



Deadly landslide

Landslides in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 133 people yesterday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris.

(Full story on page 6-7)



Russia condemns Israeli strike on Lebanon

AFP | Moscow
 Russia accused Israel yesterday of violating international law after it struck a Hezbollah stronghold in the Lebanese capital Beirut. "This is a gross violation of international law," Russia's foreign ministry told state news agencies. Israel said the strike targeted a commander responsible for a Saturday rocket attack on the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children.

Pain and grief

Third child dies in UK knife stabbing spree

AFP | Southport, UK
 A third child died yesterday from a mass stabbing at a Taylor Swift-themed dance event in northern England that Prime Minister Keir Starmer said "touches a nerve" with the whole country. Starmer was among a stream of people to pay tribute at the site of Monday's knife attack in Southport, near Liverpool, that left five children and two adults with critical wounds. Three other children were hurt. Laying flowers with hundreds of other wreaths, Starmer thanked emergency workers who responded to the stabbing spree and said: "I came here to pay my respects to the victims and families who are going through raw pain and grief that



The victims, from left, nine-year-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar, seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, and six-year-old Bebe King. (AFP)

Bahrain condolences with India over Kerala landslides



TDT | Manama
 The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its utmost sympathy and solidarity with the Republic of India following the major landslides that took place in the state of Kerala, which led to dozens of deaths and injuries. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the Indian government and people, and the families and relatives of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery to all the injured.

Bahrain attends Iranian president inauguration ceremony

Tehran

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, represented the Kingdom of Bahrain at the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian, the newly elected President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which took place at the Islamic Consultative Assembly in Tehran yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were the Speaker of Iran's Majlis (Parliament), the head of the

judiciary, members of the Majlis, senior officials of the Iranian government, several heads of state and government, foreign ministers, envoys and ambassadors of countries accredited to Tehran.

Dr. Al Zayani conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to President Pezeshkian, and their wishes for Iran and its people further progress and



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani at the event

prosperity.

He expressed Bahrain's interest in the development of bilateral relations between the Kingdom and Iran, leading to the restoration of normal relations and progress in further enhancing cooperation to serve common interests.

Dr. Al Zayani wished Iran and its people further stability and prosperity.

The Foreign Minister was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Kaabi, the Bahraini Ambassador to Oman.

Price stability success

Bahrain maintains lowest inflation rate among GCC countries in April 2024

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In a report released by the Gulf Statistical Center, Bahrain was found to have the lowest inflation rate among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in April 2024, at just 1.2%.

This is in contrast to the overall GCC inflation rate, which rose by 1.3% compared to the same period last year.

Despite the increase, the GCC countries are still recording



Image used for illustrative purposes only

lower inflation rates than the European Union, which stood at 2.6% for the same period.

Oman was reported to have the lowest inflation rate in the GCC at 0.4%, followed by Bahrain at 1.2%.

The report highlighted that the sectors which experienced the highest inflation were housing at 4.9%, followed by culture and entertainment at 3.0%, restaurants and hotels at 1.7%, and food and beverages at 1.3%.

Education saw a 0.8% increase, while goods and services rose by 0.4%.



On the other hand, the health sector declined by 0.9%, communications by 1.1%, and furniture and household equipment by 2.6%.


Among Bahrain's major trading partners, the report found that India had the highest inflation rate at 3.9%, followed by Brazil at 3.7%, the United States at 3.4%, the United Kingdom at 3.0%, and China at 0.3%.

Qatar Amir receives Bahraini ambassador's credentials



His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, received the credentials of Ambassador Mohammed bin Ali Al Ghatam, as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bahrain to Qatar. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and their wishes for the State of Qatar and its people's further progress and prosperity.



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Nurse's fatal fumble

One-year sentence upheld for negligence leading to patient's death

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The High Appeals Court has upheld a one-year prison sentence for an Asian nurse found guilty of negligence in the death of a patient at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

The nurse was found to have caused the patient's death by dropping her while transferring her from a bed to a wheelchair.

The Public Prosecution had initially charged the nurse, along with another nurse, with causing the patient's death due to negligence in their professional duties.

While the first nurse was acquitted, the second nurse was initially sentenced to one year in prison.

This sentence was later upheld by the High Appeals Court.

The incident occurred when the patient, who was admitted to the emergency department with abdominal pain, was being transferred to another ward.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

During the transfer, the nurse dropped the patient, causing her head to hit a hard surface.

The impact was heard by everyone present, but the nurse did not disclose the incident immediately.

The nurse claimed that the sound was caused by the patient's bag hitting a medical equipment stand.

However, after the patient fell

unconscious, it was discovered that she had suffered a head injury.

The delay in providing appropriate medical care, including a CT scan, led to a severe brain hemorrhage and internal bleeding.

Despite emergency surgery, the patient's condition continued to deteriorate, and she eventually passed away while

on life support.

"I am deeply sorry for the patient's death. I never meant for this to happen. I have always been a dedicated and caring nurse. I would never intentionally harm a patient," the accused nurse said during the trial, adding: "I am committed to learning from this experience and becoming a better healthcare professional."



During the transfer, the nurse dropped the patient, causing her head to hit a hard surface.

Two arrested for 'defrauding' Tamkeen



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Suspects submitted fake employment contracts to obtain BD53,720 funds

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Two individuals have been arrested and a third is being sought by authorities for allegedly defrauding the Labour Fund, Tamkeen, of BD53,720 (\$140,000) through a fake employment scheme.

The Public Prosecution for Financial Crimes and Money Laundering announced the arrests following an investigation triggered by a complaint filed by Tamkeen.

The investigation was initiated after Tamkeen's Violations Committee, during routine inspections and site visits, discovered that a supported company did not exist and that none of the employees listed

on its payroll had actually been employed.

The investigation, conducted by the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security revealed that the company owner had allegedly submitted fake employment contracts for 25 individuals in order to fraudulently obtain Tamkeen's support funds.

Evidence

The Public Prosecution questioned the two arrested individuals, who were shareholders in the company, and presented them with evidence.

They were subsequently remanded in custody. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of the company owner, who is expected to be questioned soon.

The investigation is ongoing and the suspects will be referred to court for criminal prosecution once the investigation is complete.

Seven-year prison term for ice block dispute stabbing

Deportation to follow

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The First High Criminal Court has sentenced a 44-year-old man to seven years in prison, followed by deportation, for a violent altercation at the Central Market in Manama.

The incident, sparked by a disagreement over the sale of an ice block, escalated into a physical confrontation, resulting in the victim sustaining multiple stab wounds and a permanent disability estimated at 10%.

According to court records, the altercation began when the accused, who works in the same field as the victim, confronted him about selling ice to a customer.

The verbal dispute quickly turned physical, leading the accused to retrieve a knife typically used for breaking ice.

The court detailed how the accused struck the victim on the mouth and nose, causing the loss of two teeth and bleeding.

Multiple times

Despite the victim's attempt to flee, the accused chased him to a truck stop, where he stabbed him multiple times in the back, right shoulder, left arm, right elbow, and abdomen.

