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SPORTS

Muharrag, Al Khaldiya power through

Muharraq narrowly defeat Riffa on penalties, Al Khaldiya hit four past Ettihad to advance to HM the King's Cup semifinals | P12





Zac Efron 'disconnects' in nature

Markets eye uncertainty ahead after blowout 2023 for US stocks

BD200M economic boost

Mumtalakat's direct contributions to state budget to reach **BD200M in 2024**

TDT | Manama

Mumtalakat has revealed that its direct contrilion over an eight-year period. from 2017 until the end of the upcoming year 2024.

wealth fund stated that it has and the National Audit Office budget project. injected BD40million into the were mentioned as among and it will also allocate BD40 for auditing the company's million for the budget of the following year.

At the same time, Mumtalakat affirmed its policy of does it receive direct support Commerce. from the state. In fact, the company contributes a portion of its profits to the public account.

statements on its website in line government. with best governance practices.

bution to the state's general commitment to safeguarding cumstances. It also considers budget will reach BD200mil- state funds, enhancing transparency, and enabling various oversight bodies to monitor ture plans and investment strat-The Kingdom's sovereign Council of Representatives financial years following the

Adherence

Mumtalakat highlighted its self-sufficiency in managing adherence to the provisions of its operations, as it does not the Companies Management burden the government with and Governance Charter, issued any financial obligations nor by the Ministry of Industry and committed to contributing to

budget, the company stated that year."

In a memorandum to the the proportion of net profits Council of Representatives, transferred to the budget is de-Mumtalakat clarified that it termined by a decision from the publishes audited financial shareholder, represented by the

This determination takes into Those interested in knowing account the alignment with the company's financial stand- the Council of Representatives ing can access its financial data, through discussions on the which is made available to the state's general budget, considering the company's economic The company emphasised its conditions and surrounding cirthe company's need for cash liquidity to implement its fuits financial transactions. The egy during the two subsequent

The company added: "The current year's budget for 2022, the key entities responsible reconciliation between the government's needs and the company's requirements is taken into consideration, which in some years has led to the company's contribution to the general budget despite its negative results.

"As a result, Mumtalakat is the general budget annually Regarding the transfer of its during the past six years, the profits to the state's general current year, and the upcoming



In continuation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's celebrations of the national holidays, the Ministry of the Interior organised a military column parade in the Northern Governorate. The show included an infantry column and police military formations, with the participation of the cavalry division, the camel division, the honour guard, and the police musical band. More pictures on Page 2

Russia vows 'punishment' as strike on **Belgorod kills 14**

AFP | Moscow

 ${
m R}$ ussia called a meeting Of the UN Security, held early today morning, Bahrain time, accusing Ukraine of having targeted civilians in the city of Belgorod with missiles and rockets, killing at least 14 people and wounding dozens more.

It was an attack, said Moscow, that would "not go unpunished".

The attack came a day after Ukraine said a barrage of Russian missile strikes on several cities had killed at least 39 people, wounding dozens more.

Fresh strikes yesterday caused more casualties in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukrainian officials said.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Transfer tax tango

Gulf hub's future hinges on risky financial pirouette

TDT| Manama

he Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) is sounding the alarm over a new parliamentary proposal that wants to tax money sent abroad by for-

The CBB warns this "Foreign Financial Transfers Tax" could cripple the Kingdom's financial sector and send its attractiveness as a business hub plummeting.

The proposed tax, a hefty two per cent on all outbound cash transfers, has supporters who see it as a golden goose for diversifying Bahrain's oil-dependent economy. They argue it will keep country, fuelling growth.

stitutions fleeing, taking their



business and investment dol- far-reaching, squeezing em- levy hanging over their heads.

millions circulating within the lars with them. Bahrain's com- ployers forced to shoulder the petitive edge against its Gulf tax burden and ultimately im-But the CBB paints a differ- neighbours and other top expat pacting citizens and businesses in shady, unofficial channels for ent picture. It fears the tax will destinations, all tax-free for for- alike. Foreign talent, lured by sending money out of the coundrive banks and financial in- eign transfers, would evaporate. Bahrain's open economy, might try, bypassing the official system The ripple effects could be reconsider with a new financial and undermining its transpar-



Central Bank of Bahrain warns that a "Foreign Financial Transfers Tax" could cripple Kingdom's financial sector and send its attractiveness as a business hub plummeting

The CBB also warns of unintended consequences: a surge ency.

This proposed tax is not the first rodeo. Similar attempts earlier had met with strong opposition from the government, the Ministry of Finance, and even the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry. All see the potential harm far outweighing any short-term revenue gains.

The Council of Representatives, however, seems determined to see this through. Despite the CBB's dire warnings and widespread opposition, they're set to discuss the proposal soon.

