

BUSINESS

Google agrees to settle \$5 billion lawsuit over 'incognito' mode

Kingdom keen on preserving environment, wildlife

TDT | Manama

goals (SDGs).

Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al the field of preserving wildlife ed the SCE's great interest in

Khalifa.

In a statement marking the countries. $\mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{ahrain}}$ is keen to support all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Wildlife Day, observed every cially those related to biodiversi- December 30, HH Shaikh Abty, in order to achieve the King- dulla asserted that Bahrain has ed the GCC countries' efforts to dom's sustainable development attained numerous regional and implement the Convention on global honourable achievements the Conservation of Wildlife and This was affirmed yesterday and gains in conserving the en- Their Natural Habitats, citing HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al by His Majesty the King's per- vironment and mitigating cli- their designation of December Khalifa sonal representative and Su- mate change effects, as well as 30 as an annual occasion to celpreme Council for Environment in enhancing joint-cooperation ebrate wildlife. (SCE) president His Highness and exchanging experiences in HH Shaikh Abdulla highlight- and its great role in human life.

and biodiversity with other GCC

GCC Initiatives

HH Shaikh Abdulla commend-



promoting awareness of the importance of preserving wildlife

organising field visits to re- natural reserves in Bahrain. serves and parks, contributing He added that the SCE has into projects of school and uni- augurated the Mangrove Nursversity students regarding the ery in Ras Sanad, within the mangrove plant cultivation, and Tubli Bay Reserve. This is part participating in forums on the of the SCE's plans to intensify mangrove plant project and its national efforts aimed at movimportance in mitigating the ing forward towards increasing effects of climate change to en- the green area and quadrupling among all segments of society, with the Kingdom's commitнн Shaikh Abdulla said.

HH Shaikh Abdulla indicated neutrality to preserve the envi-SCE activities have included that there are a great number of ronment.

hance environmental awareness mangrove trees by 2035, in line ment to achieving zero carbon

WHO chief 'very concerned' by **Gaza infectious** disease threat AFP | Geneva

World Health Organ-isation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said yesterday he was "very concerned" about the growing threat of infectious diseases in the Gaza Strip.

"As people continue to be massively displaced across the south of Gaza, with some families forced to move multiple times and many sheltering in overcrowded health facilities, my WHO colleagues and I remain very concerned about the increasing threat of infectious diseases," Tedros said on X, formerly Twitter.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas -- considered a "terrorist" group by the United States and European Union --- in retaliation for the October 7 attack which

'An impossible situation'

UN Security Council holds late night meeting on Gaza crisis

Aid convoys shot at: **UN humanitarian chief**

 Israel pounds Gaza, nearly 12 weeks into war

Egypt hosts Hamas delegation for talks

AFP | Gaza City



left about 1,140 people dead, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures.

Around 250 hostages were also taken during the attack, more than half of whom remain captive.

Israel's relentless aerial bombardment and ground invasion in Gaza have killed at least 21,320 people, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Tedros said that since mid-October until mid-December, people living in shelters had continued to fall sick. He said that close to 180,000 people were suffering with upper respiratory infections, while 136,400 cases of diarrhoea have been recorded -- half of those among children aged under five.

220 fils (includes VAT)



he United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday an aid convoy came under fire from Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, without causing any casualties.

"Israeli soldiers fired at an aid convoy as it returned from northern Gaza along a route designated by the Israeli army -- our international convoy leader and his team were not injured but one vehicle sustained damage," UNRWA's director in Gaza, Tom White, wrote on X.

According to UNRWA, the incident took place on Thursday United Nations predominantly, afernoon. Responding to re- and other partners in the inflow quests for comment, the Israeli of trucks into Gaza." military said it was looking into reports about the incident.

itarian chief Martin Grifiths COGAT, took a swipe at UNRWA elaborating.

"You think getting aid into wrote on X. Gaza is easy? Think again," he said.

blame for the limited human- Are you?" Lazzarini responded itarian deliveries into Gaza on yesterday, describing as "base- despair" in Gaza, with Palestini- for talks aimed at ending the con- air strike On Thursday.

A child eats amid the rubble of destroyed buildings following Israeli bombardment in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. AFP

aid agencies themselves.

Earlier this month, Israeli President Isaac Herzog claimed there had been "a failure by the

The Israeli military body responsible for civilian afairs Earlier vesterday. UN human- in the Palestinian territories. help them." Aid convoys had inspection are waiting on the ly held UNRWA responsible for on the spot." been shot at, he said, without Egyptian side to be received up gaps in aid deliveries." by your organisation," COGAT

Israeli oficials have laid the manitarian aid. We are ready. in a statement.

At the UN Security Council as the ongoing crisis in Gaza meeting last night, France continues to worsen, France called for an immediate and added. lasting ceasefire, with the help must be delivered immediate- supporting cessation of hosly and in sufficient quantity, tilities.

"The delivery of much needed **Pounded** and urgent aid continues to be "Instead of tweeting, come limited in quantities and riddled work with us to increase hu- with logistical hurdles," he said nearly 12 weeks into the war start- bombed too. Rafah residents

Russia, meanwhile, critiof all regional and internation- cised the United States as the al partners. Humanitarian aid only country besides Israel not

described on X "an impossi- chief Philippe Lazzarini on Sun- less misinformation" the re- ans going to UNRWA warehouses ble situation for the people of day regarding aid flow. "Right marks by Israeli oficials who he "to take supplies or interrupt tral Deir al-Balah and the big-Gaza, and for those trying to now, hundreds of trucks after said "have insinuated or direct- aid trucks picking food to eat gest southern city, Khan Yu-

ed by the October 7 attacks, as combed through rubble for sur-Lazzarini described "a state of Egypt hosted a Hamas delegation vivors and bodies after a deadly

flict that has devastated much of the besieged Palestinian territory.

With vast areas of northern Gaza in ruins and largely deserted, Israeli air strikes and ground combat have focussed on central and southern districts, driving ever more displaced families into crowded areas around Rafah near the Egyptian border.

Intense fighting around cennis, has driven about 100,000 newly displaced people into already-overcrowded Rafah, said the UN humanitarian of-Israel pounded Gaza yesterday, fice, even as targets there were

news of bahrain

THE tribune

Kingdom's digital strides recognised

Bahrain Open Data Portal wins Best Open Data Initiative at fifth GCC eGovernment Awards

Bahrain Open Data Portal developed 387 government databases and over two million records, adhering to global best practices and UN standards for open data

Team behind **National Suggestions** and Complaints System (Tawasul) receive Certificate of **Excellence in the Best Digital Community** eParticipation category

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Open Data Portal, which has by 34 government entities. won the Best Open Data Initi-



Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, third from right, with other iGA officials and the award ative at the fifth GCC eGovernment Awards.

Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) chief executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed congratulated and thanked the team behind the portal, data.gov. bh, which adheres to global best the National Suggestions and practices and United Nations standards for open data.

The team's endeavors included developing infrastructure and databases and updating the early 400 government portal with statistics, culminatdatabases and over two ing in the establishment of 387 million records have government databases and over been established in the Bahrain two million records, contributed

useful, and valuable information.

Al Qaed also congratulated final stage of the award which key sectors. saw strong competition from a range of GCC digital projects.

ments, which are the result of Communication Technology

government services.

Al Qaed expressed his gratifor their efforts and for receiving technology (ICT), driven by a ment for the Gulf region. a Certificate of Excellence in the vision that focuses on advancing

He also congratulated Minis- user experience. ter of Interior and Ministerial

power decision-makers, inves- to develop the portal-one of the kh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khaltors, researchers, and citizens by key digital initiatives supporting ifa, acknowledging his crucial providing them with accessible, the Kingdom's digital transfor- role in guiding and overseeing mation and its enhancement of the iGA's national initiatives and ongoing project development.

These efforts were pivotand thanked the team behind tude to the senior leadership and al in the recent launch of the government for their support of revamped Bahrain Open Data Complaints System (Tawasul) information and communication Portal, a significant accomplish-

Al Oaed reaffirmed the com-Best Digital Community ePartic- technology and digital transfor- mitment to further enhancing extensive features, which allow ipation category, reaching the mation across the Kingdom's the portal and all national systems and projects, to improve

He commended these achieve- Committee for Information and tal's role in promoting transpar- established guidelines to meet ency, encouraging eParticipation the diverse needs of stakehold-The portal is designed to em- the iGA teams' dedicated efforts (MCICT) chairman General Shai- and innovation, and disseminat- ers and specialists.



The Bahrain Open Data Portal is designed to empower decision-makers, investors, researchers, and citizens by providing them with accessible, useful, and valuable information

ing government data. He invited everyone to utilise the portal's for the sharing and distribution of government information in accessible formats, free of Al Qaed highlighted the por- charge, and in accordance with

King's economic affairs advisor receives IGOAI president

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His Majesty the King's eco-nomic affairs advisor Dr Hassan bin Abdulla Fakhro received International Group of Artificial Intelligence (IGOAI) president Dr Jassim Haji Jassim.

Dr Fakhro expressed appreciation to Dr Haji highlighting his efforts to promote the culture and awareness of artificial intelligence (AI) science in society and among entrepreneurs.

Dr Haji, who is also the executive advisor to the HH Shaikh Nasser Centre for Research and Development for AI and Data Sciences, expressed gratitude in the Kingdom. to Dr Fakhro for the major role



Dr Hassan bin Abdulla Fakhro, right, with Dr Jassim Haji during their meeting

behalf of the IGOAI in recogni-Dr Haji presented Dr Fakhro tion of his efforts to develop AI he has played in developing AI with a commemorative gift on in the Kingdom over past years.