Passersby intervened, shouting at the accused and causing him to flee, leaving the knife behind at the scene.

A witness at the market reported seeing the victim in a severely injured state and hearing him identify the accused as the assailant. The witness then took the victim to the hospital.



Driver's dangerous stunts

The General Traffic Department has announced the arrest of a driver and the impoundment of his vehicle following the circulation of a video clip on social media. The footage showed the individual performing dangerous stunts with his vehicle, endangering both his life and the lives of others. The department confirmed that legal measures have been taken against the driver to prevent the recurrence of such reckless behavior. The authorities emphasized their commitment to maintaining road safety and ensuring that such actions are not repeated.

20-year-old jailed for assaulting elderly brothers

Road rage case

TDT | Manama

A 20-year-old man has been sentenced to one year in prison for assaulting three elderly brothers, causing a permanent disability to one of them.

The incident, which occurred in the Hajiyat area, stemmed from a road rage incident.

According to court documents, the three brothers, aged

60, 57, and 62, were driving in their car when they encountered the 20-year-old defendant driving recklessly.

The brothers honked their horn to warn the defendant, but he continued to drive erratically.

When both cars stopped at a red light, the defendant got out of his car and made obscene gestures towards the brothers.

Confrontation

The brothers decided to leave to avoid any confrontation, but the defendant pursued them, us-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ing his car horn and headlights to harass them.

The brothers eventually stopped at a cafe in Hajiyat, where the defendant also pulled over.

As they all got out of their cars, the defendant attacked the brothers.

He kicked the 57-year-old brother in the leg, causing him to fall and break his leg.

The defendant then punched the 62-year-old brother in the head and assaulted the 60-year-old brother as well.

Bahrain prepares diplomatic missions for by-election

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has begun preparations to facilitate the upcoming by-election for the Council of Representatives in the first constituency of Muharraq Governorate.

The election, scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024, will be conducted at Bahraini embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions abroad, as per Ministerial Decree No. 59 of 2024 issued by the Minister of Justice.

"The Ministry is working closely with the Higher Com-

mittee for General Supervision of the Integrity of the Election of Members of the House of Representatives, particularly through the Consular Services Sector. This collaboration involves informative meetings between diplomatic mission staff and the committee to ensure a smooth voting process, including the counting of ballots and the announcement of results," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The Ministry urged all eligible Bahraini citizens residing abroad to prepare for the election.

Asian man on trial for multiple home invasions

TDT | Manama

An Asian man has been referred to trial after being accused of multiple home invasions in the Al Hidd area.

The Public Prosecution announced the decision following an investigation into a viral video showing the suspect entering several residences.

The investigation was initiated after the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) filed multiple reports with the Public Prosecution.

The CID's investigation led to the identification and apprehension of the suspect.

During the investigation, the



The suspect seen in this viral video was entering a residence

Public Prosecution questioned the suspect and presented him with the video evidence. He confessed to the charges against him.

Subsequently, the Public Prosecution ordered his detention pending trial.

The suspect will now face criminal charges in court.



Price transparency will benefit consumers

Clear cost display

Ministry enforces new rule mandating price visibility both in physical stores and online

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Tired of hidden prices and awkward cashier moments? The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has taken decisive action to safeguard shoppers.

In response to widespread consumer frustration over unclear pricing and uncomfortable checkout situations, the Ministry has mandated that all prices



The new rule aims to eliminate hidden fees and avoid any surprises at checkout.

must be clearly displayed not only in physical stores but also on social media pages and websites.

This new rule aims to eliminate hidden fees and avoid any surprises at checkout.

Rest assured, signs stating "no returns or exchanges" are strictly prohibited.

Additionally, when goods are showcased online, customers have a legal period of 15 days from the date of receipt to inspect the product, as stipulated

by Law No. 35 of 2012 regarding consumer protection.

Forbidden

It is also forbidden to display phrases like "sold goods are not returnable or exchangeable" on sales pages.

The Ministry emphasized that price advertising requirements extend beyond physical stores to include social media pages and online store websites.

The Ministry is on your side!

Bahrain committed to safeguarding human rights



H.E. Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with senior security officials

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The Minister of Interior, His Excellency Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, praised Bahrain's achievements in human rights, attributing this progress to the noble guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He also acknowledged the ongoing support and attention from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in advancing human rights, public freedoms, and various national endeavours.

The Minister was speaking as the Kingdom marked the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, observed annually on the 30th of July.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah was joined in the occasion by Major General Tariq Hassan Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security, Brigadier Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Director-General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, and several officers from the directorate.

Leadership

The Minister said that Bahrain's success in combating human trafficking and maintaining

"Bahrain's success in combating human trafficking and maintaining its international standing for the seventh consecutive year necessitates increased efforts to further elevate this status and sustain its leadership."

- H.E. LIEUTENANT GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR

its international standing for the seventh consecutive year necessitates increased efforts to further elevate this status and sustain its leadership.

He expressed his gratitude to the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence, particularly the Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate, for their diligent efforts and improvements in performance.

He also conveyed his pride in their dedication to their security responsibilities.

Security work

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah emphasised the im-

portance of leveraging current scientific and technological advancements in security work, such as enhancing security readiness and employing modern technologies like artificial intelligence.

He emphasised the need for rigorous monitoring, analysis, comparison, and accuracy in information within security work, especially with the rise of remote crime.

The Minister honoured several members of the Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate, acknowledging their roles and efforts and wishing them success in serving the nation.

Bridge lane set for closure

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The Ministry of Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, has announced upcoming maintenance work on the Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Bridge, which connects the Capital Governorate and Muharraq Governorate.

This maintenance involves the repair of bridge joints and will necessitate the closure of the right lane in both directions. However, two lanes will remain open to facilitate traffic flow.

The maintenance is scheduled to commence tomorrow at 11pm and will continue until Sunday, August 4, 2024, at 5am.

During this period, drivers are advised to adhere to traffic rules and regulations to ensure the safety of all road users.

The Ministry urges all citizens and residents to cooperate and exercise caution while driving in the affected area.

Fresh face, new ideas

Mohammad Darwish named new head of activities at Bahrain Philanthropic Society

TDT | Manama

Mohammad Darwish has been named head of the Committee for Activities, Events, and Innovation at The Bahrain Philanthropic Society.

In this role, he will spearhead unique initiatives, adopt new fundraising techniques, and introduce a fresh communication strategy aimed at engaging different segments of the community.

Additionally, he will create opportunities to better support the underprivileged families under the society's care, working closely with the Committee for Social Care and Services.

His appointment is seen as a

step forward for the society, aligning with its future goals.

Experience

Darwish brings a wealth of experience from various fields. As an engineer and seasoned administrator, he has a background in investment and real estate.

His extensive media career includes presenting numerous television and radio programmes that have resonated well with audiences. He has also played a key role in organising cultural events, notably the TEDx seminars in Bahrain.

