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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at Al-Sakhir Palace yesterday. The minister visited to greet HM the King during his trip to Bahrain for the Security Committee meeting under the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council. During the meeting, HM the King emphasised the significant role of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council in overseeing various areas of bilateral cooperation since 2019. He highlighted the work of the council's committees in political, economic, investment, military, social, and media domains, all aimed at fostering mutual benefits for both nations and their peoples.

HRH Prince Salman welcomes Saudi Interior Minister



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, meets with His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kingdom condoles with Spain over flood victims

TDT | Manama

Bahrain extended its sympathy and solidarity with Spain over the storms, floods and heavy rains that swept the southern and eastern areas of the country and resulted in the death of several people and the loss of property, buildings and infrastructure.

Saudi hosts talks on Palestinian state

AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday hosted the first meeting of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

(Detailed report on World Page)

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Fair pay rise

Inspiring private sector workers

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Private sector workers may soon see their overtime pay double for night shifts, as MP Jalal Kadhem pushes to secure fairer pay for those putting in extra hours.

Currently, overtime pay stands at an additional 25 per cent for daytime and 50 per cent for night shifts.

Kadhem's proposal aims to lift this to at least 50 per cent for daytime and 100 per cent for night hours, ensuring workers are more fairly rewarded for extended work.

Kadhem argues that the current rates fail to reflect the demands of longer shifts, which take both a physical and mental toll.

"This amendment supports workers who put in extra time



MP Jalal Kadhem

outside normal hours, making sure they're rewarded fairly for their effort and dedication," he said, emphasising the need to back workers' well-being and fair treatment.

He added that this increase would show appreciation for the added hours that employees contribute, aiming to create a more balanced workplace.

The proposal aligns with Bahrain's call for fair treatment in

the workplace, ensuring equitable dealings between employers and employees.

Kadhem believes the changes could lift spirits and encourage better output, as employees will feel their added efforts are rightly valued and rewarded.

New rates

If Parliament gives the green light, the new rates would come into force the day after being

published in the Official Gazette.

The proposal, currently with the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, awaits review before forwarding to the government for possible ratification.

With this pay rise, the plan seeks to balance the scales between work demands and fair reward for Bahrain's private sector workforce, providing fair compensation for those who often go the extra mile.



The plan seeks to balance the scales between work demands and fair reward for Bahrain's private sector workforce.

'Bahrain Street View' project on Google maps

TDT | Manama

The Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) has announced the launch of "Bahrain Street View," a project to capture panoramic imagery of Bahrain's streets using virtual tour technology.

This initiative will allow users to explore Bahrain's streets and landmarks virtually through Google Maps.

The project underscores the SLRB's ongoing commitment to developing and updating spatial data in Bahrain and related global locations, aligning with the latest technologies and international standards.

In a statement, Eng. Basem bin Yaqoub Al Hamer, President of the SLRB, highlighted the significance of "Bahrain Street View" as a major advancement in Bahrain's geospatial data.

He emphasised that the updated geospatial data will significantly enhance national maps and provide opportunities to virtually explore Bahrain's tourist and historical sites.

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Aviation hub expands

Bahrain prepares for spectacular 7th Edition of International Airshow, promising major economic impact

- Annual event expected to attract 50,000 visitors
- Prestigious global gathering to showcase 120 aircraft
- Organisers reserve special area for families

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain International Airshow 2024 is expected to generate approximately \$70 million in indirect income through the rental of chalets to companies and sponsorships, revealed Yousif Mahmoud, Director General of the Bahrain International Airshow, during a press conference held yesterday at Sakhir Airbase.

The conference comes just ahead of the highly anticipated 7th edition of the event, which is scheduled to take place from November 13-15, 2024.

This year's 7th edition of the



His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Bahrain International Airshow is held under the esteemed patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and under the supervision of His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and Chairman of BIAS Supreme Organising Committee.

The event continues to be a major platform for global companies and local businesses alike, demonstrating Bahrain's status as a growing aviation hub.



BIAS Senior Airshow Program Specialist Rosol Ali Yusuf, second from the left, with the organising team

Speaking on the success of the previous shows, Mahmoud noted that the agreement to alternate the airshow between Bahrain and Dubai has been highly beneficial, leading to an increase in the number of participating companies.

He added, "Bahrain is a safe and peaceful country, and the political issues in the region have not negatively impacted the airshow's ability to attract global companies."

Mahmoud expressed confidence that this year's event would be a success, stating, "We've successfully completed organizing the 2024 Airshow, and now we are preparing for the 2026 event."

Ticket Information:

- Children under 16 can enter for free if accompanied by a guardian.
- Adult tickets are priced at no more than BD5.
- Parking: 10,000 spots are available for attendees.
- Tickets can be purchased via the official website: Bahrain.bh.

Attractions

With an expectation of 50,000 visitors this year, the Bahrain International Airshow will be a major highlight, featuring a variety of attractions, including a family zone created under the

directive of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This area will include workshops for children and families, as well as food trucks from local Bahraini restaurants, supporting local businesses and the community.

Military products

This year's event will feature a significant focus on military products, which have a larger budget allocation compared to civilian products.

Mahmoud emphasised the importance of supporting national companies to elevate their presence on the global stage.

The event will also feature educational workshops led by global experts from sectors such as space and aviation.



Yousif Mahmoud, Director General of BIAS

These workshops aim to engage elite university students, expose them to global companies, and attract more women to the aviation industry.

Moreover, BIAS has invited five thousand students from the schools to attend the event.

There will also be a conference on military industries, with a focus on maintaining national security and safety.

Participants

Delegations from 56 countries will be participating in this year's airshow, along with 222 official delegates.

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Unity Strengthened

MP Al-Dhaen highlights national identity and security as pillars of Bahrain's sustainable growth

TDT | Manama

National identity and security form the backbone of sustainable development in Bahrain, MP Dr. Maryam Al Dhaen said yesterday while highlighting the significance of the discussion H.H. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, had with the residents of the Southern Governorate.

The meeting, in which the minister reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to address citizens' needs and priorities, shows the dedication of the minister in enhancing the Bahraini identity, the MP said.

"Security strengthens our sense of belonging and pride in our national identity," the MP stated.

Reflecting on the Kingdom's cultural heritage, she underscored how diversity and rich traditions enrich the national fabric, fostering unity and community strength.



“Security strengthens our sense of belonging and pride in our national identity.”

- MP DR. MARYAM AL DHAEN

She called for continued cooperation among all societal segments to build a brighter future, particularly emphasizing the role of young people in preserving Bahraini values.

'Garbage' claims

Al Dirazi denies Northern Governorate imposing fines for improper waste disposal

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A member of the Northern Governorate Municipal Council, Zainab Al Dirazi has confirmed that no fines will be imposed for improper waste disposal in the Northern Governorate.

Al Dirazi stated that the municipality categorically denied during a meeting on Monday that it had announced any such fines, confirming that the announcement circulating on social media is fabricated.

While acknowledging that an announcement regarding fines had been made, Al Dirazi clarified that this announcement did not apply to the Northern Governorate.

She further emphasized that the Northern Governorate currently lacks sufficient waste



The Northern Governorate is currently facing a problem due to a lack of sufficient waste containers

containers.

The social media announcement, which Al Dirazi confirmed as fake, claimed that the Northern Governorate Municipality would impose fines ranging from BD50 to BD300 for failure to dispose of waste in designated containers.

