

Welfare of Bahrainis remains top priority

Building present and future of Bahrain and meeting aspirations of Bahrainis a top priority: HRH CP and PM | P02

WORLD **6** Deadly strike on journalists was 'targeted'

THE DAILY tribune

Tributes pour in after 'Friends' actor Matthew Perry's shock death

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS **5** Oil sinks on easing fears of Mideast regional war



WEC drivers begin arriving in Bahrain for '8 Hours' race

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", has begun to welcome to the Kingdom the star drivers, officials and team members of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), who will be participating in this weekend's highly anticipated Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The Spirit of Le Mans is set to make its presence felt in Sakhir at the fast-approaching WEC season-finale, taking place Friday and Saturday.

The visiting WEC contingent were received upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport by members of BIC's Meet and Greet Team.

(Full report on Sport Page)

SCW obtains two ISO certifications

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) obtained two international Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification for two systems of quality management and monitoring and measuring customer satisfaction used in the "Women's Support Center" launched by SCW.

Hala Al Ansari, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), received the certification documents from an ISO representative.

Al Ansari said that these certifications demonstrated SCW's full commitment to applying the best practices in managing its daily operations.

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King Hamad Global Centre board of trustees restructured

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree (96) of 2023, restructuring the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, based on a proposal by the Prime Minister, and following the approval of the Cabinet.

The decree stipulates that the Board of Trustees of the

King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence shall be chaired by Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and comprise the following members:

Ali Abdulla Al Aradi, Deputy Chairman, Ebrahim Daoud Nonoo, Dr. Majeed Mohsen Al Asfour, Dr. Al Sadiq Omar Khalafallah, Salah Youssef Al-Jowder, Sushil Muljimal, Mohammed Mahmood Abdulsalam Abdul-



HM the King
latif, Dr. Al Sayed Mohammed Ali Al Hussein, His Eminence.

The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence promotes a culture of peace, openness and coexistence among different cultures.

Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, Rabbi Abraham Skorka, and His Grace Bishop Julius. Members will serve for a renewable four-year term. The decree shall take immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

'It's time to act'

Cabinet urges global support for immediate and permanent 'humanitarian truce' in Gaza



TDT | Manama

The Cabinet urged the international community to respond to the United Nations General Assembly resolution that calls for the establishment of an immediate, permanent, and sustainable humanitarian truce leading to the cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians, civilian objects and facilities, as well as ensuring full and uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians in Gaza.

The resolution was adopted by a majority of 120 states. His Royal Highness Prince

Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet reiterated Bahrain's call for de-escalation and a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, as well as for the revival of the peace process, in a manner that upholds the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their sovereign independent state.

Boosting bilateral ties

The Cabinet highlighted the importance of His Majesty King



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's visit to the UAE, as well as his meeting with the President, His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It noted the importance of the visit in further consolidating the historic relations between the two countries and their peoples.

To mark Bahraini Doctor's Day, the Cabinet commended the Bahraini doctors and medical professionals for advancing the Kingdom's healthcare services.

Gaza City in ruins as death toll soars to 8,300

TDT | Manama

Israeli attacks on Gaza continued for the 24th day yesterday, taking the death toll of Palestinians to 8,300 and leaving the southern side of Gaza City in ruins.

Terrified by the intensifying

campaign, the 2.4 million civilians trapped inside Gaza are unable to move to a safe zone as bombings have occurred at multiple places.

Concern has surged about the widening humanitarian crisis and the fate of hospitals in Gaza where, the World Health Organ-

isation warns, many patients cannot be safely moved despite Israel's evacuation order.

Fear and desperation have spiralled in Gaza, under weeks of siege that have cut off water, food, fuel and other essentials to the long-blockaded territory.

Columns of Israeli tanks and

armoured bulldozers were seen churning through the sand, and snipers took positions inside emptied residential buildings, in a footage released by the Israeli army, an AFP report said.

Dozens of tanks advanced for more than an hour into the southern fringes of Gaza City

and blocked the main north-south highway, "firing at any vehicle that tries to go along it", an eyewitness told AFP by phone.

Air strikes also cratered the road and brought down buildings, residents said, before the tanks withdrew from the area.

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Welfare of Bahrainis remains top priority

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed the importance of continuing to build on the present and future of the Kingdom of Bahrain and noted that meeting the aspirations of Bahrainis remains a top priority.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted Team Bahrain's efforts in various workplaces to further realise the Kingdom's wide-ranging national achievements.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday with the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, HE Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, and the Chairman of the Shura Council, HE Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the pivotal role of the Executive and Legislative Authorities in uniting efforts to achieve the Kingdom's wide-ranging comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



HRH Prince Salman with Speaker Al Musallam and Chairman Al Saleh

He commended the Legislative Authority's efforts and contributions to advancing legislation to benefit citizens and meet their aspirations.

Executive-Legislative partnership

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the strength of the Executive-Legislative partnership, emphasising its importance in fulfilling the Kingdom's sustainable development goals.

His Royal Highness outlined Bahrain's wide-ranging achievements, which continue to be attained in line with Team

Bahrain's ongoing support and determination. Furthermore, His Royal Highness emphasised the Kingdom's efforts in further developing the efficiency of government services and projects that benefit citizens, in cooperation with the Legislative

Authority. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the efforts of the Executive and Legislative Authorities in achieving citizens' aspirations and advancing the Kingdom's development.



"The Kingdom enhances efforts in further developing the efficiency of government services and projects that benefit citizens, in cooperation with the Legislative Authority."

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

Bahrain, Saudi discuss cooperation in statistics

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia discussed mutual cooperation in the field of statistics, especially with the conduction of national surveys and researches.

This came as Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive, Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, met Saudi Arabia General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) President, Dr. Fahd AlDossari, on the sidelines of the 9th Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) Global Conference.

Al Qaed expressed his appreciation to Dr. Al Dossari for his keynote speech during the opening ceremony of the conference, noting that the event addressed the mechanisms employed in official statistics and the importance of exchanging statistical and descriptive data. He underscored the value and impact of Dr. Al Dossari's speech in enriching the conference.

The iGA head showcased Bahrain's accomplishments in conducting population censuses, particularly in utilising administrative records for the 2020 census.

Civil service initiatives



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, received H.E. Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa, President of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB). The Deputy Prime Minister affirmed the importance of continuing to develop national government capacities by providing the civil service sector with initiatives aimed at raising productivity and improving performance in line with the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He congratulated the CSB President on obtaining the royal trust, wishing him success in performing his tasks.

Deputy Prime Minister lauds NCC's key role

TDT | Manama

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, has asserted that the attention attached to the national communication system in the kingdom reflects keenness to enhance communication and positive interaction with the citizens and all partners by using responsible media and harnessing its tools.

It highlights the achievements of the comprehensive development process, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, he added.

While meeting Ahmed Khalid Al Araifi, the Chief Ex-



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla with Mr Al Araifi

ecutive Officer of the National Communication Centre (NCC), the Deputy Premier lauded the role played by the NCC in unifying communication messages to integrate the efforts of the relevant agencies, and make sure that the government discourse reflects reality and is always available to those concerned at the local and international levels.

Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla was briefed about NCC's plans, projects and initiatives, wishing the NCC chief and affiliates continued success.

Al Araifi expressed thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Prime Minister for his constant keenness to enhance the performance of the national communication system for the benefit of the nation and the citizens.

Bahrain-India relations



H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, the Minister of Information, received Vinod Kurian Jacob, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain. The minister praised the advanced status of the Bahraini-Indian relations, which reflects the deep historic ties and mutual keenness to boost bilateral relations. Al Nuaimi wished Ambassador Jacob success in performing his new diplomatic duties. The ambassador expressed his appreciation to the minister for his support, affirming India's keenness to expand bilateral cooperation.

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Second Bahrain relief aid shipment dispatched to Gaza

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The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) and the National Committee for Supporting the Palestinians in Gaza dispatched the second Bahraini aid shipment to Gaza under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majes-

ty for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

It comes following the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Mustafa Al Sayed, Secretary General of RHF, and Chief Executive of the National Committee for Supporting the Palestinians in Gaza, expressed gratitude for the humanitarian initiatives of



Mr Al Sayed supervises the shipment of aid to Gaza

HM the King to assist the Palestinian people in Gaza and the afflicted globally.

He expressed his gratitude for the support from the government led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and noted the efforts of HH Shaikh Nasser in providing aid to the people of Palestine.

Al Sayed noted that Bahraini humanitarian efforts continue to provide aid to Palestinians in Gaza, with the second shipment sent in less than a week, as part of Bahrain's ongoing humanitarian efforts.

The RHF and the national committee will continue to assist the Palestinian people, based on Royal Directives, he said.

How Bahrain should embrace and regulate soaring drone technology

AI expert suggests: Balance applications with 'safety, privacy and national interests'

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

In light of recent news regarding Dubai's plans to introduce drone deliveries by early 2024, questions have arisen about whether Bahrain will also embrace this level of technological advancement in the coming years.

To gain insights into Bahrain's approach to drone utilisation, The Daily Tribune interviewed Dr. Jassim Haji, President of the International Artificial Intelligence Group.

Dr. Haji emphasised that the development of drones, coupled with high-end cameras utilising computer vision, is an expensive endeavor that requires specialised skills and guidance.

Additionally, it necessitates the establishment of policies and governance to ensure the safe and secure usage of this technology. Consequently, at this stage,



he does not recommend employing drones for food delivery and suggests their use for more controlled purposes.