His academic credentials include a Master's degree in Communications from the Univer-



Mohammad Darwish

sity of Leeds and a professional diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Lecturer

He is a lecturer at several universities and accredited training centres in media and marketing. Furthermore, he writes a regular column, "Out of the Flock," discussing current local and regional issues, and has recently launched a podcast of the same name, featuring prominent community members. Throughout his career, Dar-



Mohammad Darwish will spearhead unique initiatives, adopt new fundraising techniques, and introduce a fresh communication strategy aimed at engaging different segments of the community.

wish has held leadership positions at several institutions, including the Bahrain Ministry of Information, Abu Dhabi Investment House, TAIB Bank, and Capital Real Estate Company.

He currently serves as the Secretary-General of the Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Award at Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group.

Anti-Trafficking Forum

His Excellency Nibras Mohammed Talib, Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, inaugurated the Anti-Trafficking Forum organised by the LMRA on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The forum brought together a select group of government officials, diplomats, representatives of international organisations, and private sector stakeholders to exchange experiences and showcase best practices in the work environment, contributing to the fight against human trafficking.



Joint aquaculture project

The Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) and the National Guard have launched a joint aquaculture project. The launch event was attended by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, the Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs; Lieutenant General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa, the National Guard Staff Director.

Zenjex is announcing the closing of its Hoorah Branch. Customers are requested to visit the newly renovated Gudaibiya Branch instead Telephone No. 17290188.

BNET signs MoU with Huawei to enhance Fibre Broadband

TDT | Manama

BNET, the national provider of fibre optic infrastructure in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei Bahrain, the leading global provider of information and communications technology. This strategic partnership was solidified during a formal visit by BNET's management team to China.

By deploying Huawei's cutting-edge solutions and innovative products nationwide such as Fibre To The Room (FTTR), Home Wi-Fi Management Platform (NCE-Home) and so on, BNET said will deliver unpar-



The deal signing

alleled fibre broadband service to all users across Bahrain. This partnership will significantly

enhance internal coverage for both residences and businesses, positioning Bahrain as a leader

in global fibre broadband provision, aiming to set new benchmarks with BNET's robust infra-

structure. On the occasion, Mr. Ahmed Jaber Alhogbani Aldoseri, CEO of BNET, commented, "We are confident that by combining BNET's extensive network infrastructure with Huawei's cutting-edge technology solutions, we will be able to elevate the nationwide fibre broadband experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain and position the Kingdom as a global leader in this crucial sector."

Mr. Aziz Tang, CEO of Huawei Bahrain, added, "Huawei is committed to supporting Bahrain's digital transformation journey, and we believe that this partnership will play a key role in advancing the country's fibre broadband infrastructure and services."

US sanctions firms in China, Iran for aiding Tehran's UAV programme

Washington, United States

The United States sanctioned five people and seven companies in China and Iran on Tuesday, accusing them of aiding Tehran's ballistic missile and drone programs.

The sanctions targeted individuals and companies in China, Hong Kong and Iran involved in procuring key components for "subordinates" of Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL), the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

"Today's action exposes additional key front companies and trusted agents through which Iran has sought to acquire these components," Treasury under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence Brian Nelson said.

He added that the US "will continue to impose costs on those that facilitate Iran's ability to produce these deadly weapons."

The sanctioned individuals and firms were involved in procuring accelerometers and gyroscopes used for guidance, navigation and control systems by MODAFL's ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) programs, according to the Treasury.

US Fed kicks off interest rate meeting that could tee up September cut

Washington, United States

The Federal Reserve began the first of two days of debate on interest rates on Tuesday, with analysts and traders widely expecting another pause -- and hoping for clues about a September rate cut.

The meeting began at 10:00 am local time (1400 GMT), the Fed said in a statement. Its decision will be published on Wednesday afternoon local time.

Fed officials have previously admitted to moving too slowly to stem an inflationary surge in 2021 and 2022, and have been wary of cutting rates too soon and accidentally reigniting inflation.

Recent data indicates that inflation continues to slow toward the US central bank's long-term target of two percent, while economic growth remains strong and the labor market is showing signs of coming into better balance.

Zain Bahrain reports Q2 and H1 profits

● Q2 net profit increased 2.6 % to reach BD 1.35 m

● Revenue rose 3.5% to BD 38.44 m

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator in the Kingdom, announced its financial results for the second quarter (Q2 2024) and 1st Half of 2024.

Q2 results

The operator reported a net profit of BD 1.35 million for the



SHAIKH AHMED, ZAIN BAHRAIN CHAIRMAN

three months ended 30 June 2024, representing an increase of 2.6% from BD 1.32 m in Q2 2023. Earnings per share remained stable at 4 fils. EBITDA for Q2 2024 increased by 11.9% reaching BD 6.09 m from BD 5.44 m in Q2 2023. Revenue for Q2 2024 remained stable at 18.93 m compared to Q2 2023.

For the six months ended 30 June 2024, Zain Bahrain reported net profit of BD 2.42 m, representing a 11.9% decrease from BD 2.75 m in H1 2023. Earnings per share for H1 2024 is 7 fils compared to 8 fils in H1 2023. EBITDA for H1 2024 increased by 7.6% to BD 11.79 m from 10.96 m for the same period in 2023.

Revenue for H1 2024 reached BD 38.44 m, an increase of 3.5% compared to BD 37.12 m for the same period in 2023.

Zain Bahrain Chairman, Shaikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Khalifa said, "I am pleased to announce that during this quarter, Zain Bahrain has significantly expanded its business solution

offerings, embraced innovative solutions, and launched a range of consumer and enterprise services."

Zain Bahrain Chairman continued, "As we move forward, I am confident that Zain Bahrain will continue to thrive and excel in the ever-evolving landscape of telecom and fintech, unlocking economic opportunities, improving financial well-being, and driving sustainable future growth. Zain Bahrain's commitment to innovation, excellence, and customer experience is unwavering, and we are poised to grasp new opportunities and overcome challenges with resilience and determination," concluded the Zain Bahrain Chairman.

ila Bank names winners of US\$290,000 Al Kanz April 2024 lucky draws

TDT | Manama

ila Bank, powered by Bank ABC, has announced the five winners of the Al Kanz cash prizes totaling US\$290,000 for April 2024.

Mohamed Ebrahim Alajooz was declared the winner of the Grand Prize of US\$250,000. The remaining four winners who each won a prize of US\$10,000 are Ebrahim Isa Kamal, Zahra Yusuf Abdulla, Haitham Abdelhamid Moustafa, and Stuart David.

Nada Tarada, Head of Business & Customer at ila Bank commented, "We take great pride in granting our customers the opportunity to win fantastic prizes every month. Al Kanz's



ila Bank team with Mr. Mohammed Alajooz, winner of the Al Kanz April 2024 grand prize

generous cash prizes reflect our commitment to propelling our clients 'to' their financial goals

and aspirations simply by banking and saving with their trusted banking partner - ila."

The winner of the Grand Prize, Mohammed Alajooz, has big plans to utilise his prize.

He said, "I intend to set aside a part of my prize amount for my child's education, and I plan to buy a new car and settle my loan."