The question remains: Will Bahrain risk its hard-earned reputation as a financial hub with this controversial tax, or will they listen to the CBB's pleas and steer clear of a potential economic calamity?

The answer will have consequences for not just Bahrain's bank accounts, but the future of its entire economy.



SEHLA: 17556001 | CITY CENTRE: 17556002

19-31 December



ews of bahrain









Bahraini Farmers' Market perfect for shoppers: Tourism Minister

TDT | Manama

The Bahraini Farmers' Mar-▲ ket has become a favourite destination for citizens, residents, tourists, and visitors to the Kingdom, individuals and families alike, Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi has affirmed.

This is due to the unique experience the market offers, including many attractive and clude its location in the Budaipresence of Bahraini farmers, said.



The Tourism Minister with other officials during their visit to the Bahraini Farmers' Market

exciting elements. These in- and the Bahraini agricultural While visiting the Bahraini products they provide, in addi- Farmers' Market, in its 11th ya Botanical Garden, its good tion to the entertainment areas edition, Al Sairafi praised the organisation, the distinguished and accompanying events, she outstanding organisation of the

market this year.



Destination Bahrain!

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority launches roadshow in Shanghai, Guangzhou



BTEA officials with roadshow participants from Bahrain and China

Roadshow aims to promote Kingdom as top regional, global tourist destination for visitors from East Asia

Meetings held with Chinese travel agents, tour operators to discuss packages, specialised programmes

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and **Exhibitions Authority** launched a promotional roadshow in the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou involving prominent travel, tourism, aviation, and hotel sectors.

markets, enhancing the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product, in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's tourism strategy for 2022 to 2026.

BTEA CEO Dr Naser Qaedi said the roadshow aims to prodom, attract East Asian visitors, cient cultural heritage, he added. and support the growth of the tourism sector.

It will highlight Bahrain's status and competitiveness as an ideal tourist destination with admeet modern life requirements. tribute to boosting the economy riences.



Roadshow showcases Bahrain's uniqueness as a tourist destination, highlighting Kingdom's world-class luxury hotels, attractions, and archaeological sites

The roadshow also seeks to build partnerships and establish cooperation agreements. It revealed a growing interest from Chinese tourism entities The roadshow aims to promote to explore Bahraini tourism Bahrain as a prominent tourist opportunities and products, destination in regional and global indicating a positive image of Bahraini tourism among Chinese tourism sector leaders, Oaedi said.

This opens the way for the private sector to offer more programmes and attract new tourists to enjoy the Kingdom's mote tourist sites in the King- nature, diverse activities, and an-

Boosting the economy

BTEA collaborated with the private sector to create distinc-

and increasing the number of visitors to the Kingdom.

Bahrain is aiming to increase foreign investment, double the number of tourists, develop the tourism and travel sector, and highlight its components on Gulf, regional, and global levels; based on the positive indicators achieved in the current year, Qaedi said.

In the BTEA's two roadshow events in Shanghai and Guangzhou, Chinese travel agencies were invited to showcase the Kingdom's tourism offers and packages, as well as Bahraini tourism products.

Bahraini destination management companies and hotels met with Chinese travel agents and tour operators to discuss ioint-tourism packages and specialised programmes to attract Chinese tourists and encourage their extended stay in the Kingdom.

The roadshow aimed to showcase Bahrain as a unique tourist destination, combining cultural heritage and urban development. It highlighted the country's world-class luxury hotels, attractions, and archaeological sites.

Exhibition World Bahrain won the best new event and conference centre award for 2023. The centre hosts numerous events, exhibitions, and cultural activities, making it an ideal destination for Chinese vanced facilities and services that tive tourism products that contourists seeking unique expe-

Dance like a pirate, dine like a king

Bahrain's unforgettable New Year's Eve adventure begins!

Zainab Zaman TDT | Manama

s the final moments of 2023 slip away, Bahrain Leagerly anticipates the arrival of 2024 with a spectacular array of events to mark the

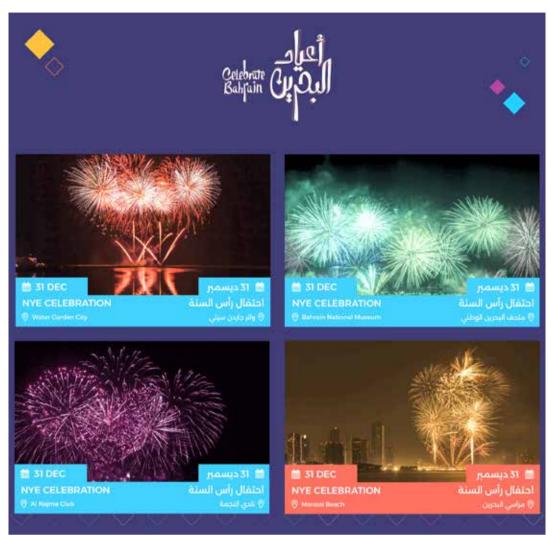
Throughout December, Celebrate Bahrain has been a canvas for the nation's traditions and celebrations, setting the stage for the grand finale on New Year's Eve (NYE).