Foreign Minister meets with newly appointed ambassadors



The Foreign Minister, centre, with the newly appointed ambassadors during their meeting TDT | Manama

inister of Foreign Affairs M Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani received Bahrain's newly appointed ambassadors at the ministry.

The ambassadors were Essam Abdul Aziz Al Jassim, plomacy in implementing the Osama Abdullah Al Absi, Dr foreign policy of the Kingdom Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, Shai- of Bahrain and attending to the ate and gratitude for the royal

Al Aradi, Adul Aziz Mohammed Al Eid, and Bassam Ahmed Marzouq.

The minister congratulated the ambassadors on the royal Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. appointment. He highlighted the importance of Bahraini dikh Khalifa bin Abdullah bin interests of the country and its trust.

Hamad Al Khalifa, Ali Jassim citizens, in light of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the approach of the government led by His Royal Highness Prince the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

On their part, the ambassadors expressed this appreci-

Indian Embassy holds open house

🗕 Around 50 Indian nationals take part in grievance redressal process, in presence of **Indian Ambassador**

TDT | Manama

round 50 Indian nationals Atook part in the Indian Embassy's last open house of the year, held yesterday and chaired by Indian Ambassador Vinod K Jacob.

The embassy's consular team and panel of lawyers were also took part in the grievance redressal process.

bour and social affairs.



Officials and attendees at the open house

The community members of Indian community organisa- Fund. present in the open house were tions and volunteers in helping present, as those who attended briefed on the LMRA guidelines. the distressed members of Indi- Indian nationals were success-Bahrain government authori-The Indian Ambassador ties, including the Ministry of help distressed Indian nationthanked the Labour Market Labour, LMRA and immigration als including housemaids by earliest possible time. Regulatory Authority (LMRA) officials for their prompt sup- providing boarding and accomfor organising a valuable in- port and action concerning con- modation, as well as granting all the Indian associations and teractive session earlier this sular and community welfare emergency certificates and tick- community members for their month, in connection with la- matters. He also appreciated ets to persons in need through active participation in the open the commitment and dedication the Indian Community Welfare gathering.

The grievances/issues of the The ambassador thanked and ispora throughout the year. fully addressed, with some be-The mission continues to

ing resolved at the open house and others to be taken up at the

Ambassador Jacob thanked

Shura chairman praises Bahrain's housing strategy

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Shura Council chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh has affirmed that the remarkable progress made by the Kingdom in providing housing services to citizens over the past years, as part of the government's programmes and initiatives, is in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to implement development and urban projects that Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh serve citizens and ensure the stability of Bahraini families. housing project, held under

the Kingdom's regions.

auguration of the East Sitra citizens.



Al Saleh commended the HRH the Crown Prince and tremendous efforts exerted Prime Minister's patronage by the government, led by His on Thursday, adds to the King-Royal Highness Prince Sal- dom's rich record of housing man bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the achievements, noting that it Crown Prince and Prime Min- is within Bahrain's unwaverister, to implement housing ing efforts to provide distinprojects and distribute hous- guished projects according ing units to the citizens across to the best and modern construction standards, in a way He pointed out that the in- that achieves stability for the

news of bahrain

daily tribune

Court begins appeal review of sentenced employee

Administrative employee given jail time for exploiting authority, manipulating salary

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The High Appeals Court has begun reviewing the appeal of a company's administrative employee who was sentenced to three years in prison after being convicted of abusing his authority in the General Organisation of Social Insurance (GOSI) System.

He increased his eligible salary by more than BD100 in order to increase his insurance benefits.

The Court of Appeals has decided to postpone the next session until January 14.

The incident's details indicate that the accused holds the position of an administrative manager in a company. He exploited his available authority in the electronic system of the GOSI, being one of the individuals with access.

Based on that, he manipulated the data in the information technology system to show incorrect data as if it were correct, stating that he increased his eligible salary from BD1,752 to BD1,855.

This resulted in the company being obliged to pay insurance benefits to the administrative manager in the amount of BD1,400 for a year until his actions were discovered and he was referred to the relevant authorities.

After conducting the necessary investigations into the incident and reviewing the company's records in the electronic system of the GOSI, it was found that a person authorised by the company had accessed the employer's account and modified the salary.

It was revealed that the administrative manager was the one who carried out this incident as he was one of the individuals with access to the electronic system, and possessed the ability to modify the salaries of employees.

Overcoming obstacles, one powerful note at a time

Bahraini singer Mahmood AlHaiki inspires at Side by Side Festival in Armenia

Mahir Haneef TDT | Manama

C tanding tall amidst a chorus of diverse voices, Bahraini singer Mahmood AlHaiki wasn't just representing his country at the Side by Side Festival in Armenia; he was redefining artistic expression, one powerful note at a time.

Despite the physical challenges that life has thrown his way, Mahmood's passion for music burns bright.

Financial hurdles too threatened his participation in Armenia, but Hilton Garden Inn and the National Institute for Disabled in Bahrain stepped in, proving that music truly knows no bounds.

Transcending limitations, Mahmood's voice became a beacon of hope and inspiration, not just for fellow artists with message." disabilities, but for anyone who dares to dream.

miss something. God gave you a journey. voice, use it to sing, to share your



Mahmood AlHaiki at the Side by Side Festival in Armenia

And share he does. Mahmood's music isn't just entertainment; "This song, it's speaking to it's a testament to the human ed to the stage. Meeting other that encouragement, it can everyone," Mahmood says, his spirit's ability to overcome. His artists with disabilities at the words resonating with a quiet song from last year, 'Don't Destrength. "Don't despair. You spair', was a deeply personal clusivity within him. "We need Mahmood wants to see. His a symbol of hope, a testament have a role in this life, even if you anthem, a chronicle of his own this in Bahrain," he declares, his message to aspiring Bahraini to the power of music to bridge

This year, his voice soared

Mahmood AlHaiki with a supporter at the hall of his performance

sage of universal resilience.

But his impact wasn't limitfestival ignited a passion for invoice filled with conviction.

"Imagine professional sing- unwavering belief: "There are sing our own unique song.

across borders, carrying a mes- ers sharing the stage with those who have the talent but need a little guidance. That respect, change lives."

artists with disabilities is one of divides and empower us all to

Don't despair. You have a role in this life, even if you miss something. God gave you a voice, use it to sing, to share your message.

- ΜΔΗΜΟΟΟ ΔΙ ΗΔΙΚΙ

no limits to your talent, your dreams. Believe in yourself, work hard, and share your voice. The world is waiting to listen."

His own future is brimming with possibilities. The Side by Side Festival wasn't just a platform; it was a springboard.

Mahmood is already preparing a new song for next year's event, his heart set on spreading his message of inclusivity even further.

As the final notes of his story fade, one thing becomes abundantly clear: Mahmood AlHaiki And change is exactly what is more than just a singer; he's

Appeals Court adjourns case of drug trafficking gang

Defendants part of an organised network involved in smuggling drugs into Kingdom

TDT | Manama

and tennis balls.

Previously, the lower court had pronounced the five defendants guilty of importing, possessing, and trafficking drugs and controlled substances. The 📨 prosecution accused them of concealing the illicit substances within cricket and tennis balls. The court sentenced the de-

fendants to 15 years in prison, The High Criminal Appeals along with a fine of BD5,000 Representative image court has decided to post- each. Additionally, the confispone the trial of a gang com- cated items were ordered to be on a report received from the that the defendants were part The Public Prosecution intheir sentences.



posed of five convicted individ- seized, and the defendants will Anti-Narcotics Department of of an organised network in- terrogated the defendants, preuals involved in the importation be permanently expelled from the General Directorate of Crim- volved in smuggling drugs into senting them with the seized of drugs concealed in cricket the country upon completion of inal Investigation and Forensic the Kingdom of Bahrain, with a drugs and the evidence against Science. The report stated that a non-resident defendant serving them. Testimonies from wit-According to the details of the postal package containing drugs as the network's leader. incident, the Public Prosecution was discovered by the customs initiated an investigation based authorities at an air entry point. sophisticated methods and sub- confiscated items.

The investigations indicated the drugs.

The package had been sent from sequently brought them into an Asian country and was ad- Bahrain. The first defendant, dressed to one of the defendants. who is believed to be the net-Further examination revealed work's leader, had already left that the drugs, including canna- the Kingdom before the arrival bis and the psychotropic sub- of the shipment. The second and stance methamphetamine, were third defendants were responsiintricately concealed inside ten- ble for receiving the smuggled nis and cricket balls. Two suc- parcels, while the fourth and cessful ambush operations led fifth defendants were involved to the arrest of the defendants. in concealing and trafficking

The defendants will be brought from their detention facilities for the next hearing.

They smuggled drugs using were appointed to examine the

nesses were heard, and experts

Works Minister inspects progress in Muharrag infrastructure projects



Minister of Works Ibrahim Hassan Al Hawaj made an inspection visit to the infrastructure development projects in the fifth constituency of Muharraq Governorate, which are currently implemented as part of the third batch of projects for developing roads, sanitation, and municipality services. The minister inspected the project to set up a sanitary network in Galali on Block 255, which will serve 75 real estate properties, as part of the development project of Shaikh Isa bin Rashid Al Khalifa Street and Road 5441 in Block 254 in Galali, which will serve 205 properties. Al Hawaj reviewed the progress of work in the project to set up a sanitary network in Wahat Al Muharraq in Block 255, which will serve 356 properties. The Works Minister also inspected an upcoming sanitary network project in Block 255 in Galali.

ICRF conducts medical camp for 200 workers



Officials at the medical camp

TDT | Manama

The Indian Community Rea medical camp for workers of Eastern Precast Company.