The fake announcement also stated that the collection of waste from in front of homes would cease entirely.

Al Dirazi's statement aims to quell public concerns and misinformation spread through social media.

The municipality has reiterated



“The announcement circulating on social media is fabricated.”

- ZAINAB AL DIRAZI, NORTHERN GOVERNORATE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

ed its commitment to improving waste management services in the Northern Governorate, but stressed that this will not involve the imposition of fines at this time.

Historic Muharraq buildings set for preservation effort

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Two historic buildings in Muharraq, battered by time but rich with stories, are now at the centre of a preservation push.

With the Muharraq Municipal Council's backing, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has proposed keeping the buildings' iconic exteriors intact while allowing interior updates for continued use.

The first building, located on Road 621, Block 206, has partly crumbled, with substantial damage documented since August 2019.

Architectural character

The authority has stressed the importance of "preserving the building's unique outward features" to protect Muharraq's architectural character.



A historic building in Muharraq with a unique architectural identity



Meanwhile, the second building, on Road 310, Block 203, faces potential demolition after its owner applied for a permit to rebuild.

However, the authority is urging the owner to retain the building's 'original appearance' to preserve its historic value.

In a formal letter, His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of BACA, addressed the Minister

“We need a collaborative effort to protect these heritage sites. It is important to safeguard their outward appearance to retain Muharraq's unique architectural identity.”

- H.E. SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, PRESIDENT OF BAHRAIN AUTHORITY FOR CULTURE AND ANTIQUITIES (BACA)

of Municipalities Affairs, His Excellency Wael Mubarak, advocating for the preservation of these buildings' exteriors while supporting functional upgrades.

He called for a collaborative effort to protect these heritage sites, stressing the importance

of safeguarding their outward appearance to retain Muharraq's unique architectural identity.

To support these efforts, a working group has been established, bringing together representatives from the municipalities, local police, the municipal council, the governor's office, the BACA, and public health.

Funding

This team is tasked with securing funding and coordinating skilled craftsmen to restore and clean the heritage sites, ensuring their longevity for future generations.

The authority has indicated that this plan is essential to "retain the spirit" of Muharraq's historic areas and "reduce risks to lives and properties".

Shaikh Khalifa also expressed appreciation for the ministry's support, noting the buildings as symbols of Bahrain's rich past.

Bahrain's 2025-2029 Strategic Vision Unveiled

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

In a significant announcement during the United Nations Day celebration yesterday, Bahrain revealed its 2025-2029 strategic vision.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, highlighted that Bahrain will prioritize sustainable development, digital infrastructure, and enhanced diplomatic policies as part of its new strategic framework.

This vision represents a refreshed direction for Bahrain, aligning with the nation's ongoing efforts to foster global cooperation and sustainable growth.

The celebration, held at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, marked the anniversary of the United Nations Charter's entry



Ambassadors and other dignitaries into force in 1945.

Dr. Shaikh Abdullah noted the importance of Bahrain's leadership under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose vision has strengthened the Kingdom's partnership with the UN.

Leadership

He emphasized the impact of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, who has showcased Bahrain's leadership in govern-



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa speaks at the event

ance at the UN General Summit. Bahrain continues to advocate for global partnerships that ensure a secure and prosperous

future.

One of the key upcoming initiatives, the HOPE Network led by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, will take place from November 4-6.

The initiative will foster international cooperation and youth development, providing a platform to empower young people in shaping the future.

Bahrain's commitment to global partnerships and sustainable initiatives will be a focal point during this event.

During the celebration,

Khaled El Mekwad, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bahrain, underscored the UN's continued humanitarian efforts in conflict zones, including Gaza.

He emphasized the pressing need for a ceasefire and the UN's crucial role in delivering life-saving aid.

"No other entity can deliver urgent humanitarian aid to families in need, and the loss of 300 UN staff in recent conflicts highlights the risk but also the resilience of our mission," El Mekwad remarked.

Fernanda Maria Lonardoni, Head of Country Programme at UN-Habitat, echoed these sentiments, speaking to the ongoing promotion of diversity and inclusion.

"We are working to ensure that every community is represented and supported," she told The Daily Tribune.

McLaren set to accelerate next chapter of growth

Mumtalakat and CYVN Holdings explore partnership

● **Non-binding agreement signed to explore potential partnership**

● **Prospective deal would see CYVN Holdings bring new capital investment, deep industry expertise and pioneering technology to McLaren**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (“Mumta-



This transformative investment by CYVN Holdings would bring access to additional capital, advanced engineering expertise and pioneering technology, particularly in the field of electric vehicles.

lakat”), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and CYVN Holdings LLC (“CYVN Holdings”), an investment vehicle based in Abu Dhabi which invests in smart and advanced mobility solutions, an-

nounced today that they have entered into a non-binding agreement to explore a potential partnership to accelerate the next chapter of McLaren’s growth.

The potential partnership

would see CYVN Holdings acquire full ownership of McLaren’s automotive business in addition to a non-controlling stake in McLaren Group.

This transformative investment by CYVN Holdings would

bring access to additional capital, advanced engineering expertise and pioneering technology, particularly in the field of electric vehicles. CYVN Holdings’ cross-industry experience, highly specialized team and ex-

isting strategic investments in NIO Inc., Forseven and Gordon Murray Technologies also bring potential synergies to complement and enhance McLaren’s product strategy.

This partnership would look to build on McLaren’s highly successful track record in elite motorsport and grow one of the world’s most prestigious range of high-performance vehicles, with an expanding network of over 110 retailers in 30 global regions.

The deal would also align with Mumtalakat’s strategy to optimise, enhance and grow its portfolio, to deliver sustainable long-term financial returns.

Riyadh Air orders 60 Airbus planes



Representative picture
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia’s new national airline, Riyadh Air, announced yesterday it has ordered 60 narrow-body aircraft from Airbus, as it prepares for takeoff next year.

The carrier, created last year, has reached “an agreement to purchase 60 Airbus A321neo single-aisle aircraft in the latest step towards its maiden flight in 2025”, it said in a statement.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sees aviation as a key component of his “Vision 2030” reform agenda to remake the petroleum-centred country, aiming to more than triple annual traffic to 330 million passengers by the end of the decade.

He announced the creation of Riyadh Air in March 2023. It is owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund.

The deal announced on

Wednesday is Riyadh Air’s second major purchase after it agreed last year to buy 39 wide-body Boeing Dreamliners, with options for 33 more jets. The new “multi-billion dollar” deal brings the firm’s total aircraft orders to 132 and “positions the airline for efficient flight operations by having an optimal fleet mix to fulfil its network ambitions of 100 destinations by 2030”, the statement said.

“We are pleased to embark on another key milestone in Riyadh Air’s journey with the carrier’s second major fleet order, this time in partnership with Airbus,” PIF governor and Riyadh Air chairman Yasir al-Rumayyan said in the statement.

“This deal underlines the airline’s ambitious intentions in advance of next year’s launch as it builds a comprehensive international network and establishes Riyadh as a major strategic global aviation hub.”

GFH unveils cutting-edge first AI Investor Mobile App

At Future Investment Initiative gathering of global investors and business leaders



Officials during the launch

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group yesterday announced the launch of its innovative mobile investor application at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

As one of the most prestigious global gatherings of investors and business leaders from the region and around the world, GFH, which is a Strategic Partner of FII, selected the event for this milestone launch.