The countdown to the new chapter or a reflective pause on the past becomes a shared experience, building up to the highly anticipated annual fireworks show near the Avenues Park.

Lessons from previous years guide the crowd: leave home early to secure the best vantage point and savour the entire dazzling display starting precisely at midnight, free of charge.

Beyond the Avenues Park, Bahrain transforms into a canvas of vibrant celebrations. Marassi Beach, Water Garden City, Bahrain Fort, Bahrain Bay, Bahrain National Museum, Al Najma Club, and Bahrain Financial Harbour host free fireworks shows. Attendees can immerse themselves in live music, tantalizing food vendors, and enticing pop-up shops.

and restaurants beckon with en- 8pm to 1am. ticing New Year's Eve packages.



For those seeking a closer discount. The Dilmun Club, for instance, view of the Bahrain Harbour metamorphoses its poolside into fireworks, Charthouse.bh offers romantic souls to a beachfront tickets are priced at BD50. a glamorous extravaganza with a a buffet dinner reservation for NYE experience. For BD85 per

live DJ and delectable meals, all BD30, promising a feast for the person, the package includes For the night owls, lounges for a pocket-friendly BD15 from senses. Early birds among the a premium buffet, drinks, live first fifty patrons enjoy a special music, a light show, VIP bar, and live DJs. Online tickets fetch a siasts. Solymar Beach Club beckons discounted BD35, while door

Azul Beach Resort, near Nor-

Throughout December, Celebrate Bahrain has been a canvas for the nation's traditions and celebrations, setting the stage for the grand finale on New Year's Eve

dic Hotel, promises a night of nev across its award-winning international and local musical restaurants, featuring entertaintalents. Tally Shum, Blacky, Xe-ment ranging from DJ beats to a nia Liloo, One Off, and Andy Van Mariachi Band. Dee are set to create an unforgettable musical ambiance from Gala NYE Extravaganza, en-5pm until the wee hours of the couraging guests to glam up and night, all for an entry fee of BD10. dance into 2024 with various

Countdown

The countdown to the New tion starting at 9pm. Year extends to social media, where various events are making promises an enchanting open waves. S Hotel Bahrain offers an sky celebration at Seabreeze, electrifying New Year's Eve with Thai Lounge, and La Plage, start-DJ K88 at Havana Club Lounge, ing at 8pm. featuring special packages for both revellers and food enthues the list with an "Around the

The M Restaurant invites guests to a feast with a NYE Din-dancers, a global buffet, and live ner Buffet in Adliya, offering a band melodies.

culinary journey for the senses

Elite Seef Residence and Hotel plans a Pirates Eve at 8pm, promising a swashbuckling bash for a night of fun.

CUT by Wolfgang Puck at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay ensures a sophisticated affair with a NYE event from 7pm to 1am.

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay also invites guests to an "Around-the-World"-themed brunch today from 1pm to 4pm.

Mövenpick Hotel Bahrain transports revellers to "The Terminal" for an extraordinary New Year's Eve celebration at Silk's Restaurant & Gallery Lobby Lounge, starting at 8pm.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, entices guests with a culinary jour-

Hilton Bahrain hosts a Met package options.

Lagoona Beach Resort in Budaiya invites guests to a celebra-

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain,

Crowne Plaza Bahrain clos-World in Ninety Minutes" party, promising live DJs, international

New Year, New Dreams



2024 is about letting go of regrets and embracing time with loved ones.

- VETH NILINE

eller wrapping up a week in Bahrain before rejoining her family in Kenya, speaks for many when she says, "2024 is about letting go of regrets and embracing time with loved ones."

Her solo adventures have fuelled her spirit, and she encourages others to conquer their fears and explore the world.

I want to work

harder, help students

achieve their dreams.

and prioritise my

health.

- PARVATHY THANUMOORTHY

and visitors alike find them- cruitment agency Taiba Over- and spreading kindness. "I want selves not just celebrating the seas Consultants, echoes the to become a millionaire and help passing year, but gazing into sentiment of self-improvement. anyone seeking to study abroad," the horizon of 2024 with hopes "I want to work harder, help he declares, adding that 2023 and resolutions dancing in their students achieve their dreams, taught him the value of continand prioritise my health," she uous growth in his career. The air crackles with a collec- says, acknowledging the need tive hum of ambition, a tapestry for a balanced life that includes newcomer in Bahrain, the new requiring visas to visit the UK a page, but the hearts and minds nurturing her role as a mother. year is all about spreading the adds another layer of excitement of a kingdom ready to dream,



I want to become a millionaire and help anvone seeking to study abroad.