Mohammed will continue to deposit money into Al Kanz, as he finds it "an incredible savings tool." He added, "My experience with ila Bank has been exceptional since day one. The ila app is user friendly and super easy to use, making my banking experience a breeze."

Al Kanz, ila Bank's innovative digital saving tool, has grand prizes in the pipeline for the rest of the year, with the highest amount of US\$1 million for the grand year-end prize for December 2024.

Tamkeen backs Al-Sater Markets Through Employment and Career Development Opportunities for Bahrainis

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced its support for the expansion project of Al-Sater Markets and dozens of employment opportunities for Bahrainis, in addition to career development opportunities for 43 of its Bahraini employees.



This was facilitated through Tamkeen's National Employment Programme and Wage Increment Programme with the purpose of empowering Al Sater

Markets with the human capital needed through their expansion project in the Kingdom. It's worth mentioning that Al Sater

Market's Bahrainization rate stands at around 45% in their current branches as of this year.

Kahlid AlBayat, Chief Growth Officer at the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), highlighted Tamkeen's commitment to supporting expansion and growth plans of local enterprises due to their direct impact on the national

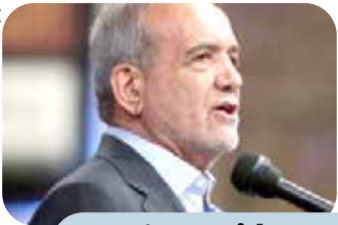
economy. He stated: "We commend the efforts of Bahraini enterprises to expand their operations and attract more specialized national talent by leveraging Tamkeen's various support programs to support their growth plans and achieve further success."

Mr. Hussain Mohammed Ali,

CEO of Al-Sater Markets said: "The support will enable us to develop the skills of Bahraini employees currently employed in our branches by providing them with necessary training and career development opportunities and benefiting from Tamkeen's Wage Increment Programme."

News in brief

◆ **Iranian reformist** president Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn before parliament on Tuesday as the Islamic republic's ninth president at a ceremony attended by foreign dignitaries. Pezeshkian won a runoff race against ultraconservative Saeed Jalili on July 5 to replace president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May. Tuesday's ceremony came two days after Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei officially endorsed Pezeshkian and gave the 69-year-old heart surgeon presidential powers. "I as the president, in front of the Holy Koran and the people of Iran, swear to almighty God to be the guardian of the official religion and the Islamic Republic system and the constitution of the country," Pezeshkian said at the ceremony which was broadcast live on state TV. Pezeshkian, who is expected to unveil his government within two weeks, had secured more than 16 million votes during the runoff, or about 54 percent of the roughly 30 million ballots cast.



Iran's president Pezeshkian sworn in at parliament

◆ **The United States** will provide \$500 million in military funding to the Philippines. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday, as Washington boosts ties with Manila in the face of China's growing assertiveness. Blinken was in Manila with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin as part of an Asia-Pacific tour to strengthen Washington's latticework of alliances aimed at countering Beijing. "We're now allocating an additional \$500 million in foreign military financing to the Philippines to boost security collaboration with our oldest treaty ally in this region," Blinken told a joint news conference. Blinken described it as a "once in a generation investment" to help modernise the Philippine armed forces and coast guard.

Blinken says US to provide \$500 mn military funding to Philippines



◆ **An Indian passenger** train derailed and several of its cars overturned yesterday, killing at least two people and injuring 20 others. India's extensive rail network is the main form of travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents often occur. The Howrah-Mumbai Express derailed near Jamshedpur in the eastern state of Jharkhand before dawn. "At least two people were killed and 20 injured," Indian Railways spokesman Om Prakash Charan told AFP. The accident happened at around the same time a goods train coming from the opposite side derailed, possibly colliding with the passenger train when it passed by. "There was another derailment of a goods train nearby, but it was unclear if the two accidents occurred concurrently," Charan said.

Two killed, 20 injured in India train derailment



SPOTLIGHT

Uganda police find 17 human skulls at suspected shrine

AFP | Kabanga

Seventeen human skulls buried in metal boxes have been unearthed in an underground chamber at a suspected shrine in the centre of Uganda, police told AFP on Tuesday.



Representative picture

Children foraging for firewood outside Kabanga village near Mpigi town, about 40 kilometres (24 miles) west of the capital Kampala, made the grisly discovery on Sunday, according to local residents. Shocked and worried villagers told police there were metallic boxes containing what appeared to be skulls in an underground chamber beneath one of three ruined shrines on a sleepy hillside.

the use of heavy machinery, slowing the search.

"We swiftly moved in and dug up the place, and so far we have recovered 17 human skulls," regional police spokesman Majid Karim told AFP. "We are conducting more excavations to ensure there are no more skulls other than what we have so far recovered," he said.

"Our worry (is) if police have recovered the skulls, where could the rest of the body parts be, like the legs, the hands?" father-of-four Mubumbi told AFP.

He added that the remains, discovered in four boxes, were being examined to determine their age and sex, as well as when they may have been buried.

"We are shocked. We never expected this to happen in our neighbourhood," he said.

Local media reported residents as saying that people had previously gathered at the location to worship. Police said the suspected owner of the site is on the run, having been linked to a separate case involving the murder of a prominent traditional Baganda leader, entrepreneur Daniel Bbosa.

The killing in Kampala was reportedly carried out by hired gunmen as Bbosa returned home from work in February this year.

Mpigi district, although densely populated, remains semi-rural, with agriculture dominating local trade.

Mpigi district, although densely populated, remains semi-rural, with agriculture dominating local trade.

133 killed after landsli

AFP | Bengaluru, India

Landslides in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 133 people yesterday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris.



Relief personnel conduct a search and rescue operation at a site following landslides in Wayanad

The southern coastal state of Kerala has been battered by torrential downpours, with blocked roads into the disaster area in Wayanad district complicating relief efforts.

"This catastrophe has resulted in the loss of 108 lives," the state's chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a statement on Tuesday afternoon. "This is one of the worst natural calamities Kerala has ever witnessed."

Another 128 people had been hospitalised for treatment after their rescue, he said.

"My thoughts are with all those



Nearly 500 people were killed around Kerala in 2018 during the worst flooding to hit the state in almost a century. India's worst landslide in recent decades was in 1998, when rockfalls triggered by heavy monsoon rains killed at least 220 people and buried the tiny village of Malpa in the Himalayas.



NDRF personnel at the disaster site as they rescue victims of the landslide



A site following landslides

who have lost their loved ones and prayers with those injured," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

Wayanad is famed for the tea estates that crisscross its hilly countryside and which rely on a large pool of casual labourers for planting and harvest.

Images published by the National Disaster Response Force showed rescue crews trudging through mud to search for survivors and carrying bodies on stretchers out of the area.

Several estates in the district were hit by two successive landslides before dawn when most of their inhabitants were asleep.

Homes were caked with brown sludge as the force of the landslide scattered cars, corrugated

iron and other debris around the disaster site.