Marking the occasion, GFH was joined by its clients from Saudi Arabia and the GCC as well as other investors and leaders from the world of finance, technology, and government who gather annually at FII to shape

the future of investment in the region and beyond. Among those present were HE Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Economic Development Board and HE Mr. Khalid Ebrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

The launch is another significant step in GFH’s digital transformation journey and its commitment to developing and launching innovative financial solutions in today’s fast-evolving digital landscape. The timing of the launch, in conjunction with FII, also highlights the Group’s deep involvement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as Bahrain’s ongoing digital transformation supported

by the Economic Development Board and the CBB.

The launch of the app further signifies GFH’s commitment to harnessing the power of technology to enhance the delivery of its diversified investment services and solutions. The app boasts AI-powered technology, providing personalized investment insights, and a chatbot integrated with OpenAI for round-the-clock customer support. It also allows investors to subscribe to GFH’s investment funds through digital and crypto wallets, streaming transactions and making it easier for clients to invest, among other innovative features.

Hisham Alrayes, Group CEO of GFH, said “We are proud to unveil our new mobile app at

such a prestigious and influential global event as the Future Investment Initiative, where our clients and other leading investors from around the world have gathered. Being a Strategic Partner of FII provides us with the perfect platform to showcase our innovative investment approach, diversified offerings and reach, as well as our latest cutting-edge digital solutions. The app’s unique features have the potential to revolutionize how our investors interact with the Group and their portfolios. This launch marks a milestone in our digital transformation journey and is a testament to our ongoing efforts to expand our investor base in the GCC and beyond by offering investments in sectors of strategic priority.”

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For further enquiries, please call the customer service on 17225158, or visit our website www.newindiabahrain.com

Zain Bahrain reports Q3, nine-month profits

● Q3 2024 net profit increased by 0.8% to reach BD 1.62 million.

● Revenue for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2024 reached BD 57.44 million, an increase of 6.6%, with EBITDA also surging by 8.8% to reach BD 18.14 million.

TDI | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a leading telecommunications provider in the Kingdom, announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended 30 September 2024 including the



“The solid results highlight our ongoing commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and overall business success, powered by our team’s hard work and dedication

SHAIKH AHMED BIN ALI AL KHALIFA, ZAIN BAHRAIN CHAIRMAN

third quarter (Q3 2024).

Q3 results

For Q3 2024, Zain Bahrain reported a net profit of BD 1.62 million, representing an increase of 0.8% from BD 1.61m in Q3 2023.

Earnings per share remained stable at 4 fils. In addition, Zain Bahrain reported revenue of BD 19m, representing an increase of 13.5% from BD 16.74m in Q3 2023. EBITDA for Q3 2024 increased by 11% reaching BD 6.35m from BD

5.72m in Q3 2023.

Nine-month

For the nine months ended 30 September 2024, Zain Bahrain net profit reached BD 4.04m, representing a 7.2% decrease from BD 4.36m in the same period as in 2023. Earnings per share stood at 11 fils, compared to 12 fils in 2023. The company has reported an increase of 6.6% in revenue reaching BD 57.44m, compared to BD 53.87m for the same period in 2023. EBITDA for the nine months ended 30 September 2024 increased by 8.8% reaching BD 18.14m, from BD 16.68m during the same period in 2023.

Chairman, Shaikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Khalifa, said: “The solid results highlight our ongoing commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and overall

business success, powered by our team’s hard work and dedication. Zain Bahrain has excelled in voice and data service performance, as evidenced by the recently released TRA Quality of Mobile Network Experience Report 2023. This independent report showcases our commitment to excellence in speed, voice quality, social media services, and video streaming. The improved performance in these areas has undoubtedly enhanced the overall user experience for our customers, reaffirming our dedication to providing top-notch services in the telecommunications industry.”

Zain Bahrain Chairman continued: “Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that our Fintech company, Bede, has got off to such a promising start. We are seeing good demand for our

Sharia-compliant microfinance and will continue expanding the Fintech product portfolio across the Kingdom. I would also like to share that Zain Bahrain has been recognized as one of the top 50 companies in Bahrain. Additionally, the telco has made significant progress towards on-demand-driven power-efficient cell capacity through a new radio features trial, which helped to achieve an impressive 35% reduction in its radio site energy consumption. Another milestone is deploying the latest generation of dual-band massive MIMO (multiple input, multiple outputs) radios, making Zain Bahrain the first operator in the region to implement this advanced technology. This innovative deployment marks a significant achievement in enhancing the quality.”

Chief Executive of Tamkeen takes part in National Tree Week

Emphasizes the importance of adopting sustainable enterprise practices

TDI | Manama

In line with the initiatives of the National Action Plan to Achieve Carbon Neutrality announced by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and following the launch of National Tree Week by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund “Tamkeen” stressed the importance of supporting national efforts to enhance environmental security and sustainability and contribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain’s commitment of achieving Net-Zero by 2060.



Mofeez emphasized Tamkeen’s commitment to sup-

porting national development policies that have a positive

impact on private sector performance and encouraged en-

terprises to utilize Tamkeen’s support to adopt sustaina-

ble and efficient operational practices.

National Tree Week

This came during her participation, along with Tamkeen’s executive management team, in planting several trees on the occasion of National Tree Week, which is held annually on the third week of October.

The initiative aligns with Bahrain’s vision to adopt practices aimed at preserving environmental resources, in line with the Kingdom’s afforestation plan that aims to double the number of trees in the Kingdom to 3.6 million trees by 2035.

Alba supports ‘National Tree Week’ initiative



In alignment with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s National Action Plan for achieving carbon neutrality and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa’s National Tree Week initiative, Alba CEO Ali Al Baqali led a tree-planting ceremony at Al Dana Garden in Alba accompanied by senior officials and employees. The National Tree Week supports the Kingdom’s afforestation plan to double the number of trees to 3.6 million by 2035, contributing to Bahrain’s commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).





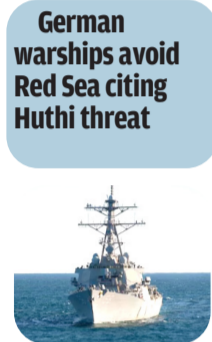
News in brief

American air strikes killed up to 35 Islamic State group members in Syria earlier this week, the US military said yesterday. It is the latest in a series of operations in recent months by US and local forces in Iraq and Syria against the jihadists, who once held swathes of territory in both countries. "The strikes targeted multiple ISIS locations in the Syrian desert, targeting multiple ISIS senior leaders," US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on social media, using an acronym for the Islamic State (IS) group. There are no indications of civilian casualties from the strikes, which were carried out on October 28, CENTCOM said. "The air strikes will disrupt the ability of ISIS to plan, organize and conduct attacks against civilians as well as US allies and partners throughout the region and beyond," it added. US and Iraqi forces conducted a joint raid last week that Baghdad said left nine jihadists dead, among them the top IS leader in the country, while CENTCOM announced on October 18 that Iraqi strikes had killed a senior leader from the group along with three other militants.