- FUAD MAHZOOMI



Bahrain is paradise. Set your goals, focus, and achieve them.

MOHAMMED SUHAIR



I can't wait to discover more historical sites and traditions in 2024.

- FIONA WALKER DOVLE

As the calendar turns a page, hearts and minds in the Kingdom are ready to dream. strive, and celebrate the year to come

For Mohammed Suhair, a

of cultural exchange. Amidst from February 22 onwards. settling into her new role six months ago, she's determined to master Arabic and strengthen the bond between Brits and Bahrainis.

privilege," Fiona beams, "and brates with the promise of a year I can't wait to discover more brimming with possibilities. historical sites and traditions

urging everyone to consider countries granted Electronic calling it home. His motto? "Set Travel Authorization (ETA) acyour goals, focus, and achieve cess," paving the way for easier travel between the two nations. Fiona Walker Doyle, Deputy ETA applications are scheduled Head of Mission for the British to go live for Bahrainis from Feb-Embassy, embodies the spirit ruary 1, for travelling to the UK

As the final moments of 2023 tick by, a sense of shared optimism takes flight in Bahrain. From solo journeys to family reunions, career aspirations to "The past year has been a cultural immersion, the air vi-

This New Year's Eve, amidst the fireworks and festivities, it's News of Bahrainis no longer not just the calendar that turns Fuad Mahzoomi, who owns love for his adopted home. "Bah- to the new year. Doyle proudly strive, and celebrate the year

New Year's Eve: Safety Directions

- Stick to the rules of the road
- Leave early to account for traffic
- Use maps to avoid traffic
- congestion • Those who want to watch fireworks at the sites at Bahrain National Museum and Marassi Beach on boats should adhere to maritime safety instructions
- Inspect safety of boats and tools before sailing
- Keep safe distance between boats and event sites.
- For assistance, the Maritime Operation of the Coastguard can be contacted on 994 or 17700000
- Call 999 for emergency services, fire, police, and ambulance. When dialling 999, you will be asked which service you need.
- Al Kindi Hospital: 1724
- American Mission Hospital: 17 177 711
- Royal Bahrain Hospital: 1724 6888
- Bahrain Specialist Hospital: 1781 2111
- Al Hilal Hospital: 8040
- KIMSHEALTH: 1782 2123 • Middle East Hospital:
- Al Amal Hospital: 1760 2602

03-4299505

- International Medical Centre: 1749 0006
- King Hamad University Hospital: 17 444 444
- Noor Specialist Hospi-
- tal: 17 260 026

Bahrainis and visitors share aspirations for 2024

Zainab Zaman TDT| Manama

As the clock strikes midnight Parvathy Thanumoorthy, a consultant at international rehis sights on financial success

woven from personal triumphs and lessons learned.

Veth Njune, a solo female trav- Taiba Overseas Consultants, sets rain is paradise," he proclaims, says, "Bahrain is one of the first to come.

news of hahrair

Attempted murder jail term upheld

Cassation Court approves 15-year sentence for father who tried to kill son

 Defendant earlier sentenced to life in prison, but High **Appeals Court reduced** it to 15 years, which was approved by **Cassation Court**

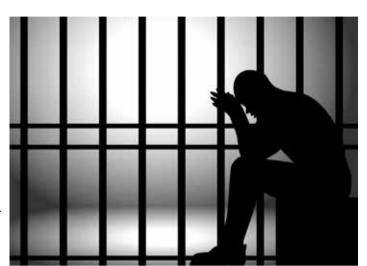
TDT | Manama

he Cassation Court has confirmed a jail term of 15 years issued against a man accused of attempting to murder his son with a chainsaw.

The defendant was earlier sentenced to life in prison, but the High Appeals Court reduced it to 15 years behind bars, which was approved by the Cassation

The defendant was held guilty to eye. on grounds of premeditated as-

man reportedly tried to kill his our son," the mother told pros- were blood-stained. I rushed



Representative image

teenager was on drugs and he caught smoking e-cigarettes. I for his life." was acting unstable. The vic- managed to convince them to tim's mother told prosecutors punish him by suspending him rushed to hospital and managed that the pair weren't seeing eye

son under the pretext that the ecutors. "They told us he was inside and saw my son fighting to prosecutors.

for two days.

"On the day of the crime, I "Before the incident, the was out in the evening, and my school requested us to come son was asleep. When I returned

The victim is said to had been to survive. The father handed himself in to police and confessed to his crime.

On the day of the

crime, I was out in

the evening, and

my son was asleep.

When I returned I

saw my husband's clothes were blood-

stained. I rushed

inside and saw my

son fighting for his

life.