Eker and nearly 200 employees Sandhu and Dr Manoj, conduct- cal awareness campaigns.

took advantage of the medical ed the checkup.

checkup and doctors consultation.

lief Fund (ICRF) organised Kims Health Hospital, Al Hilal sular officer Suman Bhat. ICRF Medical Centre, Shifa Al Ja- Chairman Dr Babu Ramachanzeera Medical Centre and Dar dran addressed the workers and The medical camp was held in Al Shifa Hospital, along with Dr briefed them about ICRF's medi-

Doctors and paramedics from Indian Embassy assistant con-

The company's safety officer The camp was inaugurated by Mr Nishant thanked ICRF for their commitment to the community as well as for arranging the medical camp.

> All the workers were given dinner packets after their medical checkup.

news of bahrain

Rightful compensation awarded

High Administrative Court orders insurance company to pay claimant BD12,000 following car accident-related disability

TDT | Manama

he High Administrative Court ruled to compel compensate an individual with responsible for causing his per-BD12,000 after a car insured by manent disability during a traffic the company caused perma- accident. He claimed that the nent disability to the claimant defendant was driving in the in a traffic accident, evaluated wrong direction, resulting in by medical committees at a rate a head-on collision that led to of 30 per cent.

The court affirmed that the damage to his own vehicle. driver of the car was at fault, as he was driving in the opposite sued, convicting the defendant. ant's injury.

making it liable for the rightful ity accounting for 30 per cent of

compensation to the claimant based on the insurance contract. The claimant filed a lawsuit. an insurance company to alleging that the defendant was the claimant's injury, as well as

A criminal judgment was isdirection and caused the claim- The court reviewed the case and examined the report provided by Additionally, the court con- the appointed medical commitfirmed that the vehicle involved tees, which concluded that the in the accident was insured by claimant suffered severe injuries the company (the defendant), resulting in a permanent disabil-



Representative picture

their total disability. nal judgment holds authority in The court stated that a crimi- civil proceedings before a civil



Court-appointed medical committees concluded that the claimant suffered severe injuries resulting in a permanent disability accounting for 30 per cent of their total disability

court whenever it renders a decisive ruling on the occurrence of the act constituting the common basis between the criminal and civil claims, as well as its legal qualification and attribution to the perpetrator.

Therefore, if the criminal court has ruled on these matters, the civil court is precluded from re-examining them. It must consider and be bound by these findings in its examination of the civil rights connected to the case, to ensure that its judgment does not contradict the previous criminal judgment.

As a result, the Court ruled in favour of the claimant, ordering the defendants to compensate him and pay BD12,000.

Public Security Chief receives **Pakistani Ambassador**



The Chief of Public Security Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan received newly appointed Pakistani Ambassador Saqib Rauf. Al Hassan welcomed the envoy, hailing the good ties between the two friendly countries and his dedication to reinforcing them, especially in security. Al Hassan wished Ambassador Rauf the best in his new assignment. Above, Al Hassan with Ambassador Rauf.

Bahrain to host GCC radio, TV festival

Information Minister affirms Kingdom's readiness to host successful event

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 ${f B}$ ahrain will be hosting the 16th edition of the Gulf Radio and Television Festival next year.

Information Minister Dr Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi discussed the Kingdom's preparations and arrangements for the event in a meeting with Gulf Radio and Television Organisation director-general Majri Mubarak Al Qahtani. Information Ministry Radio and Televi-



Dr Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, right, during his meeting with Majri Mubarak Al Qahtani

retary Abdulla Khalid Al Dosari (GCC) event. was also on hand.

Dr Al Noaimi commended the The parties talked about the vital and influential role played efforts Bahrain has made to en- by the Gulf Radio and Television mation Minister for his constant sure the success of this impor- Organistion in strengthening support for efforts to enhance sion Affairs assistant undersec- tant Gulf Cooperation Council joint-GCC media action, to be joint GCC media cooperation.

more expressive of the aspects of GCC states' development and progressive strides, as well as improve the artistic and technical levels of GCC radio and television production.

The Information Minister affirmed the Kingdom's keenness to harness all potentials to ensure the success of the festival in 2024, as it is an important occasion to honour GCC creative people and artists.

He underlined the Kingdom's pride in hosting the biennial event, stressing keenness to ensure that it will be more successful than the previous editions.

Al Qahtani expressed thanks and appreciation to the Infor-

Southern police arrest two women for stealing handbag with BD4,000

TDT | Manama



tified and arrested after they left the exhibition. It was found that one of the women moni-

Northern Governor attends competition ceremony TDT | Manama

Northern Governor Ali bin Al Shaikh Ab-



MP questions ministry

Olice were able to arrest two women, aged 46 and 24 years old, after they stole a handbag containing BD4,000 at a commercial exhibition.

The police directorate indian that her personal bag had cameras. been stolen, security personnel



cated that, immediately after took the necessary measures receiving a report from a wom- to review footage from CCTV The accused were then iden- Public Prosecution.

tored the victim, while the second robbed her of her bag. It was later also revealed that the pair had criminal records. The Southern Governorate

police directorate indicated that the necessary legal meas-

ures had been taken and the case had been referred to the

dulmohsen Al Asfoor attended the final ceremony of the seventh edition of the Biggest Winner Competition.

Al Asfoor said that the competition promotes efforts to fight chronic diseases by encouraging people to lose weight.

Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor

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MFardan has raised a series out their mission. of probing questions to Minister of Social Development Fardan questioned the accu-Asfoor about the conduct of according to her, verbally imrain.

sents the twelfth constituency from financial and literary sought clarity on the number for the actions taken against of active associations involved associations. in organising mass weddings in the country.

about the ministry's require- observed by the ministry and ments for associations seeking inquired about the supervisory to host such events. The MP's tasks.

MP Hanan Mohamed Fardan

questions underscored concerns about potential obstacles and impediments faced by P Hanan Mohamed these associations in carrying

Furthermore, Deputy Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al racy of a ministry circular that, mass weddings and potential posed a ban on charities orviolations within charitable ganising group weddings. She associations operating in Bah- delved into the mechanisms employed by the ministry to Deputy Fardan, who repre- monitor and verify reports of the Northern Governorate, associations and the reasons

The deputy also sought detailed information on vi-Additionally, she inquired olations and transgressions

A colourful gathering

Scenes from a military parade organised by the Ministry of Interior in the Southern Governorate, in cooperation with various security departments. Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa attended the programme.

NISINASS

THE tribune

Young ICT talent from the Middle East and Central Asia recognised at regional finale of Huawei ICT competition 2023-2024

Students from the Kingdom of Bahrain put forth an extraordinary performance and clinched two titles.

Students from Pakistan, Qatar, and Kazakhstan bagged the grand prizes, while students from Lebanon, Kazakhstan, and Bahrain secured the first prizes.

Winning student teams to compete at the global finals of the **Huawei ICT Competition** in China in May 2024.

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Winning student teams of the regional finals of the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Middle East and Central Asia (ME &CA) were felicitated at a grand closing and awarding ceremony on December 21, 2023, in Manama, Bahrain. Hosted under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, and in partnership with Bahrain's Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication and the University of Bahrain, the ceremony was held at the University of Bahrain.

Students from the Kingdom of Bahrain put forth an extraordinary performance and clinched two titles. The first prize for the Computing Track was bagged by a team consisting of Natheer Zaher Jaffar Ahmed Mohammed Radhi, Ali Salman Ali Fardan, and Ali Abdulwahed Jasim (Bahrain Polytechnic). The second prize of the Network Track was secured by a team consisting of Sayed Mohammed Adnan, and



Grand Prize Network Track

•Pakistan - Muhammad Bilal Gul and Muhammad Usman (University of Engineering & Technology Taxila), and Zain Tanvir (Al-Khawarizmi Institute of **Computer Science UET Lahore)**

Cloud Track

•Qatar - Hadieh Abdulmajeed and Mohamed Mouemel Abdallahi (Qatar University), and Saba Wynne (University of Doha for Science and Technology)

Computing Track

•Kazakhstan - Oralbay Utebay from Yessenov University, Nikolay Zhilyakov from AUPET, and Daniyal Sarsenbay from the Kazakh-British **Technical University** First Prize

Network Track

•Lebanon - Alain Nohra, and **Raed Diab (American University** of Science and Technology), and Roudy Wahid Maroun (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)

Cloud Track

•Kazakhstan - Aida Bagaidarova and Didar Moldakhmetov (al-Farabi University); and Gaukhar

Ali Naser Alfadhli (University Council for Youth and Sports, Highness Shaikh Nasser bin training camps to help gain new abling them to keep pace with of Bahrain), and Fahad Abdulla Bahrain; Ni Ruchi, the Ambassa- Hamad Al Khalifa, and Steven skills, assess abilities objectively, the latest technologies and (Bahrain Polytechnic). This year, dor of People's Republic of Chi-Yi, President of Huawei Mid- and be ready to tackle new chalthe grand prize for the Network na to the Kingdom of Bahrain; dle East & Central Asia. All the lenges and opportunities." Track went to a team of students Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al Ansa- participating students in the refrom Pakistan, while Qatari stu-ri, President of the University gional finals received internship Huawei was one of the first com-nessed by the information and partners. dents secured the grand prize in of Bahrain; Dr. Osama Alsayed, opportunities at the Huawei of- panies to respond to this vision communications technology the Cloud Track, and the grand Deputy CEO, Bahrain Polytech- fices in their respective home and to introduce to us the Midprize for the Computing Track nic; Steven Yi, President of Hua- countries. was given to students from Ka- wei Middle East and Central His Highness Shaikh Nass- petition, which was aligned with his appreciation for the role technical and practical skills in The closing and awarding cer- Huawei Group; Aziz Tang, CEO, "We commissioned the Supreme start to an excellent long-term the information and commu- Artificial Intelligence, Cloud, emony of the regional finals of Huawei Bahrain; Eric Li, Man- Council for Youth and Sports, collaboration between the pri- nications technology sector, and more. Students gain an opthe Huawei ICT Competition aging Director, Huawei Bahrain; the Ministry of Youth Affairs, vate sector and the public sector and supporting efforts aimed portunity to learn first-hand 2023-2024 was attended by H.E. Dr. Raida Al Alawi, President, the Ministry of Labor, and the in preparing our youths for their at achieving sustainable devel- from Huawei experts on the Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Hu- Bahrain Society of Engineers; Ministry of Education three future," he added. maidan, Minister of Labor, Bah- and Dr. Jassim Haji, President years ago to examine ways to rain; Dr. Mohammed Mubarak International Group of Artifi- reskill our youth, and we made Juma, Minister of Education, Bahrain." Juma, Minister Of Education, cial Intelligence. In addition, it clear to our ministers that we Bahrain, stated, "Since it was Bahrain; Mohammed bin Tham- dignitaries of Ministry offices, in the military place great em- first launched in the region in wei Middle East & Central Asia, R&D centers and facilities. This er Al Kaabi, Minister of Trans- presidents, deans, and profes- phasis on lifelong training and 2017, the Huawei ICT Compe- congratulated all the winners aids in preparing the students portation and Telecommuni- sors from regional universities education. I wanted to promote tition has played an influential and said, "Developing ICT tal- for their future careers and as-