Considerations

One of the primary considerations highlighted by Dr. Haji is the need for restrictions on various aspects of drone operations, such as the number of simultaneous activities, altitude

“The development of drones necessitates the establishment of policies and governance to ensure the safe and secure usage of this technology.”

- DR. JASSIM HAJI, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

limitations, geographical coverage, data collection and privacy policies, space restrictions, operator skills, and licensing. These factors contribute to the challenges associated with implementing widespread drone deliveries in Bahrain.

However, Dr. Haji acknowledged that drones can serve as valuable tools for safety purposes within industrial organisations or factories, including



Bahrain is facing challenges in harnessing the full potential of drone technology

those in the oil, gas, aluminum, and shipping sectors.

Their ability to monitor labour safety, inspect pipelines, troubleshoot and maintain access to telecom towers, among other applications, makes them particularly advantageous in such controlled environments.

While the mass production and increasing demand for drones have resulted in a reduction in their prices, Dr. Haji pointed out that the integration

of artificial intelligence (AI) and smart cameras still incurs higher costs. This aspect further underscores the need for careful consideration of the economic viability of implementing drone technology in various sectors.

Privacy and national interests

As earlier reported by The Daily Tribune, in response to concerns about privacy and

national interests, the Bahraini government has taken steps to regulate drones.

A web-based Drone Hub System (DHS) is being implemented to ensure the public's privacy and facilitate the import and registration of drones in the Kingdom. The Aviation Safety will oversee the DHS system, and 12 companies have qualified in the initial round of the tender to implement the system.

Kingdom's approach to drone technology prioritises safety and controlled applications. While widespread drone deliveries may not be recommended at this stage, the country recognises the value of drones in enhancing safety and efficiency in industrial sectors.

The government's efforts to regulate drone usage demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding privacy and national interests while embracing technological advancements.

Capital Police hold 29-year-old robbery suspect

TDT | Manama

The Capital Governorate Police Directorate has arrested a 29-year-old man for stealing restaurants and shops.

He also damaged the CCTVs' wires. The robbery items were worth around BD4,000.

An investigation into the received cases about a masked robbery suspect led to identifying and arresting the man who had criminal records. Legal proceedings were taken, and the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Charity treasurer claims memory lapse in BD47,000 funds embezzlement case

TDT | Manama

The treasurer of a local charity is facing embezzlement charges after allegedly stealing tens of thousands of dollars in donations over several years.

At a hearing in the High Criminal Court, the defendant claimed memory issues prevented him from recollecting the incident.

The man said he suffers from a mental illness affecting his recollection. He disclosed undergoing psychiatric treatment. The court ordered a psychiatric evaluation and granted the defense access to case files until the next hearing on November 5.

According to records, irregu-

larities in the charity's finances were first detected in 2017. An audit revealed expenses drastically exceeding typical costs and undocumented cash withdrawals surpassing BD1,000.

Confronted by the board of directors, the treasurer admitted taking funds but claimed he was indebted. An accounting expert's report determined BD47,000 had been embezzled in total. However, the accused did not provide full bank statements, budgets or financial reports of the charity.

Investigation

Authorities were informed, launching an investigation. Documents showed the treas-

urer altered check amounts, pocketing the difference after signatures. As a treasurer since 2006, he confessed to this method of embezzlement from 2017-2023.

While unable to specify exact sums, he did acknowledge illegally obtaining BD47,000 for personal use through forgery. The treasurer claims returning BD22,000 but faces additional charges of document tampering and misappropriation of public funds over six years in his trusted position.

The criminal case continues as prosecutors further examine the scope of the embezzlement allegations against the man tasked with financial stewardship of the charity.

Derasat issues new study on formal education in World War II in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) issued a new study titled "Development of Formal Education in Bahrain during the Second World War (1939-1945)".

The study, authored by Dr. Hamad Ebrahim Al Abdulla, Executive Director of Derasat, sheds light on the significant advancements made in the field of formal education in Bahrain during a challenging period in history.

The study delves into the developmental process undertaken by the Government of Bahrain in the domain of formal education for boys' schools during the Second World War era.

Dr. Al Abdulla highlighted the important role played by notable figures such as Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, C.R.L. Adrian-Vallance, and F.J. Wakelin in shaping Bahrain's educational system.

The study emphasises the main challenges faced during this period and the steps taken to enhance the educational sys-



Dr. Al Abdulla

tem, including the introduction of secondary school learning.

The latest study examined primary sources such as documents from the India Office Records, the Government of Bahrain's Annual Reports, and newspaper articles from Jaridat Al-Bahrain (1939-1944), providing an in-depth analysis of the historical context.

It also draws upon memoirs and diaries of various personalities involved in the educational process during that era.

The study reveals that the Government of Bahrain, led by Shaikh Hamad bin Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa (1932 - 1942), had a strong commitment to improving and expanding the educational system.



Warehouse fire

Civil Defence extinguished a fire in a warehouse near the scrapyard area in the Southern Governorate with 11 firefighting vehicles and 35 personnel. An investigation was launched.

Small businesses unite for Palestine

Bahrain cafes and restaurants offer special menu items to raise funds

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

A remarkable initiative has emerged in Bahrain as small businesses band together to demonstrate their unwavering support for Palestine.

Spearheaded by a group of passionate individuals, an official Instagram account called Bahrain Collective has been established with the primary objective of collecting funds from participating enterprises to aid the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF).

Cafes and restaurants across Bahrain have rallied behind the cause by offering special menu items that symbolise solidarity with Palestine.

Notably, these establishments are selling cookies adorned with the Palestine flag and bracelets featuring the iconic emblem. All proceeds generated from the sale of these items will be donated to the RHF.



Cookies adorned with the Palestine flag and bracelets featuring its iconic emblem

Among the notable cafes participating in this charitable endeavor are Goodness Bakery Café, Green Bar Café, Curious Diner, Auro Chocolate, Cantine, and Rue Catering Boutique.

In a statement issued by the Bahrain Collective, it was announced that for the remainder of the month, commencing on Tuesday, 24th October, select menu items will be introduced to showcase support for Palestine.

“The collective expressed their intention to contribute to the Palestinian cause and raise

awareness about the numerous challenges faced by the Palestinian people.”

Handmade accessories

In addition to the café and restaurant initiatives, it has come to light that several small online stores are selling handmade accessories in support of Palestine.

Notable examples include “beadhh_and_more” Furthermore, Hyderabad Choice, a renowned restaurant situated in Um Al Hassam, has taken the

remarkable step of abstaining from serving soft drinks as a gesture of solidarity.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that prominent Bahraini Tik-Tokers are actively avoiding establishments such as McDonald’s and Starbucks to demonstrate their support for Palestine.

The Bahrain Collective’s heartening efforts to unite small businesses in support of Palestine underscore the spirit of compassion and empathy that has permeated the Bahraini community.

Stage set for eighth global dental forum

Over 500 participants for three-day event

TDT | Manama



Dr. Lulwa Rashed Showaiter

The eighth edition of the Bahrain International Dental Conference and Exhibition is set to commence next Saturday, graced by the esteemed presence of Her Excellency Dr. Lulwa Rashed Showaiter, CEO of Primary Health Care Centers.

This significant event is being held in a strategic collaboration with the National Health Regulatory Authority, the Saudi Dental Society, and the Kuwait Dental Association.

The conference has also earned accreditation for 20 continuing medical education hours from NHRA, ensuring valuable educational content. Furthermore, there exists a fruitful academic partnership with Riyadh Elm University and Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University in Saudi Arabia, the Oman Dental Society, AEEDC Dubai International Conference, Swiss Dental Academy, and the Egyptian Dental Syndicate.

The three-day conference is set to host over 500 den-

tists, technicians, experts, and health practitioners from the Kingdom of Bahrain, Gulf countries, and across the globe.

The event aims to delve into the newest innovations and treatments in the field of dentistry, and provides a platform

for participants to explore opportunities, exchange scientific, technical, and professional expertise, and contribute to the ongoing development of this vital medical sector. Additionally, the conference serves as a catalyst for attracting health investments and bolstering Bahrain’s competitive position on the global map of health services.

The conference will serve as a comprehensive platform for delving into pivotal themes and subjects within the field of dentistry.



BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C.



Condensed interim statement of financial position as at 30 September 2023
(Reviewed)
(Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	31 December 2022 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	53,152	79,547
Intangible assets	5,990	10,197
Right-of-use assets	415,483	241,408
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	991,075	1,391,907
	<u>1,465,700</u>	<u>1,723,059</u>
Current assets		
Inventories	23,045	18,100
Trade and other receivables	125,194	59,837
Term deposits	350,000	350,000
Cash and cash equivalents	168,721	131,257
	<u>666,960</u>	<u>559,194</u>
Total assets	<u>2,132,660</u>	<u>2,282,253</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	4,000,000	4,000,000
Statutory reserve	794,927	794,927
Capital reserve	68,245	68,245
Accumulated losses	(3,086,268)	(2,711,113)
Treasury shares	(400,000)	(400,000)
	<u>1,376,904</u>	<u>1,752,059</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Employees’ terminal benefits	67,608	69,014
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	294,293	131,729
	<u>361,901</u>	<u>200,743</u>
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	263,560	207,944
Current portion of lease liabilities	130,295	121,507
	<u>393,855</u>	<u>329,451</u>
Total liabilities	<u>755,756</u>	<u>530,194</u>
Total equity and liabilities	<u>2,132,660</u>	<u>2,282,253</u>