- MOTHER OF THE VICTIM

"He used to insult me reg-According to court files, the because an issue arose involving I saw my husband's clothes ularly and he has gone out of control," the father pointed out

Caring for senior citizens

Social Development **Ministry integrates** 'Elderly Card' with national ID, enabling easier access to services, discounts

Around 70,000 elderly individuals to benefit from deals offered by both government, private entities

TDT | Manama

■ velopment announced would be accompanied by the integration of the "Elderly Cabinet decisions outlining Card" with the national ID, the regulations and exempenabling all citizens above the tions for discounts. age of 60 to access elderly services electronically through islation also proposes granttheir national ID card.

that these services are not lim-sector entities interested in ited to individuals who possess participating. the specific "Elderly Card."

from discounts offered by both Dhaen. government and private entities. The ministry highlighted that 28 private sector institu- it has prepared a comprehentions have joined the Elderly sive national implementation Card programme. These parplan for the national elderly ticipating institutions offering strategy. The plan includes uti-"Elderly Discounts" include lising the expertise of elderly private hospitals, medical cen- individuals in the Kingdom, tres, clinics, medical laborato- expanding day care instituries, and pharmacies, among tions for parental care, enothers.

In response to a query from the Services Committee in the menting an intergenerational Council of Representatives communication programme to regarding entities providing benefit from past experiences. 50 per cent discounts on their transaction fees to the elderly, the ministry pointed out several fees, including construction fees, fees for certificates of sees the need to reconsider ownership, municipal fees for the proposed law, as the inhouse and apartment rentals, tended objective has already driver's license renewal fees, been achieved through the vehicle registration renewal decisions issued by the Cabfees, passport renewal fees, inet and relevant ministries, national ID card issuance fees, which granted exemptions for domestic worker sponsorship half the fees on some covered fees, worker license renewal services for the elderly. fees, and fees for private rooms at Salmaniya Medical Com- posed law would disrupt the

discount on electricity and wa- gramme. ter bills for single households occupied by elderly individ-

velopment's statement comes study to determine the reat a time when the Council of spectable government's finan-Representatives is expected to cial deficit resulting from its discuss a law that would en- implementation and the neccompass "Elderly Discounts" essary proposals to manage the

Through the 'Elderly Card', citizens above the age of 60 can benefit from discounts offered by both government and private entities

The Ministry of Social De- without exception. The law

The new parliamentary leging the discounts on essential The ministry emphasised living supplies from private

The parliamentary proposal The number of elderly in- was put forth by MPs Khalid Bu dividuals in the Kingdom is Ang, Zainab Abdul Amir, Moestimated to be around 70,000, hammed Al Husseini, Hanan and all of them can now benefit Mohammed, and Mariam Al

> The Ministry of Social Development further stated that hancing cultural programmes for older adults, and imple-

Government's response

The government, on its part,

It pointed out that the prostate's general budget and In addition, there is a BD10 financial equilibrium pro-

Additionally, it lacks the essential elements necessary for its implementation, as it The Ministry of Social De- requires a thorough financial for all government services, required financial resources.

LMRA launches e-service to settle violations

Initiative enables employers to swiftly settle eligible criminal violations electronically, without the need for in-person visit

TDT | Manama

Cimplifying compliance and Saving time for businesses, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announces yesterday the trial launch of its Electronic Settlement service, "E-Settlement".

This innovative initiative enables employers to swiftly settle eligible criminal violations electronically, without the need for in-person visits.

"LMRA is committed to leveraging technology to enhance service delivery and improve ease of use for our clients," explained LMRA Enforcement and Protection Sector deputy CEO Noora Isa Mubarak.

"E-Settlement builds upon



electronic and virtual services, and evaluation for full-scale im-

our recent launches of other all currently undergoing trial plementation."

expedites the resolution process, allowing employers to settle eligible criminal violations electronically from the comfort of their office, pay settlement fees instantly through secure online channels or accredited bank, and rectify the legal status of the establishments and remove the administrative notices swiftly.

"E-Settlement offers a convenient and efficient alternative for resolving eligible violations," said LMRA Labour Inspection acting director Marzouq Abdul Karim Salem. "Employers receive a notification via SMS and email, and, upon approval, they can initiate the E-Settlement process through our online 'E-Support' system."

The streamlined workflow involves electronic application submission and processing, automatic invoice generation upon approval, and instant violation clearance upon making the settlement payment.

For further information or inquiries, contact the LMRA Call This user-friendly platform Centre on 17506055.

Customs chief receives transportation ministry officials



President of Customs Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa received officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication. The meeting reviewed topics of common interests and cooperation and coordination. Above, Shaikh Ahmed, right, with an official.

MPs request talks on governorate services

Northern Governorate.

within the governorate.