India's army said it had deployed more than 200 soldiers to the area to assist state security forces and fire crews in search-and-rescue efforts.

Modi's office said families of the dead would receive a com-

Turkish stray dog law sparks opposition anger

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Turkish opposition parties vowed yesterday to fight a law authorising the capture -- and in some cases killing -- of the country's estimated four million stray dogs.

Evacuations, destruction as California's largest fire of year rages



Surrounded by flames, residents Grant (L) and Andrea Douglas (R) pull over on the side of the road while evacuating as the Park fire continues to burn near Paynes Creek in unincorporated Tehama County, California

Thronged by firefighters were mobilized in California Monday to battle the state's largest blaze of the year, which has prompted thousands of evacuations and already burned an area larger than the city of Los Angeles.

the largest fires in state history.

The Park Fire outside of Chico in the state's north has been raging since Wednesday in a rural region about three hours' drive northeast of San Francisco.

No casualties have been reported so far, and firefighters benefitted from a slight drop in temperatures over the weekend that allowed them to make some progress, with the fire now 12 percent contained.

It has now ravaged more than 370,000 acres (149,700 hectares) according to the Cal Fire agency, making it one of

Nearly 4,900 firefighters have been mobilized, with 33 helicopters, 400 fire trucks and numerous planes battling the conflagration.

More than 26,000 residents were under evacuation orders Monday afternoon, with authorities calling for extreme caution due to a high risk of fire escalation.

Russia stages naval drills involving most of its fleet

AFP | Moscow, Russia

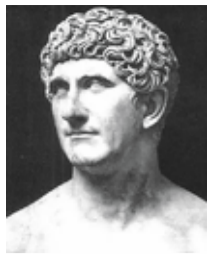
Russia yesterday began large-scale military drills involving every part of its navy not engaged in the Ukraine offensive, the defence ministry said.

Some 300 vessels, including submarines, and more than 20,000 personnel will be involved in the exercises, which are being staged in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, as well as the Baltic and Caspian Seas.

The drills will involve "more than 300 combat exercises with the practical use of combat weapons", the ministry said.

"The main purposes of the exercises is to test the actions of the navy's military command at all levels, as well as the readiness of the ships' crews, naval aviation units and naval coastal troops," it continued.

Battle of Alexandria: Mark Antony achieves a minor victory over Octavian, but most of his army subsequently deserts, leading to Octavian's invasion of Egypt



Pilgrim Fathers depart Leiden, Netherlands for England on their way to America

World War I: Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres) begins, goes on to cause approximately 500,000 casualties

Israel welcomes its one millionth immigrant

des strike India tea estates



Indian Army, security and relief personnel rescue victims



Gandhi, who until recently represented Wayanad in parliament, told lawmakers that the scope of the devastation was "heart-breaking".

"Our country has witnessed an alarming rise in landslides in recent years," he said. "The need of the hour is a comprehensive action plan to address the growing frequency of natural calamities."

Monsoon rains across the region from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies.

They are vital for agriculture and therefore the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security for South Asia's nearly two billion people.

But they also bring destruction in the form of landslides and floods.

The number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years, and experts say climate change is exacerbating the problem.

"The number of extreme-



ly heavy rainfall days have increased," Kartiki Negi of Indian environment think tank Climate Trends told AFP.

"The atmosphere is quite disturbed," she said. "Thus we see more and more extreme events

these days."

Intense monsoon storms battered India this month, flooding parts of the financial capital Mumbai, while lightning in the eastern state of Bihar killed at least 10 people.

pensation payment of \$2,400 (200,000 rupees).

Vijayan said that more than 3,000 people were sheltering in emergency relief camps around Wayanad district.

More rainfall and strong winds lashed Kerala on Tuesday, and Vijayan urged the public to "be

prepared and heed warnings" of more potential disasters ahead. "Everyone should be willing to follow the instructions given by authorities and not ignore them," he added.

'Alarming rise in landslides'

Indian opposition leader Rahul

Israel targets Hezbollah commander

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Israel struck Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut yesterday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

"The IDF (army) carried out a targeted strike in Beirut on the commander responsible for the murder of the children in Majdal Shams and the killing of numerous additional Israeli civilians," the military said in a statement, referring to the Druze Arab town in the annexed Golan Heights where the children were killed on Saturday.

A source close to Hezbollah told AFP that senior commander Fuad Shukur, who is leading the group's operations against Israel in south Lebanon, survived an Israeli strike in the group's southern Beirut stronghold.

Shukur, "who goes by the nom de guerre Mohsen Shukur, survived the Israeli strike," the source told AFP, requesting anonymity, adding that Shukur is "in charge of commanding military operations in southern Lebanon".

Gaza official says 300 killed in Khan Yunis as army ends assault

Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that an Israeli operation in and around the territory's second city of Khan Yunis killed about 300 people since it began last week, while the army said it had "eliminated 150".

"Since the beginning of the Israeli ground invasion of the eastern part of Khan Yunis province, the civil defence and medical teams have recovered approximately 300 bodies of martyrs, many of them decomposed," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

In 2017, the US Treasury offered \$5 million for information on Shukur, describing him as "a senior adviser" to Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and saying he had "a central role" in the deadly 1983 bombing of the US Marine Corps barracks in Beirut.

France says autonomy within Morocco 'only' solution for W.Sahara

AFP | Rabat, Morocco

France said yesterday that autonomy within Morocco was the "only" basis for a solution to the decades-old Western Sahara dispute, drawing an angry reaction from the pro-independence Polisario Front.

In a letter to King Mohammed VI congratulating him on the 25th anniversary of his coronation, French President Emmanuel Macron said the Moroccan offer was "now the only basis that will lead to a just, lasting and negotiated political solution in line with UN Security Council resolutions".

The former Spanish colony is largely controlled by Morocco but claimed by the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, which in 2020 declared a "self-defence war" and seeks the territory's independence.

The United Nations, which considers Western Sahara a "non-self-governing territory", has had a peacekeeping mission there since 1991 whose stated



France's President Emmanuel Macron

aim is to organise a referendum on the territory's future.

But Rabat has repeatedly rejected any vote in which independence is an option.

The Moroccan royal court hailed Macron's comments in his letter as "a significant step in support of Moroccan sovereignty" over the Western Sahara.

The Polisario retorted that the French leader was supporting the territory's "violent and illegal occupation" by Morocco.

The movement's main backer, Moroccan arch-rival Algeria, already preempted Macron's comments condemning the

toughening of France's position last week.

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by the Polisario is still a member of the African Union but it has suffered several major diplomatic blows in recent years.

In 2020, then US president Donald Trump recognised Morocco's annexation of the Western Sahara in return for Rabat normalising ties with Israel.