Zhanel (Kazakh-British Technical

University) **Computing Track**

•Bahrain - Natheer Zaher Jaffar Ahmed Mohammed Radhi, Ali Salman Ali Fardan, and Ali Abdulwahed Jasim (Bahrain Polytechnic)

Second Prize

Network Track

•Bahrain - Sayed Mohammed Adnan, and Ali Naser Alfadhli (University Of Bahrain), and Fahad Abdulla (Bahrain Polytechnic) •Iraq - Bashar Qahhar Qader, and Bayar Oahhar Oader (Erbil Polytechnic University), and Bawar Zring Jalal Qadr (KOUKOYA **UNIVERSITY)**

Cloud Track

•Pakistan - Vishal Sagar, Onkar, and Asfand Yar Jamali (NUST **University Islamabad)**

•Lebanon - Wassef Talal Hijazi, and Bashar Ramzi Abou Chakra Beirut Arab University (BAU), and Michelle Robert Haddad (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)

Computing Track

•Iraq - Bayad Aram Hassan, and Brwa Shirwan Awrahman (University of Human

Secretary-General of Supreme trophies and prizes from His ty, high-impact, competitive uating university students, en- economies across the Middle the ICT sector.

Development), and Adil Mohammed Adnan AL Qaba (University of Mosul) •Jordan - Sara Maher Khaleel

Hamad, and Nizar Moh'd Khier Jamil Al Daradkeh (Princess Sumaya University for Technology), and Ahmad Naser Abdul Kareem Ass'ad (Applied Science Private University) Third Prize

Network Track

•Jordan - Mohammad Motaseem Ahmad Aabussa, Ammar Yaser Khaled Shhadeh, and Yasmeen Waleed Ahmad al Sameer (Al-**Balga Applied University)** •UAE - Yonathan Kiflom Michael (Khalifa University), Khawla Mohammed Alblooshi (United Arab Emirates University), and Muhammad Yousuf (Ajman **University**) •Saudi Arabia - Leen Saud N Altowaim (Arab Open University - Saudi Arabia Branch), Waleed Ahmed Mohammed Alkathiri

(College of Telecom and Electronics), and Atheer Ayman A Aleyadhy (Princess Norah bint Abdulrahman University) •Kuwait - Faisal Alnwayem, Othman Muzher, and Haya Sammour (Australian University)

Cloud Track

•Saudi Arabia - Amr Abdulrahman H Alanazi (Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University), Reem Abdulrhman A Alothimen (University of Jeddah), and Abdulmalik Mohammad A Almuhanna (King Saud University) •Iraq - Mohammed Jumaa Sabir, and Abdalrahman Mohammed Abdaala (University of Human Development), and Govar Dishad Ali Mohammed (University of Garmian)

Computing Track

•Lebanon - Ahmad Chehab El din, and Mohamad Mahmoud Hweidi (Beirut Arab University), and Mariam Anwar Zaiter (American University of Science and Technology)

•Oman - Osama Qasim Khalaf AlSaidi, Tanbir Ahmed, and Mohammed Hassan AlBalushi (University of Technology & Applied Science - Shinas) •Saudi Arabia - Ghufran Sultan M Alansari (Arab Open University - Saudi Arabia Branch), Nourhan Alaa Mohamed Shawky Ibrahim (King Khalid University), and Ghuyudh Abdulaziz F Almutairi (Princess Norah Bint Abdulrahman University)

modern scientific developments, and gaining practical expertise along with over 20 regional min-"I was very pleased when amid tremendous strides wit- istries, operators, and industry His Excellency also shared gion by arming students with Asia; Xueman, Vice President, er bin Hamad Al Khalifa said, our direction. This is a fantastic Huawei played "in developing the latest technologies like 5G, opment goals and spurring eco- latest ICT developments, inter-

East and Central. At Huawei, we're cognizant that the digital skills gap affects national economies and individual lives, and we've activated a number of ICT talent development programs and initiatives, including our successful Huawei ICT Competition."

"Huawei is really grateful to our gracious host, Bahrain, for their world-class hospitality. The Kingdom of Bahrain has set an excellent roadmap for an open collaborative environment that promotes partnerships between public and private sectors and academia. I would like to express our gratitude to our partners from regional governments, organizations, and universities for their continuous support and contribution to the success of the competition," Yi added.

The seventh edition of Huawei's flagship ICT talent development initiative witnessed the highest level of participation since the competition's launch in 2017. More than 27,500 students from over 600 universities across 21 Middle Eastern & Central Asian countries participated in this year's Middle East & Central Asia Huawei ICT Competition. Twenty-two national final teams, consisting of 66 students and 20 tutors, from 11 Middle Eastern & Central Asian countries, including Bahrain, Pakistan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, and Oman, qualified for the regional finals. These national finalists participated in exams, field trips, and workshops in the Kingdom of Bahrain from December 19-21, 2023.

The ME & CA Huawei ICT Competition has emerged as the most significant and impactful initiative of its kind in the region. It serves as an essential platform to help nurture young ICT students, contributing to enhancing the national competitiveness of regional countries through the development of future ICT leaders. The competition has garnered support and endorsement from UNESCO,

The program aims to narrow the digital skills gap in the re-Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak nomic growth in the Kingdom of national trends, and hands-on skills development training at

zakhstan.

cations, Bahrain; Avman Taw- were also present. feeq Abdurrahman Almoayyed,

sector.'

dle East and Central Asia com-

Steven Yi, President of Hua- Huawei's state-of-the-art labs, participants and improve their role in tapping into future tal- ent is essential for the con- sists in improving their future All the winners received their skills. I wanted high-intensi- ents, honing the skills of grad- tinued development of digital employment opportunities in

Google agrees to settle \$5 billion lawsuit over 'incognito' mode

San Francisco, United States

tracked the data of users who internet privately.

the "incognito" mode on Goog- lowed by the search and adver- affected.

le's Chrome browser that the tising behemoth for measuring ▼oogle has agreed to settle plaintiffs said gave users a false web traffic and selling ads. Ga consumer privacy law- sense that what they were surfin damages over allegations it by the Silicon Valley tech firm. reached a preliminary agree- Ad Manager services even when parties. But internal Google emails ment to settle the class action in the private browsing mode thought they were browsing the brought forward in the lawsuit lawsuit -- originally filed in 2020 and not logged into their Google consumers did not respond to an practices had infringed on users' demonstrated that users using -- which claimed that "millions account. The object of the lawsuit was incognito mode were being fol- of individuals" had likely been

Lawyers for the plaintiffs were settlement amount will likely fused a request that the case seeking at least \$5,000 for each not reach that figure, and no be decided by a judge. A jury In a court filing, the judge con-user it said had been tracked by amount was given for the pre-trial was set to begin next suit seeking at least \$5 billion ingonline was not being tracked firmed that lawyers for Google the firm's Google Analytics or liminary settlement between the year.

AFP request for comment.

This would have amounted The settlement came just ceiving them with the incognito to at least \$5 billion, though the weeks after Google was re- option.

The lawsuit, filed in a Cali-Google and lawyers for the fornia court, claimed Google's privacy by "intentionally" de-

THE **TIDUNE**

LIVE AS IF YOU WERE TO DIE **TOMORROW. LEARN AS IF YOU** WERE TO LIVE FOREVER MAHATMA GANDHI

QUOTE OF THE DAY

News in brief

• China named former navy commander Dong Jun as its new defence minister yesterday, replacing a predecessor removed after just months as Beijing and Washington restart critical military-to-military talks. Dong was appointed at a meeting of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, state news agency Xinhua said. Beijing has not given an official reason for the removal of Li Shangfu Dong's predecessor, who was ousted after seven months in the role following a lengthy disappearance from public view. Three executives at leading Chinese missile



navy ex-chief as new defence minister

defence firms were removed from Beijing's top political advisory committee this week, according to state media. Dong, born in 1961, was made commander of the navy in August 2021. He was replaced by Hu Zhongming earlier this month. Dong previously served as deputy commander of the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command, which includes as its area of operation the South China Sea. where Beijing has territorial disputes with neighbouring countries.