Condensed interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the quarter and nine months period ended 30 September 2023
(Reviewed)
(Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Quarter ended 30 September 2023	Quarter ended 30 September 2022	Nine months period ended 30 September 2023	Nine months period ended 30 September 2022
Operating income	315,387	254,084	861,612	674,268
Operating costs	(281,329)	(250,849)	(780,680)	(702,248)
Operating profit/(loss) for the period	<u>34,058</u>	<u>3,235</u>	<u>80,932</u>	<u>(27,980)</u>
Expenses				
General and administrative expenses	(24,353)	(25,661)	(94,532)	(79,329)
Selling and advertising expenses	(1,050)	(1,277)	(3,709)	(4,390)
Finance cost on lease liabilities	(5,649)	(3,792)	(10,714)	(12,914)
Directors’ fees	(5,800)	(5,650)	(25,400)	(21,650)
Total expenses	<u>(36,852)</u>	<u>(36,380)</u>	<u>(134,355)</u>	<u>(118,283)</u>
Loss before investment and other losses	<u>(2,794)</u>	<u>(33,145)</u>	<u>(53,423)</u>	<u>(146,263)</u>
Investment and other loss	(271,539)	(304,088)	(321,732)	(611,052)
Net loss and other comprehensive loss for the period	<u>(274,333)</u>	<u>(337,233)</u>	<u>(375,155)</u>	<u>(757,315)</u>
Basic and diluted loss per share	<u>Fils (7.62)</u>	<u>Fils(9.37)</u>	<u>Fils (10.42)</u>	<u>Fils(21.04)</u>

Condensed interim statement of cash flows for the nine months period ended 30 September 2023
(Reviewed)
(Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Nine months period ended 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	Nine months period ended 30 September 2022 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net loss for the period	(375,155)	(757,315)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant, and equipment	30,464	38,392
Amortisation of intangible assets	4,207	2,692
Amortisation of right-of-use asset	109,913	123,921
Unrealised fair value losses on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	400,832	681,118
Dividend income	(62,333)	(62,312)
Interest income	(14,885)	(7,109)
Finance cost on lease liabilities	10,714	12,914
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(4,945)	(1,304)
Trade and other receivables	(65,357)	(19,128)
Trade and other payables	55,616	(20,221)
Employees’ terminal benefits, net	(1,406)	3,955
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>87,665</u>	<u>(4,397)</u>
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment	(4,069)	(315)
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	-	17,995
Dividend received	62,333	62,312
Interest received	14,885	7,109
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>73,149</u>	<u>87,101</u>
Financing activities		
Lease liability paid	(123,350)	(135,000)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(123,350)</u>	<u>(135,000)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>37,464</u>	<u>(52,296)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	131,257	153,790
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	<u>168,721</u>	<u>101,494</u>

Condensed interim statement of changes in shareholders’ equity for the nine months period ended 30 September 2023
(Reviewed)
(Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Capital reserve	Accumulated losses	Treasury shares	Total
At 31 December 2021 (Audited)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(1,914,370)	(400,000)	2,548,802
Net loss and other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	(757,315)	-	(757,315)
At 30 September 2022 (Reviewed)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(2,671,685)	(400,000)	1,791,487
At 31 December 2022 (Audited)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(2,711,113)	(400,000)	1,752,059
Net loss and other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	(375,155)	-	(375,155)
At 30 September 2023 (Reviewed)	4,000,000	794,927	68,245	(3,086,268)	(400,000)	1,376,904

The reviewed condensed interim financial information were approved, authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman

Ahmed Janahi
Vice-Chairman

Oil sinks on easing fears of Mideast regional war

London, United Kingdom

Key figures around 1330 GMT

Brent North Sea crude: ▼ 1.7% at \$88.92 per barrel

West Texas Intermediate: ▼ 2.0% at \$83.80 per barrel

New York - Dow: ▲ 0.9% at 32,695.18 points

London - FTSE 100: ▲ 0.9% at 7,359.50

Frankfurt - DAX: ▲ 0.5% at 14,756.40

World oil prices sank yesterday as traders hoped a region-wide conflict could still be avoided as Israel said its forces killed dozens of Hamas fighters in clashes in Gaza.

Equities rose in Europe and on Wall Street as the sliding oil market lifted hopes that the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England will opt for no-change when they announce their lat-

est interest-rate decisions on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Crude futures pared Friday's near three% gains as Israel's military continued air and ground

operations in Gaza.

Ground battles raged inside the northern Gaza Strip on Monday and Israeli tanks were seen on the outskirts of its largest city in the war against the Palestini-

an militant group Hamas.

'Highly volatile'

"Oil prices are coming under pressure... despite an intensification of the Israel-Hamas war," said Tickmill analyst James Harte.

Despite Israel stepping up its advances into Gaza, "for now markets appear to be looking beyond the reports on the view that the conflict looks likely to remain contained.

"It's a big week for interest rate decisions," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

Both the Fed and the BoE "are expected to keep rates unchanged, which should provide some relief to investors, although much of the focus will be on commentary about the path for rates going into 2024", Mould added.

The decisions come one week after the European Central Bank left eurozone interest rates un-

changed last Thursday, bringing an end to a series of hikes that started in July last year.

Policymakers had raised rates at each of their last 10 meetings as they sought to rein in soaring inflation driven in large part by surging energy prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But ebbing price pressures and signs of weakness in the economy prompted the ECB to hold borrowing costs.

Diyar Al Muharraq launches Al Naseem New Villas design

TDT | Manama

Diyar Al Muharraq has announced the launch of 'Aseel El-Nasayem 2' and 'Layl El-Nasayem 2' villas within the Al Naseem residential project.

The villas are new variations of the existing designs, and have been built following the highest engineering standards, indicative of the high level of quality seen throughout Diyar Al Muharraq. The official opening ceremony was held on Sunday to mark the formal inaugura-



Al Naseem New Villas opening ceremony

tion of the 'Aseel El-Nasayem 2' and 'Layl El-Nasayem 2' villas. Ahmed Ali Alammadi, Chief Executive Officer of Diyar Al Muharraq, attended the ceremony, in addition to prominent managers and employees, as

well as media representatives and social media influencers.

The Al Naseem project covers an area of approximately 328,000 sqm.

Ahmed Ali Alammadi, Chief Executive Officer of Diyar Al



Muharraq, said; "By diversifying the designs of the Al Naseem villas, we ensure the vibrancy and atmosphere of this exceptional district so that our residents enjoy an unparalleled and luxurious domestic experience."

Zain Bahrain names second Zain Mega contest 5 winner



The winner receiving the prize

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain has announced the second Zain Mega Contest 5 winner. The lucky winner to receive the mega prize, a brand-new Audi A3 car is Ahmed Mohamed Hasan Shehabi, who was delighted to be one of the 5 lucky winners.

Zain Bahrain launched the biggest fiber campaign in the Kingdom in May 2023 and is ongoing until 26 April 2024. This campaign offers all Zain Bahrain Fiber and 5G Home Broadband customers the chance to win five Audi A3 cars and travel vouchers worth BD13,200.

Customers who subscribe to, renew, or upgrade their Zain Fiber or 5G Home Broadband

plan will immediately be enrolled in the raffle draws. Mobile users can also be enrolled in the raffle by dialing *200# for 250 fils/day and will receive extra 100 MB of data daily too.

Ammar Al Ketbi, Zain Bahrain Chief Consumer Marketing & Sales Officer said: "We are excited to announce the second Zain Mega Contest winner, and we encourage customers to join the largest Fiber campaign to win the remaining three Audi A3 cars and monthly travel vouchers. Zain Bahrain's commitment to its customer is evident through providing affordable packages for families and individuals with a chance to win mega prizes."

NBB announces Winners of 'Your Summer Just Got Better' campaign

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) celebrated the success of its 'Your Summer Just Got Better' campaign by holding a ceremony to honour the three lucky winners.

The campaign, which ran from June to August, encouraged NBB Prepaid, Visa and MasterCard credit cardholders to use their cards for local and international transactions and earn rewards on the Points by NBB App.

The winners, Masooma



Winners of Your Summer Just Got Better' campaign

Hasan Al Mohsen, Abdulla Yaqoob Janahi, and Asma Khalid Saif, each received BHD 1,000 worth of Base Points that can be redeemed on the "Point by NBB" Application for various

redemption options, such as Cashback, Shop Gifts, Frequent Flyer Air Miles, Raffles, and Donations.

The ceremony took place at the Bank's interactive stand at

City Centre Bahrain, where the Bank had a number of fun and enjoyable games dedicated to the Bank's various offerings as part of its 'Closer to You' campaign.

BAB joins forces with top authorities for SME growth

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) organized a gathering with various banking and financial institutions, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and representatives from entities such as SMEs Development Board, the Labour Fund "Tamkeen," Export Bahrain, and the Bahrain Insurance Society.

The meeting explored collaborative approaches in enhancing financing methods for SMEs in Bahrain. Participants also discussed potential economic, banking, and developmental opportunities to establish strategic partnerships between Bahraini banks and organizations ded-



Participants during the meeting

icated to supporting and nurturing SMEs.

Dr. Waheed Al Qassim, the CEO of BAB, outlined the organization's vision for enhancing sustainable financing options for SMEs, offering technical support, and providing financial assistance to innovative projects that create

a competitive edge and add value.

He further emphasized the importance of aligning government actions with the Bahrain Association of Banks' initiatives in supporting SMEs. This involves simplifying the financing processes for these enterprises and bolstering their capacity to

boost commercial activities in Bahrain.

In response, representatives from government entities participating in the meeting affirmed their commitment to supporting the Bahrain Association of Banks' endeavors in accordance with national priorities.

L&T Construction secures PT&D orders in GCC, India and Malaysia

TDT | Manama

The Power Transmission & Distribution business of L&T Construction has secured key orders in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, India, and Malaysia, in the current quarter.