In 2022, Spain, which had sought for decades to adopt an even-handed approach between Morocco and the Polisario, announced it supported the Moroccan autonomy plan.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Children account for 1/3 of human trafficking victims, suffering unspeakable abuse. I call on governments, civil society & the private sector - including tech companies - to intensify efforts so that no child is victimized & no trafficker goes unpunished. #EndHumanTrafficking @antonioguterres

02



The global conditions are filled with uncertainties. In such a time, India is witnessing growth and stability. @narendramodi

03



@SecDefAustin and I met with Philippine President Marcos to discuss the Indo-Pacific and our commitment to the U.S.-Philippines Alliance. Through increased investments, new cyber and economic dialogues, and nuclear energy cooperation, we continue to advance our shared @SecBlinken

04



They should mix up the propaganda more. This is way too obvious. Just like when they were parroting before the debate that Biden was "sharp as a tack" @elonmusk

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

Celebs

Lady Gaga 'engaged to' Michael Polansky

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Lady Gaga has sparked rumours she's engaged to her long-term boyfriend Michael Polansky after introducing him as her fiancé.

The 38-year-old pop star is in Paris for the 2024 Olympics after recording a performance for the opening ceremony and she was seen meeting French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal at one of the swimming events and she was caught on camera introducing her boyfriend as her "fiancé".

In the clip - posted on TikTok by Attal - Gaga was seen greeting the politician before introducing her "fiancé" Michael, who leans over to shake Attal's hand.

Attal captioned the video: "Thank you Lady Gaga for your stunning performance at the opening ceremony. It was breathtaking."

The couple are believed to have been together since 2020.



Lady Gaga and Michael Polansky

The singer was previously engaged to actor Taylor Kinney - they were together for around five years after meeting on the set of her music video for 'You and I' in 2011.

They got engaged on Valentine's Day 2015 but split the following year.

Gaga went on to date talent agent Christian Carino and they were also rumoured to have been engaged, but they split in 2019 after two years together.

The 'Born This Way' singer previously admitted she is "ex-

cited" to get married and have children as well as carrying out more philanthropic work and funding a team of doctors to carry out research on fibromyalgia and neuropathic and chronic pain - which she suffers from.

Gaga told InStyle magazine that her aims are: "Marriage. More music, more movies, more charity with the Born This Way Foundation [a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth and supporting mental health and wellness]."

Selena Gomez left upset by cosmetic surgery speculation TikTok video

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Selena Gomez was upset by a physician's video speculating on the cosmetic surgeries she might have had done.

The 'Only Murders in the Building' star insists she has only ever had Botox and asked to be left "alone".

Responding to TikToker Marissa Barrionuevo's original video from 2023, she commented: "Honestly, I hate this. I was on stripes because of flare up. I have Botox. That's it. Leave me alone."

It prompted Marissa to post a follow-up apology video.

She said: "You don't owe it to anyone to tell us why you don't look the same as what you did when you were a teenager or in your 20s."

"I love you. Not about you."

Showing there were no hard feelings, Rare Beauty founder Selena wrote back: "I just get sad sometimes."

The 32-year-old singer and actress previously confirmed she had Botox whilst defending her relationship with

music producer Benny Blanco.

After a fan wrote in an Instagram comment:

"Remove your cheek fillers/implants. It's messing with your brain," Selena replied: "Hahahaha I've had Botox bb girl. (sic)"

Selena then went on to respond to comments on the

site slamming the romance with Benny.

In one, she declared: "He is my absolute everything in my heart."

In another post, she wrote: "He's still better than anyone I've ever been with. Facts."

And Selena also insisted: "He has treated me better than any human being on this planet."

The 'Wolves' hitmaker also bluntly told fans she didn't care what they had to say about her love life.

She wrote: "I don't understand... this is my happiest."

"If you don't [care about me] feel free to say whatever you want. But I will never allow your words to guide my life. Ever. I'm done."

"If you can't accept me as my happiest then don't be in [my] life at all. (sic)"



Selena Gomez

"Honestly, I hate this. I was on stripes because of flare up. I have Botox. That's it. Leave me alone

SELENA GOMEZ

Lana Condor mourns mother



Lana Condor Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Lana Condor feels "lost" following the death of her mother.

The 'To All the Boys I've Loved Before' actress - who was adopted alongside her brother Arthur from a Vietnamese orphanage when she was four months old - has penned a heartfelt tribute to her "beautiful mama", Mary Condor, after she passed away "a few days" ago.

Lana wrote on Instagram on Sunday alongside a photo of herself with her mom when she was a toddler: "My beautiful beautiful mama,

Jennifer Garner got stuck in an elevator at Comic-Con

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jennifer Garner got stuck in an elevator for more than an hour at San Diego Comic-Con.

The 52-year-old actress has revealed via social media that she spent more than an hour waiting to be rescued during the event.

Jennifer explained on Instagram: "Hey, guys, we're stuck on this elevator [and] I could use a Wolverine; I could use a Deadpool. I could use someone [and] we're looking for stairs. OK, thanks for having us here. My first Comic Con!"

Jennifer attended the event for the first time, after she starred in the new superhero movie 'Deadpool and Wolverine'.

And in one of her Instagram updates, Jennifer joked about her own misfortune as she waited to be rescued.

The Hollywood star said: "I'm schvitzy [and] I need to

blot. 'Don't cut the blue wire' is what we're hearing.

"I think I heard on an episode of 'The Office' or 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' or something that you're supposed to sit, so we're sitting."

Jennifer revealed that the elevator lights were turned on after "about an hour" and she was subsequently rescued by a team of firefighters.

Some of the actress' showbiz pals then took to social media to respond to Jennifer's drama.

Gwyneth Paltrow wrote on Instagram: "Okay, no way oh my god how are you so calm (sic)"

Jennifer Garner



Sandra Bullock is 'doing okay now'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Sandra Bullock is "doing okay" as she celebrates her 60th birthday.

The Hollywood star announced the passing of Bryan Randall - her long-time partner - back in 2023, but Sandra has managed to retain an upbeat outlook on life.

A source told PEOPLE: "She's doing okay now."

"Her kids are amazing. She's very happy to be a mom."

The movie star - who has two children, aged 11 and 14 - is grateful for all of the support she's recently received.

The insider shared: "Her friends gave her the support that she needed both during his illness and afterwards. She is grateful for all the love."

"Everyone helped to lift her up after Bryan passed."

Sandra hasn't appeared in a movie since 2022, and the actress - who turned 60 on Friday - previously announced

plans to take a break from the film industry.

The 'Miss Congeniality' star admitted at the time that she was suffering from burnout.

Sandra told The Hollywood Reporter: "I don't want to be beholden to anyone's schedule other than my own."

"I'm so burnt out, I'm so tired, and I'm so not capable of making healthy, smart decisions and I know it."

Sandra

also explained that she was firmly focused on her family life.

She said: "I just want to be 24/7 with my babies and my family. That's where I'm gonna be for a while."

Despite this, Sandra acknowledged that the decision to take a break from the film business wasn't an easy one.

The actress reflected: "Work has always been steady for me, and I've been so lucky. I realised it possibly was becoming my crutch."

"It was like opening up a fridge all the time and looking for something that was never in the fridge."

Sandra Bullock



SUDOKU CROSSWORD puzzles with solutions and instructions.