Russian court jails Navalny ally



against Russia's opposition, with the Kremlin doubling down on the repression of civil society since launching a military operation in Ukraine in 2022. "The 'judge' Khudyakov has ordered a nine-year sentence against Ksenia Fadeyeva" for extremism, her supporters' Telegram channel said, adding the defence would appeal. Lawyers and supporters denounced the trial as

Indian police

hunt kingpins in

smuggling case

France people-

• **Police in India** said yesterday they were working to track down the kingpins of a people smuggling ring uncovered when French authorities halted a planeload of passengers bound for Nicaragua. The Airbus A340 was detained last week at Vatry airport, east of Paris, where it had stopped for refuelling. It had arrived from the United Arab Emirates and was halted after an anonymous tip-off that it was carrying potential victims of human trafficking, with most of the 303 people aboard flown back to India on Monday. Passengers had paid between "400,000 to 1.2 million rupees" (\$48,000-

a sham

150,000) to agents to help them reach the southern border of the United States from South America . Guiarat state police superintendent Saniav Kharat told AFP

SPOTLIGHT

N. Korea's new nuclear reactor likely fully operational next summer



Representative picture AFP | Seoul, South Korea

new reactor at North Ko- he said Area's main nuclear facility Shin noted that while no will likely be fully operational country has used light-water by next summer, Seoul's de- reactors to produce weapfence minister said, a week af- ons-grade plutonium, Pyongter the UN atomic agency yang could potentially use the

dia Thursday that the new re- conduct tests for developing actor at North Korea's Yong- small nuclear reactors used in byon nuclear complex appears nuclear-powered submarines. stage and that it is expected Seoul has detected signs of to be fully operational next cooling water discharged confirmed Shin's comments this summer. Friday.Yongbyon is home to Grossi said last week that awatt capacity, which has been charging warm water. nuclear weapons.

to be operational and capable University, told AFP.

of producing plutonium. "This is a cause for concern,"

called it a "cause for concern". new reactor to produce triti-Shin Won-sik told local me- um for hydrogen bombs or to

to be in a "trial operation" The defence minister said summer. The defence ministry from the new reactor since

North Korea's only other nu- the new reactor has "reached clear reactor, with a five-meg- criticality", and that it was dis-

its sole known source of pluto- "Reaching criticality means nium -- a primary material for that the nuclear reactor operates under normal condi-Rafael Grossi, head of the UN tion by realizing sustainable atomic agency, said in a state- nuclear chain reaction," Lee ment last week that the new You-ho, a nuclear engineering light-water reactor appeared professor at Seoul National

Israel troops ignored pleas for 'help' before hostage killings

• A Hamas delegation is due in Cairo Friday to give its "observations" about an Egyptian plan for a ceasefire, a Hamas official said.

Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Friday, medics said, after military officials alleged he carried out a car ramming.

• In the Red Sea, where Yemen's Huthis have repeatedly targeted vessels with strikes they say are in support of Palestinians in Gaza, the US military said it shot down on Thursday a drone and an anti-ship ballistic missile fired by the Iran-backed rebels.

AFP |Jerusalem, Undefined

for "help" when they stormed of Shejaiya, the probe said.



Israeli security forces stand guard as Palestinian Muslims gather for Friday prayer in east Jerusalem

The soldiers also heard "hos- fled the building also, and on De- soldiers. But two soldiers "who

cember 10, but interpreted that them after mistakenly identifying of "noise" from a nearby tank shot launched a massive military ofas a "terrorist deception attempt" them as a threat, the investigation him dead.

investigation published on Thurs- fighters trying to escape, it added. commanders asked the surviving cording to an AFP tally based on The hostages then probably hostage to advance towards the Israeli figures.

tages" shouted in Hebrew on De- cember 15 Israeli soldiers shot did not hear the order" because bring back the hostages, Israel diers were ordered to hold fire in ing a white flag.

by Hamas to lure them into the said. Two were killed instantly. The three hostages were all Islamist movement that has left 👕 sraeli soldiers ignored cries building in the Gaza City district The third hostage fled and sol- shirtless and one had been carry- much of Gaza in ruins. The territory's Hamas govern-L a Gaza building holding three Believing the building was order to identify him, the probe On December 14, an army drone ment says the war has killed at hostages just days before killing rigged with explosives, the sol- said. Hearing cries of "help!" and had identified signs of "SOS" and least 21,320 people, mostly wom- of bodies. them by mistake, said a military diers exited and killed five Hamas "they're shooting at me", Israeli "help, three hostages" on a build- en and children



Ethiopia's Tigray warns of looming famine

AFP |Nairobi, Kenya

astating two-year war in the 2022 peace deal that ended the north of the country.

the interim regional authority forces. in Tigray, said more than 91 The situation on the ground percent of the population was in northern Ethiopia cannot be "exposed to the risk of star- independently verified as mevation and death" and called dia access to Tigray is restrictfor the Ethiopian government ed by the federal government. and international community Getachew said Tigray's into help.

formerly known as Twitter, areas under its control but had Getachew likened the situa- limited resources to handle tion to the Ethiopian famine in the crisis.

the 1980s which cost the lives

of around one million people. The authorities in Ethiopia's "Since the signing of the Prewar-scarred Tigray region toria agreement, thousands of warned yesterday of a looming Tigrayans have perished due to famine linked to drought and lack of food," Getachew said, the lingering effects of the dev- referring to the November war between Tigrayan rebels Getachew Reda, president of and Ethiopian government

terim administration had de-In a statement posted on X, clared a disaster emergency in

Former Nepal cricket captain Lamichhane convicted of rape

Nepali cricket star Sandeep Lamichhane was yesterdayy convicted of rape after a repeatedly delayed trial that had left him free to continue his sporting career.

Lamichhane, 23, was once the poster boy for the rise of cricket in Nepal and the leg spinner's onfield success had boosted the sport's profile in the Himalayan republic.

Last year he was accused of raping a 17-year-old girl in a Kathmandu hotel but was freed on bail in January and returned to the squad to compete in international Nepali former national cricket captain Sandeep Lamichhane (L) is escorted by police tournaments.

His lawyer Saroj Ghimire told Lamichhane on Friday. "His sentence will be decided in he was freed on bail.

the next hearing," he added.

AFP. "The event was not consen- tember's Asia Cup. sual," he said.

failed to return from Jamaica, despite the accusations. where he was playing in the Car- "You are hero of Nepali cricket matches during an international sought-after Nepali cricketer ibbean Premier League.



outside the districtl court following his release on bail after three months in custody for rape charges, in Kathmandu

AFP that a court had convicted captain and arrested last year but self," one fan wrote on his official after repeated delays on proce-Nepal lifted his playing ban after Facebook page in October.

District court official Ramu the national team, including for returned to the field in February. as it does elsewhere in South Asia. Sharma confirmed the verdict to the World Cup qualifiers and Sep- But his continued playing ca- But it has been growing in pop-

Lamichhane has consistently caused numerous Nepalis to dis- international status by the world When authorities issued an ar- denied the charge against him avow the team. rest warrant Lamichhane initially and enjoyed strong public support Scotland's cricketers refused to Lamichhane has been a ma-

team be strong we can understand tournament in Dubai. He was dismissed as national your problem take care of your The case against Lamichhane world.

TODAY IN HISTORY

The All-India Muslim League is founded in Dacca, East Bengal, British India Empire, later laid down the foundations of Pakistan

Creation of the USSR formally proclaimed in Moscow from the Bolshoi Theatre, organized as a union (U) of Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian and Transcaucasian Soviet Socialist Republics (SSR).

AFP | Buenos Aires, Argentina

to join the grouping of major

emerging economies, the pres-

The bloc -- made up of Brazil,

Africa -- in August announced

it was admitting six new mem-

bers. The membership of Ar-

gentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi

Arabia, Egypt and the United

Arab Emirates was due to take

effect from January 1, 2024.

appropriate at this time."

idency said Friday.



Argentina formally rejects BRICS membership



Astronomer Edwin Hubble forma ly announces existence of other galactic systems at meeting of the American Astronomical Society

Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia become **Independent states** within the French Union

ing close to where the three hostages were shot. The army "failed in its mission to rescue the hostages in this event," army chie Herzi Halevi said in a statement published along with the report of the investigation.

The three fatalities "could have been prevented", he added. Soon after the killings of the

nostages were announced, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it "broke my heart" and broke the whole nation's heart". Israel has been mourning the deaths of the hostages identified as Yotam Haim, Alon Shamriz and Samer El-Talalqa.

The killings of the three men, all in their twenties, have sparked onstrators demanded that the plan to bring home the remaining 129 hostages still held in the Gaza Strip. About 250 people were taken hostage during Hamas's October 7 attacks in Israel, which resulted in the deaths of around in Gaza. 1,140 people, mostly civilians, ac-

Vowing to destroy Hamas and fensive against the Palestinian

Red Cross denies involved in transfer of **Palestinian bodies**

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Red Cross on Friday de-I nied reports that it was involved in the transfer of dozens of Palestinian bodies from Israel to Gaza, where Israeli forces have been battling Hamas militants

Hamas government sources said on Tuesday that Israel returned the bodies of 80 Palestin protests in Tel Aviv, where dem- ians killed in Gaza after taking them from morgues and graves authorities come up with a new to check there were no hostages among them.

The bodies, the sources added, were returned through the Red Cross to Hamas authorities who buried them in a mass grave

"We are aware of reports stating that the International Committee of the Red Cross was involved in the recent transfer of bodies from Israel to Gaza," the humanitarian organisation said in a statement.

"We were not involved in this operation at any stage."