In Saudi Arabia, an order for turnkey construction of a 380kV Substation with associated overhead transmission lines has been won.



Another order has been bagged in the State of Kuwait to build 5 Substations to provide

reliable and efficient power supply to an upcoming residential city.

Additional orders have been won in ongoing substation orders in Qatar.

In Chhattisgarh, India, the business has received an order for establishing 400kV & 220kV transmission lines to help relieve the congestion in the state's electricity transmission grid.

In a significant breakthrough, the business has bagged an order in Malaysia, in a consortium, to establish a 275kV Underground Cable system to double the power transmission capacity in the existing network.

Larsen & Toubro is a USD 23 billion Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services. It operates in over 50 countries worldwide.

GPIC participates in 35th International Technical Conference and Exhibition



Participants during a group photo opportunity

TDT | Manama

At the invitation and organization of the Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA), a delegation from Gulf Petrochemical Industry Company participated in the 35th Technical Conference and Exhibition, hosted in the Omani capital, Muscat, during October 2023.

This year's event under the theme "The Path to Net Zero: AFA Leading the way" was held in the presence of a number of CEOs and senior officials of Arab companies under the umbrella of the Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA).

The conference showcased the latest technical practices in fertilizers and nutrients, as well as extensive discussions of the latest ideas and innovations. During the sessions, information and concepts were exchanged on technical solutions that would help improve the fertilizer production process within the framework of sustainable development.

The conference also exhibited the latest equipment and machinery now used to help preserve the environment and reduce energy emissions in fertilizer and agri-nutrient production.

News in brief

◆ **Meta announced yesterday** that Facebook and Instagram users in Europe will be able to buy subscriptions to use the social networks without any advertising from next month. "To comply with evolving European regulations, we are introducing a new subscription option in the EU, EEA (European Economic Area) and Switzerland," it said in a statement. The company has taken the decision after a series of tougher European Union rules intended to rein in big tech, including the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The EU's rules are a risk to Meta's lucrative revenue from advertising since they seek to curb its use of users' data without consent. Meta said European users can subscribe for a fee of 9.99 euros (\$10.50) a month on the web, or 12.99 euros on mobile phones using iOS and Android systems.



Facebook, Instagram to offer paid ad-free Europe subscriptions

◆ **Russia yesterday accused** Ukraine of playing a "key role" in an anti-Israel riot at an airport in the Muslim-majority region of Dagestan on Sunday. Dozens of protesters, many of them chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest), broke through doors and barriers at Makhachkala airport on Sunday, charging onto the runway and seeking to attack Jewish passengers coming from Israel. "The criminal Kyiv regime played a direct and key role in carrying out the latest destructive act," Russia's foreign affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement. There was no immediate reaction from Kyiv to the allegations and Ukraine's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to an AFP request to comment.

Russia says Ukraine played 'key role' in anti-Israel airport riot



◆ **Trade deal negotiations** between European Union and Australia have collapsed despite earlier optimism, with the two sides exchanging blame on Monday for their failure. Since 2018, the painstaking discussions have picked through everything from chemicals to cosmetics, but have repeatedly come unstuck over market access for Australian farm products such as beef and lamb. In July, the two parties failed to reach a deal during talks in Brussels, with Australia saying it had not been guaranteed "significant" access to the European market for its agricultural products. The talks' collapse will be a major disappointment to the EU, which is seeking to push through ambitious free trade agreements with major world markets, including India and the Latin American nations in the Mercosur bloc.

Free trade deal between EU and Australia collapses



SPOTLIGHT

India vows to free its ex-navy personnel on Qatar death row
New Delhi, India

India's foreign minister yesterday said the country would "make all efforts" to secure the release of eight ex-navy personnel sentenced to death by a court in Qatar, reportedly for spying for Israel. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said he had met the families of the detained Indians and told them the government "attaches the highest importance" to their case. Indian media report the eight -- among them former high-ranking and decorated officers, including captains who once commanded warships -- were arrested in Doha in August 2022. In a post on social media, Jaishankar said that he fully shared "the concerns and pain of the families", and that the "government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release". India's navy chief, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, told reporters on Monday that "every effort" was being made by the government to "get relief for our personnel". The sentences were only revealed last week when India's foreign ministry said it was "shocked" at the case. The eight men were employees of Al Dabra, a Gulf-based company that offers "complete support solutions" to the aerospace, security and defence sectors, according to its web-



Subrahmanyam Jaishankar site.

The Hindu newspaper reported the men were spying for a "third country", while the Times of India has said that "various reports claimed they were accused of spying for Israel". Meetu Bhargava, the sister of one of the men, dismissed the allegations. "My brother is 63 years old... Why would he do anything like this at his age?" Bhargava was quoted as saying by the Indian Express daily.

She said she would seek the "personal intervention" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Last week, the Indian foreign ministry had said it would take up the verdict with Qatari authorities and would continue to "extend all consular and legal assistance" to the prisoners. Qatar rarely carries out executions, and the Gulf state has previously said a death sentence is equivalent to a life sentence.

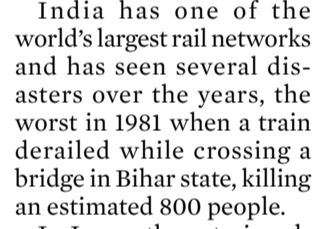
Deaths in India train collision rise to 13
AFP | New Delhi, India

At least 13 people were killed and around 50 injured when two trains collided in southeast India, officials said yesterday, updating an earlier toll of eight. The accident occurred late Sunday after one of the passenger trains overshot a signal between the towns of Alamanda and Kantakapalle in Andhra Pradesh state. A preliminary investigation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement. "Thirteen passengers have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. "Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi wrote on social media. India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst in 1981 when a train derailed while crossing a bridge in Bihar state, killing an estimated 800 people. In June, a three-train collision killed nearly 300 people in Odisha state. In August, at least nine people were killed when a coach parked in southern India caught fire as a passenger tried to make tea.

And earlier this month, four people were killed after an express train derailed in Bihar.

Rescuers at the scene of the accident



Rescuers at the scene of the accident

Deadly strike on journalists

● The initial findings of the investigation show that the reporters were not collateral victims of the shooting: RSF

● Two strikes 37 to 38 seconds apart hit a spot where a group of seven journalists had been for more than an hour

● The first strike killed Abdallah, the second, more powerful, ignited the vehicle used by Al-Jazeera



A Palestinian journalist is assisted after inhaling tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers during a protest near the border fence east of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip

AFP | Paris, France

A Reuters journalist killed in southern Lebanon two weeks ago and others wounded in the same incident were deliberately targeted, a Reporters Without Borders investigation released on Sunday said. Video journalist Issam Abdallah died and six other journalists were wounded -- including two from AFP, one of them seriously -- in strikes the village of Alma al-Shaab in southern Lebanon on October 13. "The initial findings of the investigation show that the reporters were not collateral victims of the shooting," the media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said.

"One of their vehicles, marked 'press', was targeted, and it was also clear that the group stationed next to it was journalists." The journalists believe they were hit by fire coming from the Israeli side of the border. The RSF initial findings did not explicitly blame Israeli forces, but said that according to ballistic analysis, the shots came from the east, the direction of the Israeli

Israel army says female soldier hostage freed



AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

A female Israeli soldier was released from captivity in the Gaza Strip, the army said Monday, following an operation in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory. "Last night, soldier Ori Megidish was released during a ground operation after being kidnapped by Hamas on October 7," the army said in a statement. "The soldier was medically checked, is doing well, and has met with her family."

The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released a photograph of Megidish in which she is seen surrounded with her family members.

Ground battles rage in Gaza

● Columns of Israeli tanks and armoured bulldozers were seen churning through the sand, and Israeli snipers took positions inside emptied residential buildings, in footage released by the army.



A Palestinian man cradles an injured child

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli ground forces fought deadly battles with Hamas militants inside Gaza on Monday and sent tanks to the outskirts of the biggest city while air strikes kept raining down on the besieged Palestinian territory. In heavy clashes overnight, the Israeli army said it had killed dozens hiding "inside buildings and tunnels", and a fighter jet struck a building "with over 20 Hamas operatives inside". Columns of Israeli tanks and armoured bulldozers were seen churning through the sand, and Israeli snipers took positions inside emptied residential buildings, in footage released by the

army. Dozens of Israeli tanks advanced for more than an hour into the southern fringes of Gaza City and blocked the main north-south highway, "firing at any vehicle that tries to go along it", an eyewitness told AFP by phone. Air strikes also cratered the road and brought down buildings, residents said, before the tanks pulled back from the area. The Israeli land forces were supported by heavy fire from fighter jets, drones and artillery

WHO chief recalls own war

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus yesterday recalled the pain of his own wartime upbringing in Ethiopia as he pleaded with global leaders to unite for peace. The WHO has called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas for the safe delivery of food, medical supplies and other



aid into the Gaza Strip. Tedros said on X, formerly Twitter, that he was making "a humble plea for ceasefire and peace".

As a child trapped in the shadows of war, I intimately knew its smell, sounds and sights. I empathise deeply with those now caught in the middle of conflict, feeling their pain as if it were my own

"As a child trapped in the shadows of war, I intimately knew its smell, sounds and sights. I empathise deeply with those now caught in the middle of conflict, feeling their pain as if it were my own," he said. "War brings only devastation, horror, and destruction. Nothing else."