The MPs justified their re- the diverse needs of citizens in the elderly.

quest by citing the continuous terms of various government population growth rates in services. C everal MPs have submitted a various areas of the Northern Prequest for a general discus- Governorate. They noted that are difficulties in accessing sion to clarify the government's the governorate has been ex- a number of these services, policy regarding the provision panding geographically and whether in the administraof government services in the experiencing a higher pop- tive, healthcare, or educational ulation density compared to fields. The service-related chal-The aim is to shed light on other regions in the Kingdom. lenges extend beyond a specific the government's strategy for This necessitates the provision domain, highlighting signifidelivering government services of increasingly accessible and cant shortcomings in healthconvenient facilities to meet care and social care plans for

They emphasised that there

Markets eye uncertainty ahead after blowout 2023 for US stocks

AFP | New York, United States

s Wall Street closed the books Friday on a surprisingly strong 2023, the focus is shifting to the US presidential election and other risks confronting equities in 2024.

Major indices faltered in Friday's final session of the year, but the declines were minimal compared with the winnings amassed over the last 12 months.

"This has been a great stock market year," said David Kotok, chief investment officer of Cumberland Advisors.

Propelled by so-called "Magnificent Seven" stocks, the Nasdag led the major US indices with a gain of 43%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average tacked on 14% while the broad-based S&P 500 jumped

The surge -- which was mirrored by double digit gains on euphoria.' leading Asian and European inflation.

'We started the year fearful

Key figures around 2130 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼0.1% at 37,689.54 (close)
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.3% at 4,769.83 (close)
New York - Nasdaq:	▼ 0.6% at 15,011.35 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲P 0.1% at 7,543.18 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.3% at 16,751.64 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.2% at 4,521.65 (close)
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.1% at 7,733.24 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.2% at 33,464.17 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Ind	lex: = at 17,047.39 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.7% at 2,974.93 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1040 from \$1.1061 on Thursday
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 141.01 yen from 141.41 yen
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2738 from \$1.2733
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.63 pence from 86.87 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.2% at \$71.65 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.1% at \$77.04 per barrel



A general view shows the Tokyo Stock Exchange before a ceremony to mark the close of the end-of-year trading in Tokyo

Federal Reserve's aggressive in- labor market as indicating the in March. terest rate increases to counter US economy could avoid a recession.

because there were concrete ber forecast of three interest rate contained the crisis, avoiding a signs of recession," said Maris cuts in 2024 "poured more fuel broad economic impact. Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors. in the market's fire," said Brief-"You end the year with complete ing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare. advances in artificial intelligence in 2023, its best performance in

bourses -- has surprised leading ed since late October as market gineered by the Fed and other and growth. market watchers who had bet watchers cheered moderating US bank regulators following the on a recession in 2023 given the inflation and a still-strong US collapse of Silicon Valley Bank

> all deposits of SVB and two oth- Alphabet, Meta Platforms, Mi-The Federal Reserve's Decemer banks that ended up failing crosoft, Nvidia and Tesla.

The market also benefited in the belief that the technology a decade. Many of the gains accumulat- from emergency measures en- will further boost productivity

> Bullishness over AI helped produce the outsized gains for the "Magnificent Seven" stocks: Steps such as guaranteeing Amazon, Apple, Google parent

Among international markets, Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index The market has also cheered finished surged more than 28% um'

Frankfurt registered a yearly gain of 20.3% and Paris 16.5%, having recently hit record heights.

London, however, gained less than four% in 2023, with analysts pointing to fears interest rates could stay high due to inflation.

Political 'uncertainty premi-

For now, US investors are ing to Gallup.

broadly confident of the inflation outlook.

"The market clearly closed out 2023 on a very hopeful note," said O'Hare.

Stocks could have further upside if the job market stays strong, O'Hare said. However, stocks could suffer if the economic picture deteriorates or if the Fed backs away from interest rate cuts, he said.

Analysts are currently estimating healthy 2024 earnings growth of 12%.

But given higher labor costs 2024 could prove a "difficult" year for earnings, said Ogg, who also pointed to lofty equity valuations as a potential drag.

Then there is politics.

While investors likely already have the 2024 presidential election somewhere on their radar, the time frame was too distant to affect trading in recent months.

'The uncertainty premium of political dysfunction in the US is very high and not measurable," said Kotok, who noted the unpopularity of President Joe Biden and his likely challenger, former president Donald Trump.

"The country is faced with a Biden Trump rematch that it doesn't want," Kotok said.

Biden's approval rating was 39% at the end of 2023, accord-

Former vice-chair of China's banking regulator handed life sentence

AFP | Beijing, China

AChina's banking regulator a crackdown on corruption in seen as opposing Xi. the second-largest economy's finance sector.

of leader Xi Jinping to the top by a court in Zhenjiang. of the governing Communist

party officials have been inves-

has been sentenced to life im- result in convictions and are prison. prisonment, state media report- suspected of serving as a tool

of accepting 407 million yuan banking regulator. Beijing launched a sprawling (\$57.5 million) in bribes while Now retired, he came under campaign to counter graft in in office, state broadcaster scrutiny in 2021 with the launch 2012, following the ascension CCTV reported, citing a decision of an investigation into "serious

Since then, some 4.8 million yuan in bribes after retiring.