The Israeli army has not commented on the alleged transfer

YOU

KNOW WHA

About 2,300 rape cases were

reported in Nepal in the 2021-22

fiscal year, according to police,

assaults go unreported. Only a

handful of women in Nepal spoke

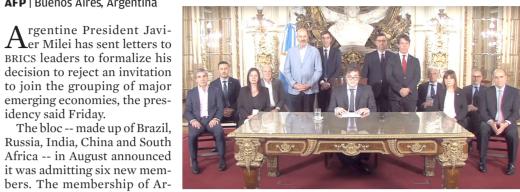
out during the #MeToo movement.

and those accused have faced little

or no repercussions over the

allegations.

but rights workers say many more



Javier Milei (C) delivering a message to the nation from the Casa Rosada presidential palace in Buenos Aires

parties, and he had vowed on tion campaign, Milei said "our The letters signed by Milei the campaign trail not to join geopolitical alignment is with and published by several media BRICS.

houses said Argentina's mem- In his letters he said his for- We are not going to ally with bership was "not considered eign policy "differs in many communists." aspects from that of the previ- Despite vowing to cut ties The libertarian outsider ous government. In this sense, with major trading partners Milei took office this month some decisions made by the China and Brazil, he has taken after his resounding defeat of previous administration will a more conciliatory tone since Argentina's traditional political be reviewed." During his elec- coming to office.

the United States and Israel.

UN hands control of its Timbuktu camp back to Mali

AFP |Bamako, Mali

I NUSMA) has handed over buktu control of one of its last major sion reported yesterday.

in January.

jihadist attacks has precipitated demanded MINUSMA withdraw The UN mission in Mali (MI- a speedier pullout from Tim- immediately last June amid de-

The decade-long MINUSMA base urgently," a UN source who with jihadist violence. mission was originally due to requested anonymity told AFP. The UN Security Council end-

tu bases to Malian authorities Kante was seen thanking the mission's mandate on June 30 UN during an official handover and gave it a December 31 dead-But the precarious security ceremony Thursday broadcast line to pull out.

situation in a region prone to by ORTM. Mali's military junta teriorating relations.

"Given the lack of a solution MINUSMA suffered some 180 camps in the northern Timbuk- for the internal security of the fatalities during the 10 years it tu region, ORTM public televi- MINUSMA base in Timbuktu, has tried to keep the peace in it was necessary to close this the troubled Sahel nation beset

hand over its Gao and Timbuk- Regional governor Bakoun ed the roughly 15,000-strong

Russian strikes kill 18, leave dozens wounded across Ukraine

AFP |Kyiv, Ukraine

Dussia launched drone **K**and missile strikes across Ukraine yesterday, killing at least 18 people and wounding over a hundred in one of the most massive air attacks of the

Schools, a maternity hospital, shopping arcades and blocks of flats were among the buildings hit in the barrage, said Ukrainian officials.

"Today Russia hit us with almost everything it has in its arsenal," President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Ukraine's Western allies joined the condemnation of the latest attacks.

Ukraine's military said Russia had fired 158 missiles and drones on Ukraine and 114 of them had been destroyed.

Air force spokesman Yuriy Ignat told AFP that this was a "record number" and "the most massive missile attack" of the war, excluding the early days of constant bombardment.

In Kyiv, AFP reporters heard several powerful explosions in the early hours of Friday.

The city's mayor Vitali Klitschko said three bodies had been recovered from a warehouse hit by a strike in the central Shevchenko district. In the city's northern Podil

district, another warehouse the blaze and a huge column of Popko. AFP journalists also saw measuring around 3,000 square black smoke billowed into the smoke near the building of Lukmetres (32,300 square feet) sky, an AFP reporter saw. caught fire.

wearing oxygen masks tackled military administration, Sergiv the day.



Ukrainian firefighters extinguish a fire inside a destroyed building after a missile attack in Odesa

Poland says Russian missile passed through its airspace AFP |Warsaw, Poland

A Russian missile passed allied radar confirmation," he through Polish airspace told reporters. Friday, entering from and then The missile was in Polish back into Ukraine, the Polish airspace for three minutes, army said, as Russia pum- said Maciej Klisz, operational melled Ukraine with one of the commander of the Polish army.

"Everything indicates that jets, to intercept it and shoot a Russian missile entered Pol- it down if necessary but the ish airspace... It also left our duration and the flight path...

law Kukula, chief of the gen- lowed the missile to leave Poleral staff of the Polish armed ish territory," Klisz said.

forces. "We have national and

biggest air attacks of the war. "We sent our forces, fighter airspace," said General Wies- made this impossible and al-

vanivska metro station close to There were believed to be 10 the city centre. Popko said the There was a strong smell of people trapped under the rub- metro station had been damburning plastic as firefighters ble, said the head of the city's aged but it reopened later in



s hostilities in Gaza Aintensify, I remain gravely concerned about further spillover of this conflict, which could have devastating consequences for the entire region. I reiterate my call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire & release of all hostages. **@antonioguterres**



U krainians have done what no one thought was possible: stood toe to toe with one of the biggest militaries, conceded no territory, and they pushed Russia's navy back in the Black Sea and opened a corridor to allow them to export grain and other products to the world. @SecBlinken



Over the last two days attended the Conference of Chief Secretaries. We had fruitful deliberations on a wide range of policy related issues and also discussed on means of ensuring better service delivery as well as ensuring good governance for all citizens.

@narendramodi 04



C ince September, near-Oly 500,000 Afghans have returned to their country from Pakistan, many requiring a range of health services, especially considering the colder weather. @WHO's disease surveillance system has detected cases of acute watery diarrhea and #COVID19 among returnees.

@DrTedros

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

took more than a year to conclude dural grounds.

Hundreds of cheering cricket Cricket does not enjoy the same This allowed him to remain in fans welcomed him when he first adulation in mountainous Nepal reer has also sparked anger and ularity, with Nepal given one-day governing body in 2018.

shake hands with him after their jor part of this rise as the most in lucrative leagues around the

Understanding difference between GCC and American Specs in Automobiles

TDT | agencies

ubai, known for its opulence, thriving economy, and love for luxury vehicles, takes center stage as a dynamic metropolis in the heart of the United Arab Emirates. For those embarking on the car-buying journey in Dubai, a pivotal decision awaits - choosing between GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) or American car specifications. But fear not.. Get ready to delve into the intricacies of the automotive world with this guide.'

Navigating this choice can be Chassis Plate: daunting

What do GCC specs entail?

distinctive climatic conditions of the region, GCC fications. specs ensure that vehicles are equipped to navigate the prevalent extreme heat and sandy terrains.

Notable features include robust air conditioning systems tions on the side mirrors. GCC and measures for dust protection, making them well-suited in Arabic, which can further for the challenging environmen- confirm their specifications. tal factors encountered in these countries

Follow these steps for an informed decision when purchasing a vehicle:

Check the VIN:

Verify the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the car. If it starts with the letter "W," it indicates that it is likely a GCC spec vehicle. However, it's important to note that not all GCC with "W," but a significant majority do.

Examine

Inspect the chassis plate on the door card. Look for Arabic writing or a phone number from Designed to endure the a GCC country. This can be a strong indicator of GCC speci-

Observe Side **Mirrors**:

Pay attention to the inscripspec cars often have inscriptions Keep in mind that these steps

are active measures you can take to identify whether a car is GCC

spec or not, providing valuable ported vehicles. information for your purchasing Comes with only localized

What are the pros and cons of GCC specs?

There's no doubt that GCC specs can handle extreme weather conditions, which is for every person's needs, howquite common in the Gulf region, but it also has a set of disadvantages that comes with while buying a car. Below menspec cars have a VIN starting it. Here's a list of key points to tioned pros and cons can give consider while buying a GCC specs car.

Pros

decision.

Designed for regional climatic conditions and can face intense heat and sand.

- Features enhanced climate control (reinforced air conditioning).
- Has safe dust protection measures.

Higher resale value than other specs.

Cons

Limited to a variety of models and options.

Potentially fewer advanced features compared to American models specs cars.

Has restricted access to im- compared to GCC spec cars.

warranty and service support. What are the pros and cons of

American specs?

American specs can have a wide array of features catered ever it has practicality issues which many might not prefer you a clear picture of American specs vehicles:-

Pros

Plethora of models and options

- Equipped with advanced features and technologies.
- Has the availability of imported vehicles.

Broad service and warranty support.

Cons

Potentially higher price than GCC specs.

Unable to withstand regional conditions like heat, sand, etc Limited availability of specific

Resale value may be lower

Toyota subsidiary to halt all shipments over rigged safety tests Tokyo

Noyota subsidiary Daihat-L su said it will suspend shipments of all car models in Japan and abroad, following

news it had rigged safety tests. The announcement came after an independent panel also found the malpractice dated back to 1989, when the oldest instance was confirmed and reports said the firm faced onsite inspections by government officials.

Toyota, the world's biggest carmaker, expressed its "sincere apologies" over the issue and said it would carry out "a fundamental reform".

The panel was set up earlier this year to probe a safety scandal that emerged in April.

The investigation "found new irregularities in 174 items within 25 test categories" in addition to wrongdoing previously detected in April and May involving door parts and side-collision tests, Toyota said.

In a statement, Toyota also recognised the "extreme grav-

ity" of Daihatsu's neglect, which has "shaken the very foundations of the company as an automobile manufacturer". Daihatsu employees were "exposed to the intense pressure to pass crash tests on their first attempt" to minimise the number of vehicles destroyed and thereby "reduce costs", committee chair Makoto Kaiami told reporters.

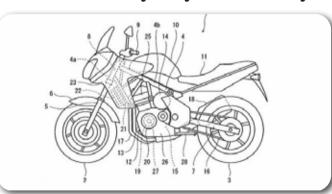
"No failure can be forgiven' -- that was the kind of mindset," he said.

With the latest findings, the number of car models linked to wrongdoing now totals 64, including some sold under the Toyota brand which will also be suspended.

In April, Daihatsu admitted falsifying crash test results for four of its models, involving a total of 88,000 vehicles manufactured in Thailand and Malaysia in 2022 and 2023.