1517

Martin Luther sends his Ninety-five Theses to Albert of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz, precipitating The Protestant Reformation



1541

Michelangelo Buonarroti finishes painting "The Last Judgement" in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City

1876

Great Backerganj Cyclone of 1876 ravages British India (Modern-day Bangladesh), over 200,000 killed

2011

The world population reaches 7 billion inhabitants according to the United Nations

Journalists was 'targeted'



A journalist receives treatment after being wounded during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the Israel-Gaza border

border. The RSF probe established that two strikes 37 to 38 seconds apart hit a spot where a group of seven journalists had been for more than an hour. The first strike killed Abdallah, the second, more powerful, ignited the vehicle used by Al-Jazeera, and injured several journalists. "Two strikes in the same place in such a short space of time (just over 30 seconds), from the same direction, clearly indicate precise targeting," the report said. "It is unlikely that the journalists were mistaken for combatants, especially as they were not hiding: in order to have a clear field of vision, they had been in the open for more than an hour, on the top of a hill." The journalists' bullet-proof vests and the nearby vehicle were marked 'press'. According to two journalists

interviewed by the watchdog, an Israeli helicopter had flown over the scene a few seconds before the strikes. RSF said it was continuing its investigation.

Lebanese authorities have accused Israel of being behind the strikes. The Israeli army said it was looking into the circumstance of the fatal strike.

AFP is conducting its own investigation into the strike and has demanded that Israel and Lebanon conduct an in-depth probe.

Reuters has also called on Israel to conduct a quick and comprehensive investigation.



According to two journalists interviewed by the watchdog, an Israeli helicopter had flown over the scene a few seconds before the strikes.

Gaza as concern grows for hospitals



A Palestinian man sits with an injured girl at Nasser hospital following Israeli strikes in Khan Yuni

that the army said had struck more than 600 targets within 24 hours, up sharply from 450 a day earlier. Hamas said it had fired anti-tank missiles at two Israeli armoured vehicles. It also charged Israel was trying to present a "false image that its soldiers are present in the Gaza Strip interior, even though blows delivered by the resistance have prevented them". Hamas also released a video of what it said were three women hostages, seated against a tile wall, although the time and place of the recording could not be verified. One woman was heard calling in an agitated tone for Netanyahu to agree to Hamas' proposed exchange of the hostages for Palestinian prisoners. Netanyahu decried the clip as "cruel psychological propaganda", in a statement issued shortly afterwards. He named them as Yelena Trupanob, Daniel Aloni

and Rimon Kirsht, and vowed "to bring all the abducted and missing people home".

Fear and desperation have spiralled in Gaza, under weeks of siege that have cut off water, food, fuel and other essentials to the long-blockaded territory.

Donkey carts were lining up to load water, as safe drinking water has become scarce, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

According to the UN, all 10 hospitals in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders -- despite sheltering thousands of patients and about 117,000 of the displaced.

The head of the World Health Organization said calls to evacuate Al-Quds hospital in Gaza City were "deeply concerning".

"We reiterate -- it's impossible to evacuate hospitals full of patients without endangering their lives," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X.

Mohamed al-Talmas, who has taken shelter in Gaza's biggest hospital Al-Shifa, said "the ground shook" there with intense Israeli raids.

Israel describes Al-Shifa hospital as a de facto Hamas "command centre" and headquarters.

Mild past in peace plea

"In this critical moment, let us rise above the divisions and embrace the path of peace. The truest display of courage lies in choosing peace. I call on world leaders to unite and lead the world towards peace."

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people and kidnapping more than 220 others.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said

the strikes have killed more than 8,000 people, mainly civilians and many of them children. Tedros has condemned the "unjustified and horrific" Hamas attack, and has said "children are paying the price" in the bombardment of targets in Gaza.

When re-elected for his second WHO term in May last year, Tedros, 58, recalled his humble upbringing as "a child of war... from a poor family".

With a trembling voice, he re-

called experiencing conflict at a very young age, as he described how the strong emotions came rushing back during a recent visit to Ukraine.

"When I saw the kids, it was the image from more than 50 years ago that came to my mind; so visible, so haunting; the smell of war, the sound of war, the image of war," he said, in tears.

"That's what I don't want to happen to anyone. So I hope peace will come."



Palestinians search a damaged building following Israeli strikes in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

German-Israeli woman captured by Hamas confirmed dead

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Shani Louk, a 23-year-old German-Israeli woman captured by Hamas fighters when they stormed a music festival in the Israeli desert, is dead, Israel's foreign ministry said yesterday.

"Our hearts are broken," the ministry wrote in a message on X, formerly Twitter, as it confirmed Louk's death.

"Shani, who was kidnapped from a music festival and tortured and paraded around Gaza by Hamas terrorists, experienced unfathomable horrors," it said.

"May her memory be a blessing."

Louk had been missing since Hamas fighters stormed the Supernova rave near the Gaza border as they carried out the worst attack in Israel's history.

Around 270 festivalgoers were killed.

Shortly after the attack, images began circulating online of a young woman lying face down and nearly naked in the back of a pick-up truck in Gaza filled with armed men.

Louk's family said they recognised Shani in the footage because of her dreadlocks and distinctive tattoos.

The family initially held out hope she had been badly injured and was receiving hospital treatment in Gaza.

Lebanon PM tells AFP working to avoid 'war' with Israel

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister said yesterday he was working to ensure his country does not enter the Hamas-Israel war, even as Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging cross-border fire.

Najib Mikati said he feared an escalation, with the border skirmishes stoking concerns that Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah could launch its own war with Israel.

"I am doing my duty to prevent Lebanon from entering the war" raging further south, Mikati said in an interview.

Cash-strapped Lebanon is facing the possibility of war essentially leaderless, as political divisions have left the country without a president for almost a year, while Mikati has headed a caretaker cabinet for about a year and a half.

"Lebanon is in the eye of the storm," Mikati said.



Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati

"I cannot rule out an escalation because there is a race to reach a ceasefire before escalation spreads in the entire region."

Hezbollah and allied Palestinian factions in Lebanon have exchanged fire with Israel almost daily since Hamas's October 7 assault on Israel.

Iran-backed or affiliated groups have also launched attacks on Israel from Syria, and targeted US forces stationed in Syria and Iraq.

UN warns of Syria danger and Israel-Hamas 'spillover'

United Nations, United States

The United Nations yesterday warned that Syria was at its "most dangerous" point in a long time as violence surges and as "spillover" from the Israel-Hamas war starts to have an impact.

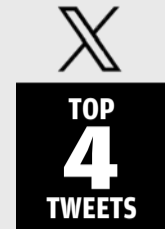
Syria has "seen growing instability and violence, exacerbated by the lack of a meaningful political process," Geir Pedersen, UN special envoy

for Syria, told the Security Council.

"Today, I am sounding an alarm that the situation is now at its most dangerous for a long time."

Israel said Monday it carried out air strikes on military infrastructure inside Syria as fears grow that its war against Iran-backed Hamas could spur a broader regional conflict.

"Spillover into Syria is not just a risk; it has already begun."



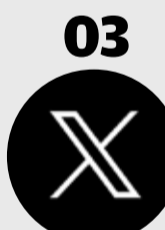
Today from the base of Mt. Everest, I saw for myself the terrible impact of the climate crisis on the Himalayas. As temperatures rise, glacier melt increases - threatening the lives and livelihoods of entire communities.

@antonio gutierrez



TheGPMB told us today that not enough has changed on pandemic preparedness, despite the catastrophic consequences of the #COVID19 pandemic.

@DrTedros



Making a slight change to creator monetization: Any posts that are corrected by @CommunityNotes become ineligible for revenue share. The idea is to maximize the incentive for accuracy over sensationalism.

@elonmusk



Let me be clear: America will lead the way during this period of technological change. But we're going to do it in a way that puts safety first. Today at 2:30 PM, I'll sign a historic Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence that will do just that.

@POTUS

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

CELEBS

Tributes pour in after 'Friends' actor Matthew Perry's shock death

AFP | Los Angeles

Shock over the sudden death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry rippled through Hollywood and beyond, as the beloved sitcom's creators paid tribute to the actor and fans gathered outside the New York apartment building featured on the show.

Perry, 54, was known globally for his portrayal of wise-cracking character Chandler Bing on the wildly popular "Friends," which ran for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004.

First responders found Perry unconscious in a hot tub at his house Saturday and were unable to revive him, law enforcement sources told the Los Angeles Times.

Perry had battled addiction and serious health problems for years, but the sudden death of a man who delivered laughter into millions of homes was a gut-punch for those who knew him -- or who felt like they did.

"We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of our beloved son and brother," Perry's family said in a statement to People magazine. "Matthew brought

so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend."

This was "The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken," co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane as well executive producer Kevin Bright said in a joint statement alluding to the titles of "Friends" episodes.

"We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened... It still seems impossible," they said in the statement sent to AFP.

"We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment -- not just to his work, but in life as well.

"He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart."

In Los Angeles, people gathered before Perry's house to lay flowers.

And in New York's West Village, fans converged outside the "Friends" apartment building.

"I just wanted to pay my respects," said 26-year-old Canadian visitor Taylor Lanthier, who said Perry had "had a very impactful role in my life and always has given me tons of laughs."



Matthew Perry

There was no immediate public reaction from the rest of the main "Friends" cast, though Maggie Wheeler -- who played Chandler's annoying on-again, off-again girlfriend Janice -- posted a photo of them together on Instagram.

"What a loss. The world will miss you Matthew Perry," she wrote.

And Morgan Fairchild, who

played Chandler's mother, wrote that she was "heartbroken."

"The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock," she posted on X.

"Friends," which followed the lives of six New Yorkers navigating adulthood, dating and careers, drew a massive global following.