American strikes killed up to 35 jihadists in Syria: US military

German warships avoid Red Sea citing Huthi threat Two German naval ships are avoiding the Red Sea, where Yemen's Huthi rebels have attacked passing maritime traffic, and are instead sailing around Africa, the defence ministry said. Defence Minister Boris Pistorius had ordered the longer route for the frigate and supply ship on their way back from an Indo-Pacific deployment, ministry spokesman Colonel Mikko Mueller told a press conference. "The threat level is quite high" in the Red Sea, Mueller told a Berlin press briefing, citing the "very complex attacks" carried out there in recent months involving tactical ballistic missiles, drones and other weapons. He said that, unlike other German naval vessels, the two ships are not "specifically designed to carry out air defence operations" to protect themselves as well as fleets of nearby vessels.



Nancy Pelosi's attacker jailed for life

A man who attacked the elderly husband of former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with a hammer was sentenced to life in prison without parole Tuesday by a California state court, the district attorney general's office said. David DePape, who broke into the couple's San Francisco home and bludgeoned Paul Pelosi in a horrifying attack captured on police bodycam, was already serving a 30-year federal sentence for the incident. San Francisco judge sentenced DePape, 44, "to a term of life in prison without the possibility of parole following his conviction on aggravated kidnapping and other charges," the San Francisco district attorney general's office said in a statement.



SPOTLIGHT

Iran amputates fingers of two men convicted of theft: NGOs

Iranian authorities amputated fingers of two men convicted of theft, rights groups said yesterday, in a relatively rare use of a punishment allowed under the Islamic republic's penal code but condemned as abhorrent and illegal by activists. The two, brothers of Kurdish origin, each had four fingers on their right hands amputated by a guillotine machine at the prison in the city of Urmia in northwest Iran on Tuesday, the reports said. They were then transferred to hospital for medical care, the reports added. The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) said Shahab and Mehرداد Teimouri were initially arrested in 2019 on theft charges and sentenced to imprisonment and finger amputation. The Norway-based Hengaw group, which focuses on Iranian Kurdish issues, said that the right to communication and visitation has been denied to the two men since the amputation was carried out. "Amputations as a form of punishment are banned under international law, specifically under the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment as outlined in the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a signatory," said the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran, referring to two UN agreements. Finger amputations are permitted in the Islamic republic under its sharia law. According to the US-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Centre, Iranian authorities have amputated the fingers of at least 131 men since January 2000. But implementation of such sentences has been less frequent in recent years. A man in May 2022 and another theft convict in July 2022 had their fingers amputated in Tehran's Evin prison, according to Amnesty International. When such sentences are carried out, four fingers of the right hand are cut off so only the palm of the hand and thumb is left.



Representative picture

Mediators to propose Gaza truce amid deadly Israeli strikes

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Israeli forces carried out new deadly bombings targeting Hamas in Gaza yesterday, as international mediators prepared to propose a short-term truce to free hostages and avert a humanitarian catastrophe. News of the potential breakthrough in truce talks came a day after an Israeli strike on a single Gaza residential block killed nearly 100 people and triggered international revulsion. US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators have for months been trying to negotiate a truce between Israel and Hamas in Gaza to allow a prisoner swap, humanitarian access and talks on a longer-term peace. Israel's Mossad spy chief David Barnea, CIA director Bill Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani held their latest round of secretive talks on Sunday and Monday in Doha. On Wednesday, a source close to the talks told AFP on condition of anonymity that the senior officials discussed proposing to parties a "short-term" truce of "less than a month". The proposal included the exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, and an increase in aid to Gaza, the source added. "US officials believe that if a short-term deal can be reached, it could lead to a more permanent agreement," the source said. A strike Tuesday in the northern Gaza district of Beit Lahia collapsed a building and left at least 93 dead, including a large number of children, according to the territory's civil defence agency. The US State Department described the bombing was "a horrifying incident with a horrifying result" and a spokesman said Washington had asked Israel for an explanation.

New Hezbollah leader says will accept ceasefire with Israel if terms 'suitable'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented. Qassem, who was named Hezbollah secretary-general on Tuesday, did not explicitly link a Lebanon ceasefire to an end to fighting in Gaza, a position previously held by the Iran-backed group. "If the Israelis decide that they want to stop the aggression, we say we accept, but under the conditions that we see as appropriate and suitable," Qassem said in a pre-recorded speech, his first since he was named the group's new leader. But Hezbollah "will not beg for a ceasefire," he added, noting that political efforts to secure a deal have yet to yield results. "No project has been proposed that Israel agrees to and that we can discuss," he said. Qassem replaces Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated by Israel on September 27 after more than 30 years at the helm. "Get out of our land to reduce your losses. If you stay, you will pay more than you have ever paid in your life," Qassem said, adding that Hezbollah could sustain fighting "for days, weeks and months". He acknowledged that Israel's killing of Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah figures dealt the group a "painful" blow.



Family members mourn as they carry the shrouded bodies of Palestinian children Nayef and Abdallah Nashwan, who were killed in Israeli bombardment of al-Zawaydeh village in the central Gaza Strip where the family sought shelter after displacement from al-Bureij camp, at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah

Saudi hosts meeting of new group pushing for Palestinian state

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday hosted the first meeting of a new "international alliance" to press for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Unveiled last month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the "International Alliance to Implement the Two-State Solution" brings together nations from the Middle East, Europe and beyond. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said nearly 90 "states and international organisations" were taking part in the two-day meeting in Riyadh. "A genocide is happening with the goal of evicting the Palestinian people from their land, which Saudi Arabia rejects," he said, describing the humanitarian situation as "catastrophic" and denouncing the "complete blockade" of northern Gaza. The Riyadh meeting was expected to focus on humanitarian access, the embattled UN agency for Palestinian refugees and measures to advance a two-state solution, diplomats said. The European Union was set to be represented by Sven Koopmans, the special representative for the Middle East peace process, diplomats said. The United States sent Hady Amr, the State Department's special representative for Palestinian affairs.



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan

Saudi minister says reforms 'on track' despite 'challenges'

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's finance minister said yesterday that the Gulf kingdom's sweeping plans to wean its economy off oil were "on track" despite "challenges" in executing specific projects. "We're not shying away from the challenges -- challenges in relation to human resource and ability to execute," Mohammed al-Jadaan told a panel at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, sometimes dubbed "Davos in the desert". Because of these challenges the government was "recalibrating our plans", trying not to over-



heat the economy and to give the private sector time to "catch up" with government ambitions, he said. "We are actually on track," Jadaan said, citing an internal assessment he said found that 87 percent of targets had either been achieved or were on schedule. "Overall, I think we are very, very excited with what we have achieved under Saudi Vision 2030, but we are not complacent," he added, referring to the economic plans spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler. At a briefing with journalists in December last year, Jadaan said officials had decided to push the timeframe for some major projects past 2030, though he did not provide details and noted others would be accelerated. In May, he said "shocks" including the war in Gaza were prompting officials to "re-prioritise" some aspects of Vision 2030. There has been mounting scepticism over signature projects like NEOM, a planned futuristic megacity in northwest Saudi Arabia meant to feature a ski resort and twin skyscrapers 170 kilometres (105 miles) long. Authorities have reportedly scaled back 2030 size and population targets for NEOM, though officials have not confirmed any revisions. During a separate panel on Wednesday, NEOM deputy CEO Ryan Fayeze did not specifically address reports of scaled-back targets but said NEOM was at "a very interesting inflection point" in terms of funding. Over the past 18 to 24 months, NEOM has received more than 60 billion Saudi riyals (around \$16 billion) in private sector commitments and more than 30 billion riyals in debt funding, he said. "We're seeing very good appetite from the private sector to co-fund and co-invest with us in the journey. This will not work with the government funding alone," Fayeze said. "The intention has always been for the government to kickstart it and invest significantly in the infrastructure for the private sector to come in," he added. Fayeze also said NEOM was about more than real estate and that officials are trying to create the "city of the future".

