's planned MotoGP next month was postponed because of devastating floods in the country but will now take place on September 20 to 22.

"Following advice from the Government of Uttar Pradesh as the state continues its long-term commitment to MotoGP, the sport will return to Buddh International Circuit in March 2025, when weather conditions are expected to be optimal for spectators and riders alike," Dorna said.

The Kazakhstan race had been due to take place at Almaty's Sokol International Racetrack from June 14-16 but unprecedented bad weather and flooding across Central Asia sparked a national emergency.



Representative picture

Everest records tumble as season ends with eight dead

AFP | Kathmandu, Nepal

Mountaineers on Everest left the world's highest peak on Wednesday, ending a climbing season that broke multiple records but left eight people dead, tourism officials and expedition organisers said.

More than 600 climbers and guides reached the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) high Himalayan summit, Rakesh Gurung of the tourism department said, with the exact total yet to be verified.

Records rewritten as baseball incorporates Negro Leagues stats

AFP | New York, United States

Major League Baseball formally adopted statistics from the racially segregated Negro Leagues into its official history on Wednesday, rewriting the record books at a stroke in a landmark move which confronts the sport's racist past.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement the decision gave long-overdue recognition to the achievement of African-American players in the league who deserve to be ranked alongside baseball's most iconic names.

"All of us who love baseball have long known that the Negro Leagues produced many of our game's best players, innovations



Pictures for representation only

and triumphs against a backdrop of injustice," Manfred said on the league's website.

"We are now grateful to count the players of the Negro Leagues where they belong: as Major Leaguers within the official historical record."

Black players were barred from competing in the major leagues due to racism and segregation laws until Jackie Robinson famously broke baseball's color barrier by debuting for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947.

However while the segregated league produced many players who would go onto forge dazzling careers in Major League Baseball, their statistical achievements from that era were never recognised.

In 2020 however, with the United States plunged into nationwide soul-searching over racial injustice following the death of George Floyd, MLB chiefs said it was time to finally grant "Major League" status to the Negro Leagues, in a move Manfred described as "correcting a longtime oversight" in the game's history.

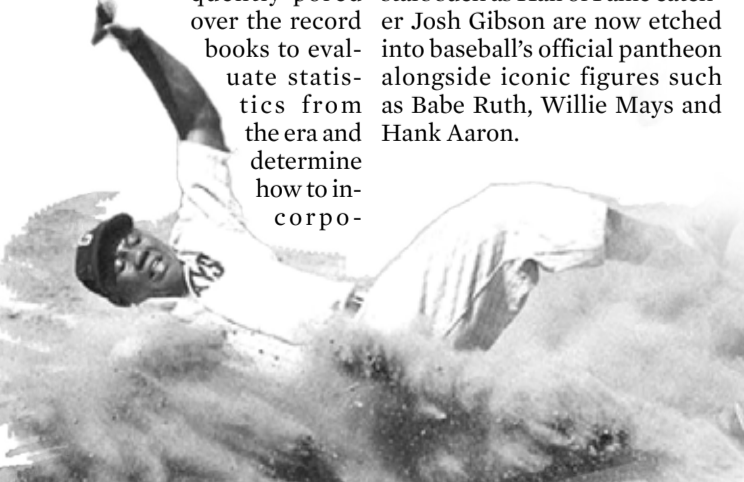
A panel of Negro Leagues experts and historians subsequently pored over the record books to evaluate statistics from the era and determine how to incorporate them into MLB history.

Wednesday's move means that the likes of Negro Leagues stars such as Hall of Fame catcher Josh Gibson are now etched into baseball's official pantheon alongside iconic figures such as Babe Ruth, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron.

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Alcaraz survives scare

● Alcaraz weathered a third-set blip against world number 176 Jesper de Jong before the Spaniard came through 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

AFP | Paris, France

Carlos Alcaraz needed four sets to reach the third round of the French Open yesterday ahead of a blockbuster clash between defending champion Iga Swiatek and Naomi Osaka as persistent rain caused widespread disruption to the tournament.

Alcaraz weathered a third-set blip against world number 176 Jesper de Jong before the Spaniard came through 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Swiatek saves match point to beat Osaka at French Open

AFP | Paris, France

Defending champion Iga Swiatek saved a match point to outlast fellow four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka 7-6 (7/1), 1-6, 7-5 in a breathtaking second-round clash at the French Open on

Wednesday.

World number one Swiatek trailed 5-2 in the final set but the Pole won the last five games of the match to keep her bid for a third successive Roland Garros title on track.

She is attempting to become

only the fourth woman in the Open era to lift four Roland Garros titles and just the second -- after Serena Williams -- to complete the clay-court treble of Madrid, Rome and French Opens in the same season.

Wimbledon champion Alcaraz arrived in Paris with doubts over his fitness after a right forearm injury sidelined him for almost a month.

After dropping just four games in his Roland Garros opener, third seed Alcaraz looked to be cruising against De Jong, a Dutchman taking part in only his second Grand Slam main draw, but he was ultimately made to work harder than expected.