But even as he delivered on-air gag after gag -- and earned a

fortune -- Perry was struggling.

He attended multiple rehabilitation clinics to combat addiction to painkillers and alcohol. In 2018 he suffered a burst colon, related to drug usage, and underwent multiple surgeries.

In his memoir "Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing," published last year, Perry described going through detox dozens of times. He dedicated the book to "all of the sufferers out there," and wrote in the prologue: "I should be dead."

"I have mostly been sober since 2001," he wrote, "save for about sixty or seventy little mishaps over the years."

TMZ, which first reported the news of Perry's death, said no drugs were found at the scene. The Los Angeles Times and TMZ both said there were no signs of foul play, citing anonymous sources.

Perry was born in Massachusetts, then raised between Montreal and Los Angeles after his parents separated.

His father was a US actor and his mother a Canadian journalist who worked as a spokesperson for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Mark Wahlberg on why he works out so much: 'I want to live a long time!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Mark Wahlberg stays in shape because he wants to live for as long as possible

The 52-year-old actor underwent intense physical training for roles in his films 'Pain and Gain' and 'Infinite' and whilst initially, his efforts were about how he looked, he now stays in shape because he wants to make sure he is around for a long time.

He told People: "For me, now, it's much more about longevity than anything else. You know? Before it was about aesthetic when trying to get in shape. I want to live a long time. I feel better getting up early. If I don't work out in the morning, I have a really hard time doing it towards the end of the day."

The 'Uncharted' star went on to add that whilst he often feels like taking a day off if he "cuts corners" with his fitness regime then he will no longer be at his best as he encouraged others to take up some form of daily exercise.

He said: "I feel like [skipping the gym] every day but know what the feeling is going to be like after. That's hard to duplicate." If I cut corners, then I can't be at my best. Everything that I've done, that I've been successful at, is done by doing the work. I encourage everybody, even if you just work out for 10 minutes, you're going to feel better. We're all very fortunate and blessed. You want to live as long as possible. You want to be able to move, and certainly, you got to do it.

"Throughout the week, it gets progressively more difficult. But the great thing about F45 is that you can go at your own pace."

Mark Wahlberg



Jada Pinkett-Smith reveals she used to consider suicide: 'I couldn't figure another way out!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jada Pinkett-Smith used to consider taking her own life.

The 52-year-old actress - who has children Jaden, 25, and 22-year-old Willow with estranged husband Will Smith - revealed that upon turning 40 she was in "so much pain" despite living her dream in Hollywood and used to look for places where she could stage her death as an accident so she could hide the truth from her family.



Jada Pinkett-Smith

She told People: "When I turned 40, I was in so much pain. I couldn't figure a way out besides death. So I made a plan. But, while I was really living the dream, I hit a huge wall -- a massive amount of depression. I think that I looked at having outside sources to supplement for the voids that I was feeling inside. I started looking for places, cliffs where I could have an accident, because I didn't want my kids to think that their mother had committed suicide."

Kesha is 'out of her comfort zone' on first dates

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kesha feels she's out of her comfort zone whenever she goes on a first date.

The 36-year-old pop star is always anxious before her dates - but she's fortunate to have a strong support system around her.

The 'Tik Tok' hitmaker - who prefers not to label her sexuality, having previously identified as bisexual - told PEOPLE: "My best friend is so great. She'll just sit on the other side of the bar and be like, 'Give me a signal.'"

Kesha also revealed that she feels nervous whenever she boards a flight.

The singer shared: "I get nervous every time I fly - whenever the plane takes off, when-



Kesha

ever we land. I just annoy the person next to me and make them hold my hand."

Meanwhile, in 2022, Kesha took to social media to discuss her sexuality.

The pop star explained that she couldn't put a label on her sexuality.

She wrote on Instagram at the time: "Happy pride! In case

I haven't been straight forward enough (LOL) I just wanted to take a sec to tell everyone that you are not only enough, just as you are, but the world is so lucky to have you.

"I'm not gay. I'm not straight. I don't know what I am. I love people. I love people because we are all our own little consciousness journeys, dancing around the sun [sun emoji]"

"How weird and interesting and fun this life is, right? I refuse to be anything, really, except for open to it all? I know it can be confusing sometimes, but you are so seen and loved. Love u animals, happy pride (sic)."

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD

Yesterday's solution

1	F	A	O	S	I	T	L	L	T	A	P	A
2	A	C	L	U	T	E	A	S	E	O	R	E
3	M	E	I	R	S	E	N	D	S	N	I	K
4	A	S	C	F	E	N	A	T	O	I	L	E
5	E	L	L	S	L	U	N	G				
6	C	H	I	E	F	L	O	A	T	H	I	N
7	I	R	A	T	E	M	O	O	R	T	O	A
8	M	E	T	R	A	I	N	Y	N	C	O	
9	A	P	E	R	A	I	R	Y	L	A	I	R
10	M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E	H	E	N	C
11	B	O	L	E	T	A	X	I				
12	S	E	A	C	O	W	L	I	B			
13	A	L	G	A	A	S	O	N	E	A	L	A
14	S	L	U	G		Y	U	C	A			
15	S	A	N	E		B	I	T	S			

Across
1- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 5- Acquire; 8- Let's just leave that; 12- ...do-well-13- State of confusion; 15- Free from contamination; 16- Chinese weight; 17- Cover story; 18- Hurler Hershiser; 19- Floating above the surface; 22- Close friend; 23- Nope; 24- Story; 26- Handy; 29- Powerful; 31- Polo Grounds legend; 32- Govt. security; 34- Put to (halt); 36- Bouillabaisse, e.g.; 38- Walk; 40- Drinks slowly; 41- Strange and mysterious; 43- Cinder; 45- It may be picked; 46- Trust; 48- Be right with ya; 50- Other, in Oaxaca; 51- Plant juice; 52- Frequently, in verse; 54- Freed; 61- Purchases; 63- Fold; 64- Function; 65- Little devils; 66- Torment; 67- Periods of history; 68- Watchful one; 69- "As if!"; 70- Unpleasantly moist.

Down
1- Farm dwellers; 2- Boyfriend; 3- Page; 4- She's a Dahl; 5- Arizona river; 6- Way out; 7- Big brass; 8- Wall St. debut; 9- Oil derived from the resin of pine trees; 10- Specialty; 11- Blab; 13- Organized search for a criminal; 14- Old Ford; 20- Floating platform; 21- Parting word; 25- Not so much; 26- Say; 27- Anything unoriginal; 28- "Arabesque" actress; 29- Singer Bryson; 30- Theme; 31- Sugary suffix; 33- President pro.; 35- L.A. clock setting; 37- Wither; 39- Compactness; 42- Bronte heroine; 44- Get as a result; 47- Pizazz; 49- Was merciful to; 52- Village Voice award; 53- Fumelle; 55- King of comedy; 56- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 57- Wagon; 58- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 59- Dash; 60- Writing table; 62- Georgia, once; Abbr.;



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa receives a token of appreciation from Captain Waleed Al Alawi

HH Shaikh Khalid tours Royal Golf Club

● **HH Shaikh Khalid inspects club's facilities in preparation for first-ever Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour**

TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General

Sports Authority (GSA) president and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa made an inspection visit yesterday to the Royal Golf Club, which is preparing to host the first-ever Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour.

The prestigious golf tournament is scheduled to take place 1 to 4 February next year under the patronage of His Majesty the King.

HH Shaikh Khalid was ac-

companied on his visit by GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority CEO Dr Nasser Qaedi, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, and the Royal Golf Club's chairman Captain Waleed Al Alawi.

The DP World Tour is also known as the PGA European Tour. The Bahrain Championship will carry a US\$2.5million prize fund, and it will attract many of the top professional players in golf from around the world.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials during their tour of the facility

Verstappen ties Prost with 51st win

Max Verstappen secures his 16th victory of the season and matches a legendary F1 milestone

● **Verstappen starts from third on the grid but takes the lead at the start and dominates the race**

● **Lewis Hamilton finishes second, and Charles Leclerc takes third place**

AFP | Mexico City



Red Bull's Max Verstappen is greeted by the checkered flag as he wins the race

World champion Max Verstappen drew level with Alain Prost on 51 Formula One victories on Sunday when he claimed his record 16th triumph of the season at the Mexican Grand Prix.

Starting from third on the grid, the Red Bull driver stole the lead at the start and then dominated the race, which was punctuated by a lengthy red flag stoppage when Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily in his Haas.

The 26-year-old Dutchman came home 13.875 seconds ahead of a revitalised Lewis Hamilton, who started sixth, with pole-sitter Charles Leclerc taking third place ahead of his Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz.

Lando Norris finished a glorious fifth for McLaren after an

enthralling drive through the field from 17th on the grid, ahead of George Russell in the second Mercedes.

It was Verstappen's fifth win in Mexico and his record-equaling 18th podium finish this year while the luckless Leclerc, who collided with Sergio Perez's Red Bull at the first corner, endured his 11th successive failure to convert pole into a victory.

Perez spun off, recovered and retired, much to the disappointment of his home Mexican fans in a big crowd at the high-altitude Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

"It is just incredible," said Verstappen. "To win from P3, is just amazing. I started P3 and

the car was really great. It was a very strong race and now I don't know -- more wins, maybe 17 or 18!"

Hamilton, who was disqualified after finishing second in the United States a week earlier, said: "I feel fresh. I was pushing, but not crazy hard. It is a great result, considering we started sixth. This is a great result for us in a difficult few weeks."

Leclerc noticed "a lot of booing" from the crowd and explained his part in Perez's exit.