"We're not shying away from the challenges -- challenges in relation to human resource and ability to execute" SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER MOHAMMED AL-JADAAN

Hamas says will discuss any Gaza truce plan that leads to Israel withdrawal

AFP | Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

A Hamas official said yesterday that the group had not received any proposals for a Gaza ceasefire but would discuss any ideas that include an Israeli withdrawal. "We have not officially received any comprehensive proposal. We are prepared to engage with any ideas or proposals presented to us, provided they ultimately lead to an end to the war and a withdrawal by the army from the (Gaza Strip)," the official told AFP. The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, added that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is obstructing truce efforts to push an agenda of "genocide, ethnic cleansing and displacement" made possible by the absence of US

pressure. "We have told the mediators that Hamas is ready if (Israel) agrees to a proposal for a ceasefire, complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, return of displaced people to their homes in Gaza including the north, entry of sufficient aid for our people and a serious prisoner exchange deal," he said, referring to ceasefire conditions Hamas has repeatedly brought to negotiations. He said that Egypt and Qatar continue to work as mediators in consultations between Hamas and Israel. Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant meanwhile told troops in Gaza that they must apply military pressure to guarantee the return of hostages held in the Palestinian territory for over a year.

UN Council expresses 'grave concern' over Israel's UNRWA ban

United Nations, United States

The UN Security Council yesterday expressed "grave concern" over the Israeli parliament's adoption of a bill banning UNRWA, the main United Nations aid agency working with Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The Council also called on Israel to "abide by its international obligations" and "respect the privileges and immunities" of the agency, a target of vehement Israeli criticism, which intensified after the October 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas. In a statement, the Council called on "all parties to enable UNRWA to carry out its mandate, as adopted by the General Assembly, in all areas of operation," saying the agency was the "backbone" of humanitarian relief in war-ravaged Gaza. The Security Council has struggled since the start of the Gaza war to speak with one voice. But on Wednesday, all Council members including the United States "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish UNRWA's operations and mandate."



TOP 4 TWEETS



01 We can - and must - save the ecosystems that sustain us and keep our climate goals within reach. The survival of our planet - and our own - is on the line. Let us choose wisely. Let us make peace with nature. #COP-16Colombia @antonioverterres



02 Delighted by PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra's gesture. My best wishes for the Amazing Thailand Diwali Festival. May it deepen the cultural bonds between India and Thailand. @narendramodi



03 I met with Ukrainian Presidential Administration Head @AndriyYermak today to discuss U.S. military and economic assistance and ongoing diplomatic efforts in support of Ukraine. The United States continues our enduring support of Ukraine against Russia's ongoing aggression. @SecBlinken



04 I recommend following Catherine Herridge for sound investigative reporting on @elonmusk



NEOM, the ambitious mega-city project in Saudi Arabia, is designed to be a hub for innovation and sustainability. One of its most intriguing features is "The Line," a linear city that will stretch 170 kilometers (about 105 miles) and is planned to have no cars or streets.

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

Harris seeks distance from Biden 'garbage' comments

Joint Base Andrews, United States

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris sought to distance herself Wednesday from comments by US President Joe Biden appearing to refer to Republican Donald Trump's supporters as "garbage."

Biden caused a firestorm with the remarks in a campaign call on Tuesday, as he addressed a row that erupted after one of Trump's warm-up speakers at a New York rally referred to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage."

"Listen, I think that first of all, he clarified his comments," Vice President Harris told reporters at Joint Base Andrews near Washington when asked about the outgoing president's words.

"But let me be clear, I strongly disagree with any criticism of



Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump dances onstage

people based on who they vote for."

As she headed back on the campaign trail, Harris, 60, insisted she would be a "president for all Americans, whether you vote for me or not."

Republicans pounced on Biden's comments, which threatened to overshadow a major election speech by Harris out-

side the White House on Tuesday in which she called for unity instead of what she said was chaos and division under Trump.

The row over the remarks by the 81-year-old Biden, who dropped out of the White House race in July, also underscored his growing marginalization from the Harris campaign.

US media have reported that



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris poses for a photo with Durham County Commissioner Nida Allam and her son Abdul Allam Aziz upon arrival at Raleigh-Durham International airport in Raleigh, North Carolina

Harris aides had feared that Biden is an electoral liability and rejected his suggestions to make joint appearances on the campaign trail.

Biden made the comments in a video call with the nonprofit VotoLatino and they went viral shortly afterwards.

"The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters," said Biden. "His, his, his demonization of Latinos is unconscionable and it's un-American."

Biden later said on X, formerly Twitter, that he had "referred to the hateful rhetoric about Puerto Rico spewed by Trump's

supporter." "That's all I meant to say," he said.

The White House later released a transcript adding a single apostrophe -- claiming that Biden said "supporter's" instead of "supporters," in a bid to back up his assertion that he was referring to comedian Tony Hinchcliffe's comments at Trump's Madison Square Garden rally.



The next U.S. presidential election is scheduled for November 5, 2024. Elections for other offices, including Congress and various state and local positions, will also take place on that date.

'System is broken': Blinken says Congress holdups aid US rivals

Arlington, United States

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, nearing the end of his tenure, pleaded Wednesday for quicker confirmations of ambassadors by the Senate, saying that long delays and dysfunction only benefitted US competitors such as China.

With President Joe Biden's four-year term almost over, the fates of dozens of ambassadors and other senior national security positions remain pending in the Senate, mostly due to political fights with the rival Republican Party.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

"The system is broken," Blinken said in a speech at the Foreign Service Institute, which trains US diplomats, in suburban Washington.

"It's undermining our com-

petitiveness. It's disincentivizing public service," he said.

"Of course, this all feeds our competitors' false narratives of our decline and division. It reinforces their conviction -- their false conviction -- that now is the time to challenge the United States and pursue their revisionist goals," he said.

Blinken said that under his leadership, the State Department has moved to reorganize to address Beijing's growing global clout, including by setting up an internal "China House" to orient US policy.

It also has put resources into

key areas of competition between the two powers, including emerging technologies and the South Pacific.

But Blinken said the confirmation process, in which the Senate approves presidential nominees, has set back efforts, citing figures that the average ambassador is awaiting 240 days for approval, compared with 50 days in 2001.

Biden also faulted Congress for uncertainty on budgeting, including the feud over whether to reauthorize funding for the anti-HIV/AIDS initiative PEPFAR.

Migrant dies trying to cross Channel to Britain



Rescuers monitor the sea as migrants were being rescued following a failed attempt to cross the English Channel near Neufchâtel-Hardelot, northern France

Neufchâtel-Hardelot, France

rescue operation off the area of Merlimont, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) to the south. Many people had tried to cross overnight and in the early morning as weather conditions were good, the prefecture said.

On Wednesday morning, a deflated blue and black dinghy lay on the beach in Hardelot, an AFP journalist saw.

Rescue services, including fire trucks with their lights flashing, had been deployed on the shore. Rescuers led around 20 migrants into a nearby building to warm up.

Some three kilometres (around two miles) away from the coast, journalists saw six soaked migrants, some wrapped in survival blankets, sitting on a bench.