Then in May, it announced it was halting production in Japan of two hybrid vehicle models because of similar "irregularities", including the Toyota Raize SUV, manufactured on behalf of its parent company.

Kawasaki Versys Hybrid on way!



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sembles the one employed by Kawasaki for the Z 7 Hybrid. The proposed configuration

TZ awasaki recently re-



Visitors look at the Luxeed S7, the first sedan produced by Chinese tech giant Huawei, at a Huawei showroom in Hangzhou. in China's eastern Zheijang province. The top-end Luxeed S7 will have a driving range of more than 800 kilometers (497 miles) and be capable of driving another 400 km on 15 minutes of supercharging using Huawei's facilities. By comparison, the dual-motor Tesla Model S has a 715 km range and can add 347 km in 15 minutes.



similar configuration to the Z 7 Hybrid. This potential setup includes a 9kW motor, a the cooling system depicted in a global debut. the leaked images closely re-

vealed the internation has the potential to enhance al launch of the Z 7 Hy- the touring capabilities of brid, and there are indications the bike, allowing the rider to seamlessly transition from fully electric to an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) mode once the battery depletes. For context, the 451cc parallel-twin engine is capable of producing 69bhp. Anticipated features encompass options for manual or automatic gear shifts, full LED lighting, a digital dashboard, and more.

Presently, the Kawasaki Versys Hybrid appears to be in the early stages of development, suggesting that it may take 1.4kWh battery, and a 451cc some time before an official parallel-twin engine. Notably, teaser is released, followed by

Ferrari bounty scheme offers rewards for exposing counterfeits

TDT | agencies

Ferrari has initiated an An- particularly those sold in physi-ti-Counterfeiting Reward cal establishments. Scheme, encouraging individuals worldwide to report poten- get sales occurring primarily tial trademark violations. Cus- through brick-and-mortar lotomers are invited to disclose cations rather than online plat-

information about products infringing on Ferrari trademarks,

The program appears to tar-

forms. The guidelines specify a mentioning an unspecified "gift focus on reporting from physical item" available "while stocks stores, and while reporting on- last." The company also reserves line sales, particularly on eBay, is the right to withhold rewards if mentioned, obtaining the seller's insufficient information is proaddress is highlighted as a pre-vided, if the reported seller has requisite.

provides limited details, vaguely Ferrari."

already been flagged, or for any Regarding rewards. Ferrari other reason deemed valid by

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Nadal 'feeling good' but plays down Australia expectations

AFP | Brisbane, Australia

 $R^{afael \ Nadal \ said \ yester-}_{day \ he \ was \ "feeling \ good"} "It's \ not \ like \ I've \ been \ practice that the like \ practice that$ but played down any chance the last six months. I just have of winning tournaments in been practising for the last the near future as he returns month in a very good intensifrom a near year-long injury ty," he said. absence.

year, undergoing two rounds crowd too." of hip surgery on the long road back.

would be "a tough process in the beginning".

"Nothing is impossible. But The 37-year-old has not for me, just being here is a played since a second-round victory, and I hope that I will loss at the Australian Open this have a chance to enjoy, and the

A two-time Australian Open champion, in 2009 and 2022, It raised fears his career Nadal has slipped behind old could be over, but he will again rival Novak Djokovic in the allgrace the courts at the Bris- time list of Grand Slam singles bane International starting on titles, as the Serb won three this year in his absence to take his tally to a record 24. Nadal said at this stage of his career "I cannot have super long-term goals because I don't see myself playing for a super long time" "But in my mind, I'm going to self the tv to be more competitive as the season keeps going."

Norrie beats teammate Boulter's boyfriend as Britain down Aussies

AFP | Perth, Australia

ritain eased to victory over hosts Australia in their United Cup opener on Friday with Cameron Norrie defeating Alex de Minaur the boyfriend of British teammate Katie Boulter.

Boulter showed no mercy to Ajla Tomljanovic, who missed 10 months of action this year due to a knee injury, beating her 6-2, 6-4 to clinch victory for Britain in the mixed teams event.



off to a winning start, but it was not enough to prevent Brazil losing 2-1 to Spain.

The tie came down to a deciding doubles rubber, with Alejandro Davidovich Fokina and Sara Sorribes Tormo defeating Haddad Maia and two-time Grand Slam winner Marcelo Melo 6-4, 7-5.

Davidovich Fokina got Spain off to a winning start as he dispatched Thiago Seyboth Wild 6-4, 6-0, requiring four match points to earn the first victory of the tournament.

Sunday ahead of the Australian Open in Melbourne.

"I am feeling good," the Spaniard, who has previously indicated it could be his farewell season, said at a promotional event in the city.

"I can't complain. I feel much better today than what try to give my-I expected one month ago, but opportunifor me, it's impossible to think more and about winning tournaments today.

"What's possible is to enjoy the comeback to the court.

"I don't expect much, honestly," he added. "The only thing that I expect is to be able to go on court, to feel myself competitive and to give my best.'

The 22-time Grand Slam champion spent time at his academy in Kuwait this month in search of temperatures and conditions similar to those he will encounter in Australia.

But his level of training has been limited and he admitted it

The British ran out 2-1 winners as Australia saved some honour in prevailing in the mixed doubles.

The winners joined Spain, who beat Brazil 2-1 to begin the competition at the 18-team tournament being staged in Perth and Sydney prior to the Australian Open. Norrie lifted his level bravely in the third set," Norrie at the end to overcome good friend and training partner Alex de Minaur 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), against the Aussie at the event match his level. a year ago.

Britain's Cameron Norrie hits a return against Australia's Alex de Minaur during their men's singles match at the United Cup tennis tournament in Pert

with family in Australia watch- good to start the year with a ing, ended a nine-match loss win," added the 28-year-old. streak against Top 20 opponents Boulter, ranked 56 in the as he beat de Minaur in front of world, was thrilled to give Brita packed-out local crowd. ain an unassailable lead on her "I had to dig deep and play United Cup debut.

"I've been been training well said after a match that lasted coming in, I've tried to work as hard as I could.

"At the end of the second set "This win starts the year realrepeating a victory he earned he was firing and I could not ly well. Having the entire team Rafael Nadal, with the 37-yearbehind really does help you."

'We always have great battles, Earlier world number 11 Beat- absence at the Brisbane Inter-South Africa-born Norrie, I had to run a lot today. But it's riz Haddad Maia got her season national instead.

Haddad Maia then prevailed by defeating Sorribes Tormo 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 to level the tie at 1-1.

The end of the crunch mixed doubles tie was tight, with Brazil saving a match point before falling seconds later.

"I knew I had to be calm near the end," Davidovich Fokina said. "I needed to focus on every point -- in doubles things can change very quickly."

Spain are playing without old ending a year-long injury

Ancelotti snubs Brazil, commits to Real Madrid

AFP | Madrid, Spain

arlo Ancelotti extended his ✓ contract with Real Madrid to June 2026 on Friday which would rule him out of becoming Brazil national coach.

'Real Madrid and Carlo Ancelotti have reached agreement Carlo Ancelotti on the extension of his contract a statement.



nearly two-and-a-half hours.

It had been reported in July

eigner to coach Brazil in almost Ancelotti, who had previously 60 years once he saw out his stated the Real job would be his present Real contract next year. last in football.

The Brazil Football Confederation had named Fernando the most glamorous and chal-Diniz as the temporary manager lenging jobs in football had before they anticipated Ance- brought a change of mind. lotti taking control for the 2024 Copa America.

till June 30, 2026," Real said in this year that 64-year-old Ance- then president of the CBF, held Rodrigues told beIN Sports earlotti would become the first for- months of negotiations with lier this year.

However, it appeared one of

"We went after him not only due to his record, but also be-Ednaldo Rodriguez, the cause he is a decent person,"

Riffa, Al Nahda semi-final clash confirmed

Asian Football Confederation hosts official draw for 2023/2024 AFC Cup knockout stage

TDT | Manama

West Zonal semi-finals will be on April 16 and 23. of the 2023/2024 AFC Cup has Riffa booked their place in this tion.

The draw took place Thursday attended the event.

Club of Iraq go head-to-head in final. the other.

The West Zonal semi-finals are between Macarthur FC of ners-up in 2006.

with the last four matches laysia, and between Central iffa Club's pairing with scheduled for February 12, 13 Coast Mariners of Australia and Al Nahda of Oman in the and February 19, 20. The final Phnom Penh Crown of Cam-

been confirmed, following the phase after finishing as winners season's AFC Cup final, which is official draw for the teams that of Group C in the AFC Cup's pre-progressed into the knockout liminary round. Nahda, on the The AFC Cup is the annual stage of this season's competi- other hand, were the top-ranked continental club competition of squad from Group A.

The draw also set up the pair- tion (AFC) for the continent's top at the Asian Football Confed- ings for the Inter-Zone semi-fi- teams not competing in the AFC eration House in Kuala Lum- nals in March and Inter-Zone Champions League. Riffa are the pur. Riffa officials Salman Al final in April for teams outside lone Bahraini outfit in this year's Mawawada Ahmed Al Kooheji the West zone. FC Abdysh-Ata tournament. of Kyrgyzstan take on Tai-Riffa and Nahda face off in one chung Futuro of Taipei while only the second club from the final four pairing, while Al Ahed Odisha FC of India face the Kingdom to win the tournament of Lebanon and Al Kahrabaa champions of the ASEAN Zone title. Muharrag won the AFC Cup

The semis in the ASEAN Zone 2021, and also finished as run-

and final will be two-leg ties, Australia and Sabah FC of Mabodia.