CCTV reported he was tigated, according to the latest sentenced to death with a former vice-chairman of official figures from June 2022. two-year reprieve, which Such investigations generally will be commuted to life in

Born in 1951, Cai spent ed Friday, the latest target in for sidelining political figures most of his career in finance and served for eight years as a Cai Esheng was found guilty vice-chairman of the country's

violations of discipline and the He was also said to have tak- law" -- wording that typically en an additional 110 million designates acts of corruption or embezzlement.

China's Huawei says expects revenue up almost 9% in 2023

AFP | Beijing, China

Chinese tech giant Huawei said Friday it "weathered the storm" of US sanctions as it announced a rise of almost nine percent in revenues in 2023, a year that saw it shock Washington with the release of a highend smartphone.

The Shenzhen-based gi- made components and technolant has been at the centre of ogies, forcing it to diversify its an intense standoff between growth sources. China and the United States, "After years of hard work, we October. with Washington warning its managed to weather the storm," equipment could be used for rotating chairman Ken Hu said helped us break the siege and state espionage, an allegation in New Year's remarks released forge ahead together," chairthe company denies.

Sanctions since 2019 have cut the firm off from access to US- ed revenues of more than 700 rious challenges ahead of us".



Friday.

In 2023, the group expect-

billion yuan (\$99.2 billion), Hu said -- an increase of nearly nine percent from last year.

But the revenue remains much lower than the 891.4 billion yuan it earned in 2020, the year before the company announced a sharp decline in turnover due to US sanctions.

The firm, however, appears to be bouncing back, announcing moderate sales growth for the first nine months of the year in

"Shared conviction has man Hu said.

He warned the firm faces "se-

Fresh Eurostar cancellations cause misery for New Year travellers

AFP | London, United Kingdom

ll Eurostar trains were Acancelled yesterday due to flooded tunnels in southern England, causing misery for New Year travellers in the second major disruption in 10 days.

The latest cancellations follow a wildcat strike by French unions days before Christmas and weather warnings from the UK's Met Office for rain, snow and ice across large parts of the country.

Hundreds of travellers were left stranded at London's St Pancras station after Eurostar cancelled all services for the entire

Newly-weds Nicole Carrera, 29, and her husband Christo- had been "ruined". pher, 31, visiting from New York



flooded water in a tunnel used by Eurostar trains, near Ebbsfleet International station in Kent, southern England

"Now we won't get into Paris French capital. said their plans to spend New tomorrow until about 6:00 pm," Year's Eve at Disneyland Paris Carrera said, adding that instead trains up to 4pm UK time (1600 after tunnels near Ebbsfleet In- strike that had stranded holiday- Brexit.

they would just walk around the

After earlier cancelling all

GMT), Eurostar said that flood- ternational station in Kent were makers and held up freight just ing in two tunnels had "not improved".

take the unfortunate decision to the day," it said.

It added that it was "extremely sorry" for the impact it would have on customers at "a vital time to get home at the end of the festive season".

Another couple, Christina David, 25, and Georgina Benyamin, Heather, 37, from central Eng-26, from Sydney, had planned land, had been due to travel to storms and other problems. to make Paris their final stop in Europe before flying home.

David said she felt "frustrated, that they now had nowhere to

flooded.

Eurostar runs services from Amsterdam via Ashford, midway cancel all services for the rest of between London and the southern English coast.

Railway said the flooding meant "all lines are blocked".

Year of travel chaos

Simon Shaw, 36, and his wife the French Alps for a skiing holiday with friends and family.

angry, sad", adding that "there everything was cancelled this er than expected numbers and were lots of people crying" and morning... it was chaos," Simon weather conditions. Shaw said.

days before Christmas.

The surprise walkout by "Eurostar has therefore had to London to Paris, Brussels and workers that blocked the tunnel sparked hours of chaos at rail hubs in Paris and London.

Eurostar train services re-In a statement, Southeastern sumed on December 22 after an agreement was reached, with unions saying negotiations had yielded "results that satisfy us".