A member of the Utopia 56 charity working with migrants said that several people were suffering from "severe hypothermia" after falling into the sea. Increasingly numbers of migrants and asylum seekers have crossed the Channel since 2018 despite repeated warnings about the perilous journey.

Gournay said three other migrants were also battling for their lives after a second

rescue operation off the area of Merlimont, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) to the south. Many people had tried to cross overnight and in the early morning as weather conditions were good, the prefecture said.

Flood hits Spain



Residents walk past piled up cars following deadly floods in Sedavi, south of Valencia, eastern Spain, on October 30, 2024. Floods triggered by torrential rains in Spain's eastern Valencia region has left at least 70 people dead, rescue services said

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Growing Crisis of Abandoned Cats

I am writing to bring attention to a deeply concerning issue that has seen a dramatic increase in recent years - the abandonment of cats in Bahrain. Since 2020, a significant number of domestic cats have been left to fend for themselves, often in areas with dangerous feral dog packs, putting their lives at risk. It's distressing to witness such a rise in neglect, particularly when these cats are clearly unprepared for the harsh realities of outdoor life. The sight of matted fur and malnourished cats has sadly become more frequent in our neighbourhoods, leaving citizens and animal advocates scrambling to provide care and rehoming.

A key factor appears to be a lack of education. Many pet owners seem to mistakenly believe that house cats can adapt to outdoor survival, and this misconception leads to more cats being abandoned once they are no longer wanted. Additionally, there is a growing trend of people adopting pets during their stay in Bahrain, only to discard them when leaving the country or when the novelty wears off.

Animal rescue organizations are struggling to keep up. Despite their tireless efforts to rescue, treat, and rehome these animals, many of these organizations are underfunded and overwhelmed. Just recently, a rescue organization nearly faced bankruptcy. While individuals and volunteers do their best to help, with some feeding and rehoming multiple dumped cats, the problem is far too widespread for small-scale efforts to be a long-term solution.

This issue calls for immediate action. A public awareness campaign is urgently needed to educate the community on responsible pet ownership, particularly regarding the importance of spaying and neutering pets to prevent overpopulation. Furthermore, more funding should be allocated to catch-neuter-release programs, which have proven effective in reducing the stray population.

We cannot allow this crisis to escalate. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that abandoned animals are not left to suffer on the streets. With coordinated efforts from the government, animal welfare organizations, and the public, we can begin to address this growing problem and create a more humane future for all animals in Bahrain.

Jaffar Siddiqui
Sitra

Tale of Tailgaters and Flashaholics

I've got a bone to pick with a certain breed of driver roaming Bahrain's highways, that is the majestic 'flashaholic' and their trusty sidekick, the 'tailgating terror'. You know the type. They're the ones who think the left lane is their personal racetrack, and their headlights are magic wands meant to banish you from the road.

These drivers seem to forget a tiny detail, that the left lane is for overtaking, not auditioning for a Fast & Furious sequel. But here I am, cruising at the speed limit like a responsible citizen, when suddenly my rearview mirror lights up like a disco. Flash, flash, FLASH! Clearly, they believe that by blinding me, I'll either develop the ability to fly or will vanish into the Bermuda Triangle. Truth is that neither happens.

And let's talk about tailgating. It's like these drivers have separation anxiety, but for cars. They get so close that I can practically see their Spotify playlist through the windshield. Here's a fun fact, fellow drivers - Being this close won't make me move faster. It'll only make my heart rate go up, and not in a good way.

Now, the attitude behind all this is the real kicker. It's as if these drivers have convinced themselves that they were personally handed the keys to the Kingdom of Bahrain's roads. Their motto? "Move, peasant, I have places to be!" I get it, maybe they're late to an appointment or, more likely, late to understanding basic road rules.

But seriously, let's rein it in, folks. Traffic authorities should definitely crack down on these flashy, tailgating habits. Maybe we could even hand out medals for good behaviour. 'Best at Not Blinding Fellow Drivers' has a nice ring to it.

So, let's make Bahrain's roads a little less 'Mario Kart' and a bit more, you know, normal. Flashers and tailgaters, I beg of you, calm down. The rest of us would like to arrive at our destination with both our sanity and our bumpers intact.

Iqbal Qureshi
Manama

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Photo : Muhammad Faiz

Sudoku Puzzles

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

◀ Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

Solution to Sudoku ▶

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



WHAT'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Master's Degree and Experience: New requirements for expat workers in Bahrain's public sector

The new law approved today in the parliament, sets strict hiring criteria for expatriates, requiring them to hold a master's degree, possess at least ten years of experience, and limits their contracts to just two years—renewable once with Civil Service Bureau approval.

Expat hires must also train Bahraini staff to take over their roles, ensuring knowledge transfer and empowering locals for key positions.

TOP COMMENTS

hanah.pr
Well can't we just hire trainers or get a professional degree instead of hiring people for 2, 2 years and disturbing people's lives. I hope the pay would be worth it for those poor people. Sympathies

kammy1997
They hired employees or professors

m7mdparvz
Why? Complete Bahrainization not working? Are you saying that Bahraini's not fully capable?

watch_food_carz
Looks like the expat here are always want a permanent job at the government place and keeping the locals away.

nabeel.zaman
Nothing wrong to back their own citizen.... It's their own country and their people are priority and nothing wrong in this. No country will like expats working in public sectors and citizens not getting jobs.

VIRAL NEWS ONLINE



A mutt known as 'Houdini' for his ability to elude capture is finally off the streets

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dubbed on social media as the "Houdini" of New Orleans' Mid-City neighborhood, Scrim — a scruffy, mixed-breed dog that was on the lam for more than six months after escaping his yard — has finally been caught.

The 13-pound (about six-kilogram) runaway was captured Wednesday night with the use of a tranquilizer dart. New Orleans news outlets report that he is missing a chunk out of his ear and has various abrasions. Also, X-rays revealed two projectiles — possibly small bullets or air rifle pellets — were lodged inside his little body.

Veterinarian Dr. Mary Miller told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate she couldn't be positive what type of weapon had been used, since she decided to leave the projectiles embedded in the dog's flesh. "We're probably not going to remove them," Miller said, "because they're not going to cause an issue."

Despite his injuries, Miller said, Scrim's condition "wasn't awful." Michelle Cheramie, owner of the nonprofit Zeus Rescues in New Orleans, said she had rescued Scrim from a south Louisiana dog pound where he was in jeopardy of euthanasia. Scrim was eventually adopted by a family in Mid-City, but soon escaped.

He soon became the talk of the neighborhood, and a bit of a star on social media where people posted videos from cellphones and security cameras whenever he



was spotted. He managed to elude traps and would-be captors with nets and tranquilizer guns until Wednesday.

Finally, Cheramie got a call that Scrim had been sighted. She grabbed her tranquilizer gun and a group of volunteers showed up at the scene.

"WE GOT HIM!!!!" Cheramie posted on social media Wednesday night. Once he's fully healthy, he will be adopted again. Tammy Murray, co-founder of the nonprofit New Orleans Animal Welfare Society, told the newspaper she plans to take him in.



Stars arrive for WEC finale

WEC's stars arrive as Bahrain International Circuit set for weekend endurance racing spectacle

- On-track action begins today with practice sessions
- Superstar driver lineup includes F1, MotoGP champions
- Grandstand tickets still available, support environmental initiatives

TDT | Manama

The superstars of this weekend's WEC 8 Hours of Bahrain, powered by Bapco Energies have arrived on the island and the Spirit of Le Mans is very much alive in the Kingdom of Bahrain!