"I had nowhere to go. I was between the two Red Bulls. Checo damaged my car and it ended his race. It was not on purpose."

Daniel Ricciardo finished a creditable seventh for Alpha

“To win from P3, is just amazing. I started P3 and the car was really great. It was a very strong race and now I don't know -- more wins, maybe 17 or 18!”

MAX VERSTAPPEN

Tauri ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, Williams' Alex Albon and Esteban Ocon of Alpine.

Verstappen's fast start

Verstappen made a sensational start, powering between the Ferraris to take the inside line after the 800-metre rush from Turn One.

Sensing a chance, Perez went three abreast with Verstappen and Leclerc, but clipped the Ferrari's front wing and bounced off.

To loud groans, he rejoined, limped to the pits and retired, beating his steering wheel in frustration while Leclerc con-

tinued with a flapping front wing which soon fell off.

The stewards noted he was driving in an "unsafe condition" and decided to investigate after the race.

"I went for it," said Perez, accepting the blame. "There wasn't room for three cars. In hindsight, I should have backed off, but it's my home race."

By lap 20, Verstappen led by 4.6 seconds before pitting for hards, handing the lead to Leclerc.

He rejoined seventh behind Russell and swiftly rose to fifth as his rivals pitted before Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily at Turn Nine to

prompt a safety car. The Dane escaped, apparently unhurt, but his blazing Haas was wrecked, as Verstappen led a charge for cheap pit-stops and retained his lead before the race was red-flagged.

After a 20-minute interlude to clear the debris, the race resumed with a standing start, which Verstappen, on hards, nailed ahead of Leclerc as Hamilton on mediums looked for a gap.

It appeared on lap 40, when he dived inside the Monegasque at Turn One in vintage style to take second.

"It's going to be a tough stint," said Hamilton, assessing his chances as Verstappen pulled four seconds clear and built a luxurious cushion.



Leclerc endured his 11th successive failure to convert pole into a victory



Max Verstappen

Dar Kulaib begin title defence with win

● **Defending champions sweep Al Dair in three sets in Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League**

TDT | Manama

Defending champions Dar Kulaib powered to a convincing 3-0 (25-18, 25-19, 25-18) victory over Al Dair last night in their opening match of the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

After having a bye in the first week of the new season, Dar Kulaib kick-started their campaign with the three-set sweep of their opponents to begin week two.

They joined Muharraq, Nabih Saleh and Busateen as winners of their opening contests in Group A.

The 14 participating clubs

this season have been divided into two groups for the preliminary stage. Group A also includes Ma'ameer and A'ali; while Group B features Al Najma, Al Ahli, Al Nasser, Bani Jamra, Tadamun, Al Shabab and Etehad Al Reef.

League action continues tonight with Muharraq taking on Ma'amer at 6pm followed at 7.30pm by Najma playing Etehad Al Reef. Tomorrow, Ahli face Tadamun at 6pm and then Busateen play Nabih Saleh at 7.30pm.

Following a single round-robin, the top three teams from each group qualify for the top six, while the remainder play in a bottom-tier league.

The top six will then play two rounds, with the top four making it through to the Golden Square semi-finals. There, the top seeds play the fourth and the second seeds take on the third.

BRAVE CF 79: Ismail Naurdiev moves up to Middleweight, meets Tahar Hadbi in main event

TDT | Manama

Two-time BRAVE CF Super Welterweight title challenger Ismail Naurdiev is moving up in weight in search of the elusive world title. "The Austrian Wonderboy" headlines BRAVE CF 79, on December 8, as he makes his Middleweight debut against Tahar "Fast Hands" Hadbi.

In the co-main event, Heavyweight giants collide, as Pavel Dailidko looks for his third straight BRAVE CF victory against Hungary's Janos Csukas.

Ismail Naurdiev signed with BRAVE CF in early 2021 and made his debut headlining BRAVE CF 50 against then-champion Jarrah Al-Silawi. He lost the fight via second-round TKO, but bounced back with two dominant victories. First, in a Fight of the Year winner against Olli Santalahti, then in a first-round stoppage of Bekten Zheenbekov, which earned him another shot at gold.



Despite breaking Marcin Banel's jaw early on in their BRAVE CF 63 title fight, he succumbed to the new champion via armbar submission. After another loss at Super Welterweight, Naurdiev has decided to move up to 185 pounds.

He will meet fellow Middleweight debutant Tahar Hadbi, who made his promotional debut all the way back in 2017 at BRAVE CF 5 and was noted for

kicking off his BRAVE CF career with two No Contests. He then earned the only win of his stint against arch-rival Mohammad Fakhreddine before losing to Jarrah Al-Silawi.

"Fast Hands" then suffered a heart attack after training in early 2019, but was given the all clear to return to MMA, following a miraculous recovery. Hadbi last fought in the main event of BRAVE CF 38, when

he lost to Giannis Bachar. As is the case with his opponent, the French-Algerian fighter is hoping a move to Middleweight will reignite his career.

In the co-main event of BRAVE CF 79, Pavel Dailidko will look for his third straight victory under the BRAVE CF banner as he welcomes Janos Csukas.

The Lithuanian giant, who trains with the likes of Tom Aspinall and Phil de Fries, is eager to make a statement in search of the Heavyweight title, while Csukas will make history as he becomes the first Hungarian fighter to represent his country at BRAVE CF.

BRAVE CF 79 is the second of three professional events that highlight the BRAVE International Combat Week, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Bahrain. Between December 5 and December 15, three shows will take place in the Kingdom as well as the IMMAF Asian Championships.

Afghanistan beat Sri Lanka to boost World Cup semi-final bid

Afghanistan secures their third World Cup victory in an all-around performance, staying in contention for the semi-finals

● **Azmatullah Omarzai scores unbeaten 73 and captain Hashmatullah Shahidi makes 58 not out in an unbroken 111-run stand**

AFP | Pune

Afghanistan defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in Pune yesterday to record their third win of the World Cup and maintain their hopes of a semi-final place.

Set 242 to win after a disciplined bowling display, Afghanistan finished on 242-3, with Azmatullah Omarzai unbeaten on 73 and captain Hashmatullah Shahidi 58 not out, the pair sharing an unbroken stand of 111.

Afghanistan now have six points and sit in fifth place in the table, two behind New Zealand and Australia with the top four guaranteed to make the semi-finals.



Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai plays a shot

Victory also meant Afghanistan, who'd already beaten champions England, had won back-to-back matches at the World Cup for the first time after they defeated Pakistan by eight wickets last time out.

Prior to this edition, they had managed just one win -- against non-Test nation Scotland in 2015 -- from their appearances at two

previous World Cups.

Yet they have now beaten three World Cup winners in England, 1992 champions Pakistan and 1996 kings Sri Lanka.

An impressive all-round effort was set up by recalled left-arm fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi's 4-34 in 10 overs as Sri Lanka were held to 241.

Shahidi and Omarzai saw



their team home with nearly five overs to spare.

Afghanistan lost Rahmanullah Gurbaz just four balls into their chase when he was bowled by a swinging delivery from Dilshan Madushanka.

But Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah (62) then shared a stand of 73.

Omarzai added fresh impetus with three sixes in a run-a-ball

Scorecard

Afghanistan 242 for 3 (Omarzai 73, Rahmat 62, Shahidi 58*) beat Sri Lanka 241 (Nissanka 46, Farooqi 4-34, Mujeeb 2-38) by seven wickets

fifty.

Shahidi had got to the landmark in 67 balls but his runs were just as valuable all the same.

Sri Lanka, who've now lost four of their six matches, missed a couple of chances and their day was summed up when Omarzai scored the winning run after being dropped at deep midwicket.

Victory was another notable triumph for Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott, with this success coming against a Sri Lanka team coached by another former England international in Chris Silverwood

Farooqi had been recalled in place of Noor Ahmad despite the teenage spinner's three wickets

against Pakistan.

But on a pitch offering less turn, Afghanistan's judgement was vindicated as Farooqi struck through-out the innings, while off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman kept things tight with 2-38 in 10.

Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka made 46 but no other batsman managed more than skipper Kusal Mendis' (39) after they were sent into bat.

Nissanka, fresh from his unbeaten 77 in an eight-wicket rout of England, was in sight of his fifth fifty in six innings this World Cup.

But he was caught behind for 46, trying to cut Omarzai.

Mujeeb then struck in successive balls, removing Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama (36) after both batsmen had made starts.

Farooqi then cleaned up late on, expertly yorking tailender Maheesh Theekshana (29) before he had Angelo Mathews well caught in the deep by Afghanistan veteran Mohammad Nabi.

India's Samprit cruises in ITF tennis

TDT | Manama

Top seed Samprit Sharma of India cruised into the second round of the boys' singles main draw in the third Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, being played at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town.

The competition is a J30 event that is part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, which features the world's top tennis talents aged 13 to 18.

Samprit advanced from the opening stage after defeating Zein Ionescu of Canada 6-0, 6-0. He will next take on the winner of the other first-round clash between Akmal Abdullaev of Uzbekistan and Matei Cucu of Romania.

Also advancing to the boys' second round yesterday were fourth seed Issah Ali of Great



A player in action in the girls' singles yesterday

Britain, fifth seed Radu Cojocaru of Australia, Emre Atlamis and Doruk Calikoglu of Turkey, Amjad Bukary of Saudi Arabia, and Nikita Gribyakin of Estonia.

Issah defeated Bahrain's Faris Al Toobli 6-2, 6-4 to make it

through.

Meanwhile, in the girls' singles, fifth seed Alina Sogomonyan led yesterday's winners into their second round.