The 21-year-old Alcaraz was broken five times and hit 47 unforced errors before De Jong, playing his fifth match at the tournament, eventually wilted.

"Every player can cause you trouble," said Alcaraz. "You have to be focussed in every round, have to play at your best, it doesn't matter what the ranking is. Jesper has the work and level to break into the top 100."

Alcaraz goes on to face either American 27th seed Sebastian Korda or South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo for a place in the last 16. Former French Open finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the last 32 for the sixth straight year with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4 win over Germany's Daniel Altmaier. Sofia Kenin, runner-up in 2020, became the first woman through to round three after dispatching French number one Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-3 as play on all but the main two courts was called off for the day around 1500 GMT.

The action on Court Simonne Mathieu and the other outside courts had been interrupted for five hours since just before midday local time before the decision came to call off 23 singles matches.

Eighth seed Ons Jabeur overcame Colombia's Camila Osorio in three sets in the other completed second-round tie.



Kompany

Bayern appoint Kompany to end long search for new coach

Munich, Germany

Bayern Munich named Vincent Kompany as the new coach of the German giants on a three-year contract on Wednesday, in a surprise move.

Kompany, 38, joins Bayern despite seeing his Burnley team relegated from the Premier League this season.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of FC Bayern. It's a great honour to be able to work for this club - FC Bayern is an institution in international football," said Kompany in a club statement.

"I'm now looking forward to the basics: working with the players, building a team. Once the basis is right, success will follow."

Kompany's hiring brings to an end Bayern's exhaustive search for a replacement for Thomas Tuchel after the club's first trophyless season in 12 years.

Bayern announced that Tuchel would depart at the end of the season in February after falling behind eventual champions Bayer Leverkusen in the title race.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, Germany boss Julian Nagelsmann and Austria manager Ralf Rangnick all reportedly turned down Bayern's interest.

French Open results, the fourth day of the 2024 tournament at Roland Garros (x denotes seeded player):

Men 2nd rd

Andrey Rublev (RUS x6) bt Pedro Martinez (ESP) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x9) bt Daniel Altmaier (GER) 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4

Carlos Alcaraz (ESP x3) bt Jesper de Jong (NED) 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2

Women 2nd rd

Iga Swiatek (POL x1) bt Naomi Osaka (JPN) 7-6 (7/1), 1-6, 7-5

Coco Gauff (USA x3) bt Tamara Zidansek (SLO) 6-3, 6-4

Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Caroline Garcia (FRA x21) 6-3, 6-3

Ons Jabeur (TUN x8) bt Camila Osorio (COL) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3



I was in trouble at points. In the whole match, Jesper and I put on a good show, drop shots, volleys and I think he did it better than me!

CARLOS AL-CARAZ

PSG withhold wages due to Mbappe amid financial dispute

AFP | Paris, France

Paris Saint-Germain have not paid Kylian Mbappe his wages for April as well as a mega-bucks bonus amid a financial dispute between the club and the player as he prepares to leave the French champions, sources close to the talks told AFP yesterday.

PSG's decision to withhold Mbappe's salary is related to an agreement between the two parties made last year, at the start of the season, when the player accepted to waive part of a bonus due to him, the source said.

However, the source stated the talks between the club and the France captain were "relaxed" and that there was hope of reaching "a positive conclusion".

"Everything is being sorted out," the source said without



France's forward Kylian Mbappe (R) jokes with France's head coach Guy Stephan (C) and France's head coach Didier Deschamps (L) at the end of a training session in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines, as part of the team's preparation for upcoming UEFA Euro 2024 Football Championship

confirming the amount of money due to Mbappe.

However, another source con-

tacted by AFP said PSG had also decided not to pay Mbappe a bonus owed, meaning the amount

of money in question totalled some 80 million euros (\$86.8m), confirming figures reported by sports daily L'Equipe.

The same source said the club had decided not to make the payments without warning Mbappe and without an agreement being reached between the parties.

Neither Mbappe's entourage nor PSG immediately responded when contacted by AFP for comment.

Mbappe's contract expires on June 30 and he has already confirmed he will leave PSG after seven years, with Real Madrid expected to be his next destination.

The two camps admitted at the beginning of this year Mbappe had agreed to waive part of a huge bonus that was due to him in order to be reinstated to the PSG squad after he was frozen out of the team at the

beginning of the season.

The total amount of these bonuses is between 60 and 70 million euros, according to a source close to the club.



PSG's decision to withhold Mbappe's salary is related to an agreement between the two parties made last year, at the start of the season, when the player accepted to waive part of a bonus due to him

Waiving that sum was seen as a way of Mbappe helping PSG recoup some money given that they will not receive a transfer fee for the 25-year-old when he departs.

However, another source said Mbappe did in fact receive that bonus in February.

Mbappe signed his last contract with PSG in 2022, a two-year deal worth some 72 million euros before tax.

On top of that there was a stratospheric signing-on fee of 150 million euros, to be paid in three instalments, and a loyalty bonus of 70 million euros for the first year and 80 million euros for the second year.

In addition, he would have received a further 90 million euros had he agreed to take up the option of staying for a third year, according to the daily Le Parisien.