Gerbekov falls to Albayrak in intense 81kg elimination golden score match

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

In a Men's 81 kg elimination match at the judo championship, Turkish judoka Vedat Albayrak emerged successful against Askerbii Gerbekov of Bahrain.

The contest, which took place during the Round of 32, saw Albayrak win by an ippon in the Golden Score period, concluding the bout at 4:49 with a final score of 10-0.

The match extended into the Golden Score after both competitors failed to secure a decisive point within the initial regulation time. Gerbekov, struggling with penalties, was issued three shidos—two for false attacks and one for non-combativity. Albayrak cap-



Bahrain's Askerbii Gerbekov and Turkey's Vedat Albayrak (Blue) compete

italized on these opportunities, ultimately securing the win with an ippon.

Gerbekov's penalties began early, with his first shido for a false attack at 2:10 and a second at 4:49. His third penalty, a shido for non-combativity at 1:50, further hindered his

performance. Albayrak, on the other hand, maintained a strategic approach throughout the match, leading to his well-earned victory.

Askerbii Gerbekov, while eliminated, demonstrated commendable effort under challenging circumstances.

Impressive performances in men's 200m breaststroke heats

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The preliminary heats for the men's 200m breaststroke at the 2024 Paris Olympics have delivered exciting performances, setting the stage for an exciting final showdown.

In Heat 1, Bahraini swimmer Saud Ghalai came in third with a time of 2:22.51, 6.89 seconds behind leader Bernhard Tyler Christianson of Panama.

Ghalai's performance, though not among the top times, reflects the competitive spirit and potential of Bahrain's swimming talent.

As the heats conclude, the men's 200m breaststroke final promises to be a blockbuster event.



Bahraini swimmer Saud Ghalai in action

While Bahraini swimmer Saud Ghalai did not advance to the top ranks this time, his participation points to Bahrain's growing presence in competitive swimming.

Biles leads USA to gymnastics gold

Biles shines as USA reclaims Olympic gold as Olympic chiefs left to sweat

● USA beats Italy for gold; Brazil takes bronze in a thrilling gymnastics final

● Triathlon event postponed due to poor water quality in the Seine River

● Australia's McKeown roars back to retain 100m backstroke gold

AFP | Paris

Simone Biles won the fifth Olympic gold of her legendary career when she led the United States to a dominant victory in the women's gymnastics team final on Tuesday, as Paris organisers were left sweating on the pollution in the Seine.

On a sweltering day in the French capital, the hottest ticket in town was at the Bercy Arena where Biles was attempting to lay to rest the ghosts of Tokyo in 2021.

And the 27-year-old American, considered the greatest gymnast of all time, and her team did just that to add to her four gold medals at the 2016 Rio Games.

In swimming, Australia's Kaylee McKeown won gold in the women's 100m backstroke.

Three years after Biles battled a disorientating mental block at



Artistic gymnastics - Women's team: US' Simone Biles competes in the uneven bars event of the artistic gymnastics women's team final

the Tokyo Games, pulling out of the team final in which the United States settled for silver, she and teammates Jordan Chiles, Jade Carey and Sunisa Lee led wire-to-wire in reclaiming gold ahead of Italy, with Brazil taking bronze.

For Biles it marks a return to the Olympic summit after a two-year break as she focused on her mental health. Lee, the all-around champion in Tokyo, has since dealt with two career-threatening kidney ail-

ments.

Once again the stars were out for Biles.

Serena Williams, Nicole Kidman and Microsoft founder Bill Gates were in attendance, as was Biles's husband, NFL player Jonathan Owens, in a T-shirt emblazoned with his wife's name and picture.

At the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics Biles battled the disorientating mental block gymnasts call the "twisties".

She dramatically pulled out of

most of her events, but she still left the Japanese capital with a silver and a bronze, and won plaudits for opening up on her mental health.

Seine setback

Earlier, in a massive blow to Olympic organisers who have repeatedly vowed that the River Seine would be safe to swim in, Tuesday's men's triathlon race was called off hours before the start after last-minute water-quality tests.

A joint statement from Paris 2024 and World Triathlon blamed the spike in pollution levels on the heavy rain that drenched Paris on Friday and Saturday.

The men's triathlon has been rescheduled to Wednesday, immediately after the women's event, leaving Games chiefs keeping their fingers crossed.

Paris baked in temperatures reaching 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) on Tuesday in a challenge to athletes at outdoor competitions, but a major storm was forecast later in the day, raising serious doubts over whether Wednesday's rescheduled events could go ahead.

Heavy downpours still overwhelm the city's underground drains and sewage system, leading to untreated effluent being released into the waterway.

If water quality does not improve in time, the swimming leg of the event would be removed and the race converted to a duathlon.



Swimming - Women's 100m backstroke: Australia's Kaylee McKeown celebrates winning the final of the women's 100m backstroke swimming event



Shooting - 10m pistol mixed: India's Manu Bhaker during the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze medal match. She became the first Indian woman to win multiple medals at a single Olympic game

World Triathlon president Marisol Casado said she was hopeful the races could take place on Wednesday.

"We are all disappointed because we are not able to follow strictly what was planned," she told a press briefing.

Benjamin Maze, the technical director of the French Triathlon Federation, told FranceInfo radio there was "a bit of anger" among competitors who had risen early only to learn of the postponement.

"The athletes got up a bit before 4:00am, they were having breakfast when we received the information from the international federation," he said.

"Obviously there's a bit of anger and a lot of disappointment."

Coco Gauff, the world number two and one of Team USA's

flagbearers, crashed out of the tennis singles in a stormy defeat to Croatian Donna Vekic at a roaring Roland Garros.

Vekic won 7-6 (9/7), 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals after Gauff claimed she was "getting cheated" in an argument with the chair umpire over a line call in the sixth game of the second set.

The fallout continued from Friday's quirky opening ceremony, which was condemned by religious groups after a scene featuring drag queens that recalled depictions of the Last Supper.

Former US President Donald Trump became the latest to join the criticism.

"I'm very open-minded but I thought what they did was a disgrace," Trump told Fox News.



Canoe slalom: Comoros' Andy Barat competes in the men's kayak single-heats canoe slalom competition



Water polo: Dusan Mandic of Serbia makes a splash as he shoots the ball against Australia's Milos Maksimovic and Lachlan Edwards in the men's water polo

Bahrain advance after thriller

● **Japan dominates Chinese Taipei**

● **China stages comeback against Iran**

TD | Manama

Bahrain secured the final spot in the second round of the Asian Volleyball Championship after a thrilling victory over Australia.

The home team triumphed in a nail-biting five-set match, winning 3-2 with set scores of 17-25, 36-34, 16-25, 25-20, and 16-14.

The victory was hard-fought, with Bahrain playing a grueling 15 consecutive sets over three matches. Despite the physical toll, the Bahraini players displayed exceptional resilience and determination, showcasing their fighting spirit and solidifying their rightful place in the tournament's next stage.