Alina defeated Asli Oktay of Turkey 6-2, 6-4 to advance, and

will next take on Simona Cucu of Romania, who beat Alicja Tomczyk of Poland 6-0, 6-1.

Also winning their first-round clashes were Arina Malygina, Saiyette Varadkar of India, Luisa Fusil of Slovenia, sixth seed Ophelia Korpanec Davies of Great Britain, seventh seed Katarina Curcic of Serbia, Isabella Marquina of Colombia, eighth seed Sara Dessouky of Egypt, Vitharanage Dona Wijewardana of Sri Lanka, and Yasemin Eiselmeier and Sade Ulueren of Turkey.

Tournament action continues today at the BTF.

The ongoing competition is the first of three straight ITF tournaments to be hosted by Bahrain in succession. The second, which begins on 6 November, is also a J30 event, while the third, a J60 competition, will begin on 13 November.

Man Utd's Evans blames injury woes for miserable run

AFP | London

Manchester United defender Jonny Evans has blamed his team's dismal form on a rash of injuries after their troubled season hit a new low with Sunday's derby disaster against Manchester City.

City swept to a 3-0 victory at Old Trafford in a one-sided clash that could have been an even bigger defeat for Erik ten Hag's outclassed side.

After winning their previous three matches, United were back to the sloppy, lethargic form that condemned them to six losses in their first 10 games in all competitions.

United boss Ten Hag has had to deal with a significant injury list including Casemiro, Lisandro Martin-

ez, Luke Shaw, Tyrell Malacia, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Amad Diallo.

And Evans believes the absence of so many players has destabilised the squad.

"I think we've been disrupted with a lot of injuries this season in terms of key personnel," Evans told MUTV.

"Probably a lot of our starting players would be, you know, they're missing.

"I think the manager's found out difficulties having

to sort of work on team, on tactics and having to change the personnel quite a lot with only two days in between



Jonny Evans

Shakib says 'talk is cheap' as Bangladesh's World Cup falls apart

AFP | Kolkata

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan warned his players that "talk is cheap" and demanded they put words into action to rescue their battered pride at the World Cup.

Bangladesh tackle Pakistan in Kolkata on Tuesday having lost five of their six matches with virtually no hope whatsoever of making the semi-finals.

"We discussed it, we had our team meetings, so we sat down, we talked about it, but we have to show it in action and that the talk is cheap when it's not working," said Shakib.

"So, we'll do it at the ground so the action can take care of it and everyone can see it. I mean,



Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan reacts during a match

only we can change the situation of the team with our actions. So that's what we are trying to do."

Like his team, Shakib has struggled in India and was widely criticised for dashing home last week to work with his personal batting coach.

In the five matches he has played at the World Cup, the 36-year-old veteran of 245 one-day internationals has mustered just 61 runs and seven wickets.

"There is a lot to play for. As you know, we have to win to be able to qualify for the Champions Trophy. That's an important target I think we can set at this moment," said Shakib.

The International Cricket Council yesterday announced the top seven teams plus hosts

“We discussed it, we had our team meetings, so we sat down, we talked about it, but we have to show it in action and that the talk is cheap when it's not working”

SHAKIB AL HASAN

Pakistan will qualify for the Champions Trophy in 2025.

"We have to win. We have no other option and that's what we would look to do," said Shakib whose team is ninth in the 10-team World Cup table with defending champions England at the bottom.

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WEC drivers begin arriving in Bahrain

Bahrain International Circuit welcomes participants ahead of this weekend's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain

● **Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain set for this Friday and Saturday in Sakhir**

● **On-track action to begin Thursday with sessions held behind closed doors**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", has begun to welcome to the Kingdom the star drivers, officials and team members of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), who will be participating in this weekend's highly anticipated Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The Spirit of Le Mans is set to make its presence felt in Sakhir at the fast-approaching WEC season-finale, taking place Friday and Saturday.

The visiting WEC contingent were received upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport by members of BIC's Meet and Greet Team.

Large containers of the WEC teams' cars, parts and equipment have also already arrived at the circuit. The race to get ready for the start of on-track action



Prema Racing's LMP2 driver Bent Viscaal with a BIC Meet and Greet Team member upon his arrival

on Thursday has thus begun, with team members unpacking their crates and setting up their respective garages along the BIC Pit Lane.

Thursday's sessions will feature a pair of 90-minute practices for the WEC's contenders, to be held behind closed doors. Fans will be able to watch the WEC's protagonists in action in their iconic and technologically superior Hypercars and sports cars on Friday and Saturday.

Gates are scheduled to be open from 11am to 6.30pm on Friday and from 10.30am to 10.30pm on Saturday.

Tickets to the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain remain available and those looking to

attend are urged to purchase theirs today for this unmissable occasion at BIC.

Tickets cost just BD5.500 for adults and BD2.750 for kids for the two-day weekend programme. They can be bought online at BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. Tickets are priced as one of the most affordable ways to witness a world championship motorsport event.

Hospitality packages are also available for the BIC Spirit of Le Mans Club Experience, where guests can experience exclusive cuisine and incredible views in BIC's Paddock hospitality. Packages are also available to



Large containers of the WEC teams' cars, parts and equipment have also already arrived at BIC. The race to get ready for the start of on-track action on Thursday has thus begun, with team members unpacking their crates and setting up their respective garages along the BIC Pit Lane

purchase online or via the BIC Hotline.

This year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain will yet again be a brilliant spectacle for all those attending and watching from across the globe. The race on Saturday will flag off under the afternoon sun and then wrap up beneath the stars while shining brightly under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

A record number of 12 Hypercars flying the flags of eight teams and six manufacturers



Action from the start of last year's WEC race at BIC

will be lining up on the grid, making for the largest-ever entry in the WEC's top-tier category to hit the tarmac at BIC.

Aside from the WEC action, there will also be top-class racing from the region's leading one-make series, the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East.

Off the track, there will also be loads of family entertainment, plus a WEC-exclusive Open Paddock experience—a unique feature which allows fans to enjoy behind-the-scenes access, getting right next to the teams' garages and possibly see some of the sport's star drivers in person.

Furthermore, following the tremendous success of the ground-breaking Green Ticket initiative introduced for last year's WEC race, BIC and Bapco

Energies, in cooperation with the Government of Bahrain, are bringing it back for the 2023 event.

For every WEC ticket sold, a proportion of the revenue, matched by Bapco Energies, will be donated to a fund which will directly support the planting of new mangroves in Bahrain. This programme supports the national target of quadrupling mangrove coverage across the Kingdom by 2035.

All this and so much more await race-goers at this coming weekend's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

For more information on the WEC's 2023 season-finale or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

Al Khaldiya held by Manama in football league

● **Busaiteen take lead twice, Al Ahli equalise both times in 2-2 stalemate**

TDT | Manama

Defending champions Al Khaldiya were held to a goalless draw last night by Manama in their week five match of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Meanwhile, Busaiteen and Al Ahli also played to a stalemate, with the two sides sharing the points in a 2-2 outcome.

Both Khaldiya and Manama had a number of chances to take the victory but neither could come up with the decisive touches.

Khaldiya posted their second draw and went to 11 points on the league standings, while Manama also had their second stalemate to go to five points after five games.

In last night's other fixture, Busaiteen twice took the lead but Ahli equalised both times to come away with the draw.

Ali Bashmani opened Busaiteen's account in the 23rd minute when he headed home from close range off a cross from the right wing. Jamal Rashid was able to equalise on the stroke of half-time with a brilliant curling free-kick.

Busaiteen then went back ahead in the 77th minute with a



Al Ahli's Abbas Ayyad rises above Busaiteen's Mamadou Lamine Diawara to head the ball away during their match last night

Khaldiya posted their second draw and went to 11 points on the league standings, while Manama also had their second stalemate to go to five points after five games

rocket by Robson Da Silva from well outside the box, but Ahli levelled the proceedings once more through Abdula Al Hashash in the 80th minute, with a header in the race of goal.

Busaiteen went to two points while Ahli improved to five points on the table, both following their second draws in five games.

Al Najma, Manama triumph in basketball league

● **Joshua Caldwell scores 25 points to spearhead Al Najma in win over Nuwaidrat**

● **Sir'Dominic Pointer leads balanced Manama attack in big win against Al Hala**

TDT | Manama

Al Najma and defending champions Manama were both victorious last night in their week two games of the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Najma posted a come-from-behind 101-88 triumph over Nuwaidrat to claim their second successive win in the new season, while Manama also stayed undefeated after outclassing Al Hala 77-58.

Najma used a strong second-half against Nuwaidrat to turn a 48-53 deficit at the break to the 13-point winning margin. The victors outscored their opponents 28-15 in the third and held on to their advantage until the final buzzer.

Joshua Caldwell had 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists to spearhead Najma, while Mohammed Buallay added 22 markers. Elijah Robinson



Manama's Mohammed Ameer goes for an uncontested lay-up during their game against Al Hala last night

chipped in with 18 while taking down 11 boards and also dishing out six assists.

For Nuwaidrat, Sameen Swint was their leading scorer with 29 while Lamar Mallory contributed 21 in the losing effort.

Najma improved to a 2-0 win-loss record while Nuwaidrat dropped to a 1-1 mark.

Meanwhile, Manama were in control of their game against Hala from the start but

stretched their lead to as many as 21 late on. They held Hala to just eight points in the final period as they sealed their second straight triumph to begin their back-to-back title-defence.

Sir'Dominic Pointer led a balanced attack with 18 points for Manama, who had five players in double figures. Mohammed Ameer added 17 while brothers Mustafa and Ali Hussain each scored 11.