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', has been bustling with activity over the past few days as the teams and officials in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) have begun setting up their garages and stations ahead of today's start of on-track action.

BIC will be opening its doors to fans tomorrow and Saturday, as the practice sessions taking place today will be held behind closed doors.

Gates will be open on both days at 10.30am. On Friday, gates will close at 6.30pm, and on Saturday at 10pm.

Grandstand tickets are still available for fans wishing to attend the WEC 2024 season-finale. They cost BD5.5 for adults and BD2.75 for children for the two-day race weekend.

All tickets sold will help make a positive environmental impact in the Kingdom, as BIC and Bapco Energies have brought



Crews work on cars ahead of the race weekend

back the ground-breaking Green Ticket Initiative, which will greatly contribute to achieving the national target of quadrupling mangrove coverage across the Kingdom by 2035.

Star-studded race

Race-goers will be able to enjoy plenty of top-class racing with the WEC's Hypercars and LMGT3 contenders along with the supporting Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East (PCCME).

The WEC's star-studded field will be headlined by a cast of WEC, Formula 1, and other FIA series World Champions, including ex-F1 World Champion

Jenson Button, MotoGP legend Valentino Rossi, grand prix-winner Robert Kubica, and other popular drivers such as Mick Schumacher, Sebastien Buemi, Kamui Kobayashi, Antonio Giovinazzi, Daniil Kvyat, Mike Conway, and Paul Di Resta, to name only a few.

Today, action will include two 90-minute WEC practice sessions, one being held in daylight conditions from 12.15pm to 1.45pm, and then the other under lights at night from 5.30pm to 7pm.

The PCCME will also have its pair of practices today, both over 45 minutes. The first will take

place at 11.15am, and the next at 4.15pm.

Intensified action

The racing will intensify tomorrow, with a third hour-long WEC practice being held from 12noon to 1pm. That will set the stage for the Qualifying sessions, starting from 4pm with the LMGT3 category and then from 4.40pm for the Hypercars.

Also tomorrow, the PCCME will be holding qualifying at 11.10am. Race one will follow later in the early evening at 5.45pm.

The second PCCME race will be held on Saturday morning at 11am, and that will be followed

by the weekend's highly anticipated main event: the WEC 8 Hours of Bahrain, powered by Bapco Energies, flagging off at 2pm and ending at 10pm.

Behind the scene experience

Fans attending the endurance racing spectacle will be able to enjoy an Open Paddock experience throughout the two days.

This is unique to the WEC weekend, and it is an initiative that must be taken advantage of in a Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)-sanctioned world championship event, as it is a chance to go and see what goes on behind the scenes in the

WEC Paddock.

This is where the participating teams' buildings are located to accommodate the series' star drivers and team members while at the circuit. The Paddock is also from where the teams have direct access to their garages, so fans will more than likely bump into the WEC's biggest talents as they make their way around the facility and also witness team preparations for the racing action.

Also taking place this weekend are the Pit Lane Walk and WEC Autograph Session, scheduled for Saturday.

Off-track entertainment

Aside from the racing, there will be plenty of off-track entertainment for the whole family to enjoy on both days of WEC weekend.

BIC has brought back the Giant Ferris Wheel, while there will also be racing simulators, reaction games used by professional racing drivers, and a fantastic classic car show.

For the youngsters, BIC has lined up plenty of attractions, headlined by the 'Space Jam: A New Legacy' Experience, which celebrates the Warner Bros Pictures live-action film of the same name. Visitors will have the chance to meet members of the Tune Squad, with Bugs Bunny and Lola Bunny greeting fans at the experience! There will also be kids' stage shows, LED bumper cars, carnival rides, mini-train rides, a jumping castle, a balloon twister, a live graffiti wall, face painting, and the like.

All those attending will similarly be able to interact with BIC's army of roaming performers, including jugglers, stilt-walkers, face painters, street drummers, balloon mime acts, and musicians.



Crew members work on a car on the track at BIC



The WEC 8 Hours of Bahrain will feature an Open Paddock experience, allowing fans to go behind the scenes and meet top drivers, including Formula 1 and MotoGP legends, amidst a fun-filled weekend of racing and entertainment



Team members inspect the track at BIC



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport receives Former Brazil International footballer Ronaldo

New Zealand's Ajaz 'emotional' on Mumbai return after perfect 10



New Zealand's Ajaz Patel in action (file photo)

AFP | Mumbai

New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel said yesterday that returning to his birthplace Mumbai after his 10-wicket haul there three years ago made for an "emotional" homecoming ahead of the third Test against India.

The Black Caps sealed a first-ever Test series victory on Indian soil last week in Pune and are now chasing a 3-0 sweep in the final match starting Friday at Wankhede Stadium.

In December 2021 at the same venue, Ajaz became only the third bowler in Test history to take all 10 wickets in an innings.

New Zealand lost the match but Ajaz joined elite company alongside England off-spinner Jim Laker (1956 at Old Trafford) and Indian spin ace Anil Kumble (1999 in Delhi).

"Certainly emotional," Ajaz, 36, told reporters.

"I guess being back in Mumbai is always quite special and it's a place I call home as well. Having the opportunity to play out here again is quite special."

He added: "To be honest, after my 10-wicket haul I wasn't sure whether I'd get another opportunity to play out here again."

New Zealand beat India at their own game of spin for a 113-run victory in the second Test on a turning Pune pitch.

Ajaz's fellow left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner excelled with a match haul of 13 wickets as top Indian batters including skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli flopped.

But Ajaz, who made his Test debut in 2018 after moving to Auckland from Mumbai with his parents, said India still remain the favourites.

"I think India still have the wood on us when it comes to playing on turning wickets and traditionally the Indian batters have I guess done well on turning surfaces," said Ajaz.

HH Shaikh Isa inspects horse racing facilities

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), and Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club High Committee (REHC), has underscored the importance of continued investment in horse racing infrastructure and development to further enhance the Kingdom's position as a global equestrian hub.

During a visit to the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club, HH Shaikh Isa inspected the preparations for the upcoming 2024-2025 horse racing season. He emphasized the need to ensure that all facilities and logistics are in place to provide a world-class experience for

participants and visitors alike.

The Chairman highlighted the significance of horse racing in Bahrain and its alignment with the broader vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The REHC has been undertaking significant development projects to elevate the status of horse racing in Bahrain. These initiatives include the introduction of new facilities, the enhancement of existing infrastructure, and the organization of international-level events.

HH Shaikh Isa expressed his satisfaction with the progress made and commended the efforts of all those involved in the development of the club. He expressed confidence that the upcoming season will be a resounding success.



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa during his visit to REHC

Man United target Amorim says 'nothing decided yet'

● Amorim cautious about possible Manchester United move

● Sporting confirms United's interest and release clause details

AFP | London

Ruben Amorim has said that "nothing is decided yet" after Manchester United made the Sporting Lisbon coach their top target to replace sacked manager Erik ten Hag.

United pulled the plug on Ten Hag's two-year reign on Monday after a 2-1 defeat by West Ham left them 14th in the Premier League.

Amorim quickly emerged as the leading contender to replace the Dutchman and Sporting issued a statement to the Lisbon stock exchange on Tuesday confirming United were willing to meet his 10 million euro (\$10.8 million) release clause.