After losing the first set and trailing in the second, Bahrain's players rallied to pull even in what became the tournament's longest set, finishing at 36-34. The team's high concentration and strategic substitutions made by coach Fouad Abdul Wahed played a crucial role in this comeback.

The third set saw Bahrain falter, but they regained their momentum in the fourth, thanks to effective plays by substitutes Hassan Al-Badil, Jassim Madan, and Ali Sultan.

In the decisive fifth set, Bahrain's defense was led by Hassan Mansour and Ali Abdul Amir,



Bahrain's players celebrate a point against Australia

who effectively organized the blocking. Ali Hussein anchored the backcourt defense, while Ali Thamer and Muhammad Abdul Nabi facilitated versatile plays, proving Bahrain's merit for qualification despite some tense moments throughout the match.

Japan dominates Chinese Taipei

The Japanese team delivered a commanding performance against Chinese Taipei in the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing a 3-0 victory with set scores of 25-21, 25-16, and 25-20.

The Japanese players showcased their dominance from the outset, excelling in both offense and defense.

The first set saw a tight competition, but Japan gained momentum with strong leadership

from their player, "Truckee," who fortified their defensive walls. Players Mosques and Kashiwazaki scored decisively from both ends of the net. Despite a determined effort from Chinese Taipei, Japan maintained control through superior technical skill and teamwork.

China edge out Iran

In Group C, China pulled off a thrilling comeback against Iran, clinching a 3-2 victory after trailing 2-1 in sets. The Chinese team now tops the group with 8 points, while Iran stands at 7 points, with both teams advancing to the next round.

The match was fiercely contested, with set scores of 22-25, 25-23, 14-25, 25-22, and 15-13.

Iran initially led 6-3 in the final set, but China's resilience, led by Jiang, Li, and Dong, turned

the tide in favor of the "Chinese Dragon." Despite the efforts of Iran's Amir Naderi and Amin Rahimi, China's defensive walls and tactical plays secured their victory.

Thailand top Group A

Thailand continues to dominate Group A in the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing their third consecutive win with a 3-0 sweep against Hong Kong. The set scores were 25-23, 25-17, and 25-19, elevating Thailand's points tally to eight.

Thailand imposed their technical rhythm throughout the match, capitalizing on Hong Kong's errors. Despite Hong Kong's competitive spirit in the first set, Thailand's offense and defense proved too strong.

Ko Shing of Hong Kong scored an impressive 21 points but couldn't turn the tide in favor of his team, which will now shift focus to the ranking matches.

The Thai community in Bahrain has been a significant support factor, boosting the team's morale with a remarkable presence at the matches.

South Korea advance

South Korea secured their place in the second round of the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship's Group D by defeating India 3-0, with set scores of 25-18, 25-23, and 25-17. South Korea's strong start set the pace, and their strategic play ensured victory despite India's resistance.

Seon Gul was a key contributor, scoring 19 points for South Korea, leading the team to a



China's players defend against a shot by Iran

comfortable win and qualification for the next round.

Kazakhstan triumph

Kazakhstan celebrated a morale-boosting 3-0 victory against Saudi Arabia with set scores of 25-23, 25-19, and 25-19, concluding their preliminary round.

Both teams will now focus on ranking matches after missing out on the second-round qualification.

Philippines secure first win

The Philippines achieved their first win in the tournament against Lebanon, ending their preliminary round with a 3-0 victory (25-13, 25-23, 25-21).

Although this win won't affect the standings significantly, both teams will compete in the 9th to 16th place rankings after Iran and China secured their spots in the next round.

Philippine player McTangai shone as the top scorer, amassing 16 points, including 11 from attacks, two from blocks, and three from serves.

Pakistan Tops Group D

Pakistan maintained its dominance in Group D of the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing a third consecutive victory as the preliminary round concluded yesterday.

The Pakistani team overcame Kuwait in a convincing 3-0 win (25-19, 25-11, 25-19), boosting their tally to 8 points and solidifying their position at the top of the group. This victory ensures Pakistan's qualification for the second round of the championship.

Star player Mohamed Yahya continued his impressive form, leading the scoring with 16 points against Kuwait. Yahya has emerged as a key offensive force for the Pakistani team and is expected to play a crucial role in the upcoming second round of the championship.

Kuwait, on the other hand, suffered their third consecutive loss in the tournament, having previously fallen to India and South Korea. Despite their efforts to improve their performance, the team struggled against Pakistan's superior height and blocking ability.

Bahraini champion Al-Harmi on top at World Jet Ski Championship

Hussain Almaskati
TD | Manama

Bahraini jet ski champion Ahmed Hamad Al-Harmi has achieved a remarkable feat by winning first place in the opening round of the World Jet Ski Championship held in Poland. Competing against over 200 riders from around the globe, Al-Harmi's performance firmly put him on the map as a leading figure in the sport.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, Al-Harmi expressed his gratitude: "I achieved first place in the World Championship in Poland. I want to thank everyone who supported me during the competition, and a special thanks to His Highness Sheikh



Ahmed Hamad Al-Harmi with Bahrain's flag on the podium

Khalid bin Hamad, the General Sports Authority, the Bahraini Olympic Committee, Spartan Fitness, and Tamouh Company."

The event, renowned for its fierce competition and high level of expertise, saw participants from various countries vying for top positions. Al-Harmi's victory not only points to his dominance in the sport but also Bahrain's growing presence on the international jet ski scene.

With this win, Al-Harmi has set a high bar for the remaining rounds of the championship, solidifying his status as a formidable competitor on the world stage. Supporters eagerly anticipate his continued success throughout the season.

Bahrain dominate Saudi in Gulf U-18 Basketball Championship



Action from the match
TD | Manama

The match between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was exciting and challenging, with both teams putting in strong performances, but Bahrain was able to settle the result in their favor thanks to a strong collective performance and high concentration at crucial moments.

The Bahraini national team is preparing to meet its Omani counterpart on Wednesday, in a match that will be decisive in determining their fate in the tournament, as the Bahraini team looks forward to continuing to perform well and qualify for the finals after this important victory.

Suryakumar's bowling heroics help India to Super Over T20 win

AFP | Colombo

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav turned an unlikely hero with the ball as India beat Sri Lanka in a T20 thriller decided by a Super Over to sweep the series 3-0 on Tuesday.

Spinners Rinku Singh and Suryakumar bowled the 19th and 20th overs in Sri Lanka's chase of 137 and the match ended in a tie at Kandy's Pallekele International Stadium.



India's Shubman Gill in action

Washington Sundar then took two Sri Lankan wickets to end the Super Over quickly with the hosts scoring just two runs, which India overhauled in just one hit by Suryakumar -- in batting mode.

Sundar was elected man of the match after he picked up two wickets in the Sri Lankan chase. Ravi Bishnoi, Rinku and Suryakumar also took two each. India's new-age T20 team, led

by Suryakumar and coached by Gautam Gambhir, have started strongly after the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja following the team's T20 World Cup triumph last month.

Suryakumar led from the front with the bat in the first two wins to clinch the series.

He surprisingly bowled the final over when Sri Lanka needed six to win.