That will set the stage for this

the Asian Football Confedera-

They are looking to become twice in the past, in 2008 and in

Riffa players during a local training session

Cummins the hero as Australia beat Pakistan to win series

AFP | Melbourne, Australia

fired-up Pat Cummins bagged five wickets and 10 in the match to earn Australia a nail-biting 79-run win in the second Test and clinch the series against a battling Pakistan yesterday.

Set 317 for victory, the visitors put up a stellar fight as they chased their first Test triumph in Australia since 1995.

But they were dismissed for 237, with the last five wickets falling for 18 runs.

Australian skipper Cummins was the chief destroyer, taking 5-49 to go with his first innings 5-48 -- only the second 10-wicket haul of his Test career.

Mitchell Starc chipped in with 4-55 as the tail collapsed after Shan Masood (60), Agha Salman



session before lunch, caught by the batsman's glove. Usman Khawaja in the slips off Starc following a period of intense pressure.

Imam-ul-Haq survived the Starc cleaned up. initial blitz, but was no match for Cummins after the break, with the pacer sending down a probing ball that nipped back and trapped him lbw for 12.

Masood was given out lbw by the umpire on 12, but it was overturned on review and he quickly got back in his stride.

He took a nasty ball to the ribs that needed treatment, but was Australia build their overnight undeterred and raced to a gutsy lead. 50 before Cummins again came to Australia's rescue, enticing an tralia had bounced back from edge to Steve Smith.

the shoulders of Azam as the Smith's gutsy 50. side's premier batter and he

parted for four during a tricky the stumps after the ball went off

Cummins then removed Aamer Jamal and Shaheen Shah Afridi in quick succession before

Bounced back

The Pakistanis padded up after the hosts were all out in their second innings for 262, after resuming on 187-6.

Mir Hamza was the best of the bowlers with 4-32, while Afridi took 4-76.

Carey slammed 53 to help

He resumed on 16 after Aus-16-4 thanks to an attacking There was plenty resting on 96 from Mitchell Marsh and

Carey, who made his first and

(50) and Babar Azam (41) gave them a fighting chance.

but they were batting pretty nicely," said Cummins.

"Anything with a three in front of it was the aim, so we got that," tough task, with the highest-ever

bit tight.'

It was always going to be a getting past 300. he added of the target they want- successful fourth innings run ger picture. The smiles are that for us. A lot to work on. But this ed to set Pakistan. "Felt like we chase at the Melbourne Cricket there are a lot of positives," said is a blueprint." had enough to bowl at but a little Ground the 332-7 England man- Pakistan captain Masood.

"Little bit twitchy, felt okay Australian bowler Pat Cummins (C) celebrates with teammate Marnus Labuschagne (L) after dismissing Pakistan batsman Shaheen Shah Afridi

aged in 1928, with no other team

"We have to look at the big-

"This is the way we want to play Test cricket, fighting until the end and a result was possible

looked in good nick.

But after reaching 41, Josh a year ago, hit consecutive fours Hazlewood got a ball to jag in his first over off Hasan Ali to back and it clattered into his build confidence.

off stump. looked dangerous on his way with the impressive Afridi getto 35 before Cummins again ting the breakthrough on a pitch worked his magic, with Alex still offering a bit for the bowl-Opener Abdullah Shafique de- Carev collecting a catch behind ers.

only Test hundred in Melbourne

At the other end, Starc lived Mohammad Rizwan also dangerously and fell for nine







SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa receives the Al Riffa Cup from REHC **High Committee chairman** His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Baker hails superstar Lucander

Bahrain Turf Series produces two thrillers with Al Riffa Cup and Al Dana Cup

Scott and Shepherd fire home another winner with Rocket **Rodney in the sprint**

Gallant Lucander records third course win after titanic battle in middle distance

TDT | Manama

ound two of the REH 2023/2024 Bahrain Turf Cup Series produced two Al Dana Cup. thrilling races at Rashid Eques-(REHC) yesterday, with victo- a fantastic finish to the Al Dana ry in both divisions, sprint and Cup, with the seven-year-old nationally trained horses.

Rocket Rodney, owned by His Turf Series. Back in third was Highness Shaikh Nasser bin the gallant Box To Box (trained Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa's Vic- by Hugo Palmer), delivering a his neck out, I thought we were Callum Shepherd their second torious Racing, returned to form 1-2-3 for the internationals. when taking the Al Riffa Cup, although his owner, trainer and er George Baker, together with double when their Isle Of Jura cander, who was twice a winner today, so we will have a think in could not peg back Lucander, in Bahrain last season, saying: trained by George Baker, in the "These horses, you travel the we go from here."



REHC High Committee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with winners from the Al Dana

trian and Horseracing Club Jura and Lucander, served up the world with them." middle-distance, going to inter- Lucander prevailing by the nar- come. Last year was amazing, including when runner-up at rowest of margins to deny Isle Of but this more than matches it. Royal Ascot, Rocket Rodney The George Scott-trained Jura a second win in the Bahrain

Afterwards, a delighted train-

world to find them, and then The two top-weights, Isle Of when you find them, you travel

He added: "That was a huge thrill, what a horse he has be-He's tough and he's game and Patsy (Cosgrave) gave him a beautiful ride. He really stuck trainer George Scott and jockey going to be done in the shadows of the post.

the morning about which way

Half an hour before Isle of Jura was narrowly beaten, his home a surprise winner.

A prolific performer last year, shot back to form in the Al Riffa Cup to give owners Victorious, win in this season's Bahrain Turf Series. Rocket Rodney led home second and third respectively.

Victory in the sprint division was a poignant one for trainer George Scott, as he revealed hoped he would run better. It is the key role Rocket Rodney has just great for him to get his head played in getting his career back back in front. He was a prolific on track.

Action from yesterday's races at REHC

a great friend of HH Shaikh Nas- done so in these circumstances. ser's and myself and he really helped kick start my career and we got a nice tow into the again last year. He was the first race. I thought I might get horse HH Shaikh Nasser had through up the rail, but when I with me and HH Shaikh Nasser pulled him out, he has picked up has been very patient, so it is lovely to have the horse back and for him to win a Bahrain Turf Series race.

start of the race, Scott added: trained runners (rated 85-100) "He's got a great mind. He's not to compete against local Bahrain around quietly all day. Then, Each race is worth \$80,000 with once the race was underway, we bonus prizes for the horses acwere stuck on the rail but it was cumulating most points in the probably a good thing because two divisions, sprint and middle by the end he really needed the distance. line, so if he had got out sooner, he may have got tired. He has season is the third edition of the thrived here in the last couple ten-race Bahrain Turf Series. of weeks so that gave me hope."

"He's just been a superstar for a clean sweep for the interna- come surprise for jockey Callum with international horses comjockey were denied a famous his owners, welcomed back Lu- us. He has won off a rating of 100 tionals with Brazen Bolt (trained Sheppard, as Rocket Rodney put peting in the series also eligiby John Quinn) and Anthem behind him an unplaced effort in ble to run in other Bahrain Turf National (Philip Kirby) finishing round one of the Bahrain Turf Club races open to imported Series sprint division.

Shepherd said: "That was a little unexpected, though we juvenile, and it is really good "He (Rocket Rodney) has been he has gone and won today and

"The step up in trip helped the leader nicely."

Running from December through to February, the Bahrain Turf Series provides op-Referring to the delay at the portunities for internationally

Launched in 2021/2022, this The series runs alongside the Even so, the win was a wel- domestic programme in Bahrain horses.

connections were cheering a typical sprinter, he would walk based horses across ten races.

Mudallal clinches Owners Cup in Class One race

Byline wins The **Humphrey Butler Fine Jewellery Cup**

Zagato comes away with Kuwait **Finance House Cup**

TDT | Manama

udallal lifted the Owners Mudallal inter the Ch Cup in one of yesterday's other big races at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

The five-year-old gelding triumphed for owners Al Mohamediya Racing and trainer Fawzi Nass, with jockey Jason Watson in the saddle.



Winners at a prize presentation

over 10 furlongs. It was a Class

Mediterranean Moon finished Rodriguez; while Taaris came The Owners Cup was on offer One-Domestic Grade One event as the runner-up for M and E third for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, the seventh and penultimate Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haidin the fifth race of the day, held carrying \$31,500 in prize money. Racing, AM Smith and Edinson Fawzi Nass and Husain Makki.

Elsewhere yesterday, Byline Grade Two event-held over 12 hoisted The Humphrey Butler furlongs with a \$14,000 total Fine Jewellery Cup, Zagato won prize. Zagato triumphed for the the Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Mohamediya-Nass-Watson tri-Cup, and Ganadeel claimed The umvirate; while Chronograph Bahrain Jockey Academy Cup. came second for Al Adiyat Rac-

mediya Racing, Fawzi Nass and Jason Watson.

race-a Class One-Domestic er Ebrahim and Nathan Crosse.

Byline won The Humphrey ing, AM Smith and Gerald Mosse; Butler Fine Jewellery Cup in the with Simply Sondheim in third eighth and final race of the day, for PJL Racing, George Baker held over eight furlongs with a and Patrick Cosgrave. Ganadeel \$14,000 total prize. It was a Class lifted The Bahrain Jockey Acad-One-Domestic Grade Two event. emy Cup in race two, held over Byline took first place for Al a six-furlong straight with a Adivat Racing and AM Smith, \$6,000 prize. The three-year-old with Gerald Mosse in the saddle. filly won for owner HH Shaikh Mehmento finished second Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalfor Al Afoo Racing, Mohammed ifa, trainer Haider Ebrahim and Hasan and Soufiane Saadi; and jockey Abdulla Faisal. Portofino Gumais came third for Al Moha- was the runner-up for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Fawzi Nass and Husain Makki; while Najran came Zagato took the KFH Cup in third for HH Shaikh Hamad bin

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