The 39-year-old though was guarded when asked after Sporting's League Cup win against Nacional on Tuesday if that was his last match with the



Sporting's coach Ruben Amorim arrives prior to a match

Portuguese club.

"Nobody knows whether this was my farewell match. Nothing is decided yet," he said, in comments reported by sports daily A Bola.

Despite spending heavily in the transfer market in the summer, Ten Hag paid the price for United's poor start to the season.

They have won just one of their last eight games in all competitions and in the Premier League, they have just three wins in nine games.

While United have appointed their former striker Ruud van Nistelrooy as interim boss, they appear to be concentrating on tying up a deal with Amorim, who is considered one of Europe's leading young coaches.

Amorim has won two Portuguese titles with Sporting since joining the club in March 2020 and has a reputation for developing young players.

He was linked with the manager's role at Liverpool once Jürgen Klopp announced he was



Amorim, just 39, has already gained acclaim as a top young coach in Europe, known for nurturing emerging talent

leaving, but Dutch coach Arne Slot headed to Anfield instead.

The Portuguese coach went as far as holding talks with West Ham this year, before they appointed former Spain coach Julen Lopetegui to replace David Moyes.

Van Nistelrooy, who will take charge of his first match in his new role when United face Leicester in the League Cup at Old Trafford yesterday, said in the matchday programme he was "saddened" by Ten Hag's departure.

The Dutchman added it was "a great honour to manage the club I love for however long I am asked to do so".

A new United manager will inherit a squad that was largely built by Ten Hag.

Bangladesh stumble to 38-4 in reply to mammoth South Africa total

AFP | Chattogram

Bangladesh lost four wickets in their first seven overs in a hapless reply to South Africa's mammoth first innings of 575-6 at stumps yesterday on day two of the second and final Test in Chattogram.

The hosts were 38-4 when bad light forced an early end to play, with Mominul Haque (six) and Najmul Hossain Shanto (four) resuming on Thursday.

Bangladesh trail by 537 runs after a commanding perfor-

mance by the visitors that gifted maiden Test centuries to three batsmen including Tony de Zorzi, who was dismissed before lunch on 177.

"We've found different ways of scoring in different conditions so I wouldn't say we've struggled," de Zorzi said.

"Once you're in, it's about your decision-making and your ability to stay focused and stay in your game plan. It's about identifying what's working on the wicket against certain bowlers."

Kagiso Rabada struck in the

first over after the change, cutting off Shadman Islam for a duck when the left-hander edged a delivery going down the leg side.

Zakir Hasan also edged to the wicketkeeper playing a Rabada length ball outside off, departing for two.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy top-scored with 10 before falling to Dane Paterson while driving an outside-off delivery but managed only a thick edge to Aiden Markram at the second slip.

Hasan Mahmud came early

as an intended nightwatchman but was fooled by sharp turn from Keshav Maharaj in the spinner's first over.

South Africa's total was their second-highest against Bangladesh behind 583-7 at the same venue in 2008.

Wiaan Mulder (105 not out) joined De Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs (106) to make his maiden hundred on a pitch offering little help to the bowlers.

Senuran Muthusamy was unbeaten at the declaration for 68 off 75 balls with five fours and two sixes, his Test best.



South Africa's Tony De Zorzi plays a shot



Deputed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), attended the closing ceremony of the International School Sports Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024.

Bahrain's Golden Finale

ISF Gymnasiade 2024 concludes with Bahrain's record-breaking medal haul

● Bahrain's young athletes secure 42 medals

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

As the curtain falls on the 2024 International School Sport Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade, Bahrain has etched its name in the annals of sporting history with a staggering total of 69 medals. The kingdom's young athletes have surpassed all expectations.

A Sprint to the Finish

On the final day of competition, Bahraini athletes added nine more medals to their impressive tally. The athletics team shone bright at the Bahrain National Stadium, with the girls' medley relay team of Naima Naomi, Rehana Garbohat, Aisha Bess, and Sofiane Hasmo clinching gold with a time of 2:09.89.

Alaa Samuel secured silver in the boys' 200m with a time of 21.43 seconds, while Aisha Abdullah took bronze in the girls' 200m, clocking 23.82 seconds. The boys' 4x100m relay team of Othman Qamar, Alaa Sami, Abbas Abu Bakr, and Rashid Talib also impressed, earning silver with a time of 40.97.

Handball

Bahrain handball team finished second after losing the final to France won 29-21 to take silver.

Despite the outstanding performance of Bahrain's players throughout the tournament, the French team was able to excel in the final match, to win gold.

The fans praised the great efforts made by the Bahraini team and its strong performance,



Mohamed Sahak wins Boxing gold



Sophia Mosa wins Boxing silver



Rawan Faqehi wins Boxing silver



Yousef Khaled wins Boxing bronze



Layla Isa wins Boxing bronze

which qualified it to reach the final match and compete for the title.

Taekwondo

The taekwondo team concluded their campaign on a high note, with Yousif Redha securing gold in the under-73 kg category by defeating India's Jaden Zumnawei. Hadi Ghuloum added a bronze in the under-55 kg category, while Wesal Al-Ammar claimed bronze in the girls' category. The performances in taekwondo not only showcased individual talent but also highlighted Bahrain's commitment to excellence in martial arts

Volleyball

Bahrain's school handball team secured a silver medal in the International School Games after a hard-fought battle against France in the final. Despite their efforts, the team fell short, but their performance throughout the tournament is one to be proud of.

Boxing Brilliance

The boxing arena witnessed stellar performances from Bahraini athletes. Mohamed Sahak's gold medal win was complemented by Rawan Faqehi and Sophia Mosa's silver, while Yousef Khaled and Layla Isa secured bronze medals, underlining the depth of talent in Bahraini box-



Action from Bahrain's handball match against France

ing.

Paralympic Pride

Bahrain's commitment to inclusive sports was evident as Ahmed Nader claimed silver in the 3000m T53 wheelchair race. In the Paralympic badminton singles, Zainab Ali Salman's bronze medal performance showcased the kingdom's growing prowess in adaptive sports.

3x3 Basketball Finals

While Bahrain didn't feature in the finals, the 3x3 basketball

tournament concluded with thrilling matches. In the men's final, Brazil defeated Italy, while Slovenia beat Nigeria in the women's final. India's women's team was awarded the fair play award, highlighting the spirit of sportsmanship that defined the tournament.

A Legacy of Success

This unprecedented success at the ISF Gymnasiade is not just about the medals; it represents a watershed moment for Bahraini sports. The per-

formances of these young athletes have set a new benchmark and laid a solid foundation for the future of sports in the kingdom.

Firas Al-Halwaji, a key figure in the organizing committee, expressed his pride in the Bahraini youth and the success of the event. "This Gymnasiade has been a testament to our ability to nurture talent and stage world-class events," he stated. "The success we've witnessed is the fruition of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's

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This Gymnasiade success marks Bahrain's largest medal haul in an international school sports event, showcasing a promising future for the kingdom's youth in global athletics

vision and the unwavering support of our leadership."

As the athletes return home, they carry with them not just medals but invaluable experience that will serve them well in future international competitions. The legacy of this event will resonate for years to come, inspiring future generations of Bahraini athletes to strive for excellence on the global stage.

Bahrain has proven itself as a capable host and also emerged as a rising power in international youth sports. The future of Bahraini athletics looks brighter than ever, with these young stars leading the way.