Saturday's cancelled services top off a year of travel disruption for UK travellers due to strikes,

Travellers to France in April endured waiting times of up to "We just arrived and saw 16 hours at Dover due to larg-

The then interior minister The disruption comes after Suella Braverman denied the The services were cancelled French unions ended a wildcat delays were a consequence of

News in brief

◆ Somalia and the breakaway ▲ region of Somaliland have agreed to resume dialogue to resolve outstanding issues, after long-running political tensions and years of deadlock. The deal signed on Friday followed two days of talks mediated by Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh, the first of their kind since 2020 when similar negotiations stalled. and breakaway "After lengthy discussions, the two sides **Somaliland agree to** have agreed to resume the process of talks.. with the focus on issues of national interest resume dialogue to reach a sustainable solution." said a joint statement published by the Somali

presidency. The northern region has been seeking full statehood since claiming independence from Somalia in 1991, a move fiercely opposed by Mogadishu and not recognised internationally. Somaliland has often been seen as a beacon of stability in the chaotic Horn of Africa region, although political tensions surfaced there earlier this year, spilling over into deadly violence. Under the Djibouti pact, the two sides agreed on a roadmap for talks in 30 days as well as collaboration on security and the fight against organised crime, and pledged to work together on peace and stability in



◆ Turkish authorities have detained scores of suspects over alleged links with Islamic State group jihadists in a nationwide sweep ahead of New Year celebrations, the interior minister said yesterday. Posting on X, formerly Twitter, Ali Yerlikaya said that 189 suspects had been detained as part of simultaneous operations dubbed "HEROES-38" carried out in 37

cities including Istanbul. Twenty-seven suspects were detained in the capital Ankara alone and 22 in Istanbul, he said. Turkey has in recent months intensified

operations against IS jihadists who have claimed a number of deadly attacks on Turkish soil including the January 1, 2017 attack on a nightclub in Istanbul dismisses claims which killed 39 people. Tigray on brink of

◆ The Ethiopian government yesterday dismissed warnings by the Tigray authorities that the war-ravaged region was on the brink of famine. Getachew Reda, the president of Tigray's interim administration, said on Friday that 91 percent of the population was "exposed to the risk of starvation and death". He likened the situation to the devastating famine in northern Ethiopia in the 1980s that cost the lives of around one million people. But federal

government spokesman Legesse Tulu on Saturday denied the claims, while acknowledging that several million people in northern Ethiopia have been affected by drought as well as flooding. "Recently, a statement that in the Tigray region the crisis is transitioning to a famine and drought that rivals the 1984-85 famine and drought is completely wrong," Legesse said at a televised press briefing in Addis Ababa. However, he said that in several areas of Tigray as well as the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar, 3.8 million people "have encountered drought risk". Another 1.1 million people have been affected by flooding, he said, adding that the federal government had been providing aid to those in need. Getachew had said in a statement on X. formerly Twitter, that Tigray faced a "looming humanitarian catastrophe" because of drought and the lingering effects of the war. The conflict between federal government forces and Tigrayan rebels that erupted in November 2020 killed hundreds of thousands of people by some estimates, and around one million people remain displaced.

SPOTLIGHT

French couple planning to 'sacrifice' son arrested in Spain



Representative picture

Madrid, Spain

Ourday said they had arrest- him to be possessed". ed a French couple earlier Both parents had "psychiin December for planning to atric problems" and were the "sacrifice" in the Sahara their subject of a European arrest five-year-old son, who they warrant for the abduction of a believed to be "possessed". minor, the Guardia Civil add-The couple was arrested on ed.

December 21 in the southern The pair have been remand-Spanish port of Algeciras, as ed in custody by a judge in the family was about to board Spain. a ferry to the Moroccan city of The child is in good health

The Guardia Civil police ception centre for minors in force said in a statement they Spain before being returned had arrested a "couple of to France.

French origin" who "intended to murder their five-year-old C panish authorities on Sat- son in the Sahara, believing

and has been sent to a re-

19 pro-Iran fighters killed in Syria strikes: monitor



A Palestinian man carries the body of a child after it was unearthed from the rubble of a building following an Israeli strike on the Zawayda area of the central Gaza Strip

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

The Syrian Observatory others. for Human Rights said "19 Syrian state media, citing Iraqi border.

It said the raids were "like- "material damage". ly carried out by Israel", after During more than a decade "likely American".

sive strikes overnight".

The Observatory said the positions strikes targeted military po- But it has intensified attacks sitions in Albu Kamal and its since the war between Israel surroundings in Deir Ezzor and Hamas began on October province, adding that a weap- 7, as tensions rise across the ons shipment from Iraq and an Middle East. ammunition warehouse were Iranian state media said an

al-Assad's government, to ex-

pand its presence there.

Later Saturday, the Observair strikes in eastern Syria tory said that "Israeli missiles Air strikes in eastern Syria tory said that Israeli missiles targeted warehouses and bases rael killed at least 19 pro-Iran of pro-Iran groups" in northfighters yesterday, a war mon- ern Syria in an area near the itor said, reporting three more Aleppo airport, killing three dead in the country's north. fighters and wounding several

pro-Iranian fighters, includ- a military source, said that at ing four Syrians, and six Iraqis, around 5:20 pm (1420 GMT), were killed and more than 18 "the Israeli enemy carried were wounded" in at least nine out an air attack... targeting a air strikes overnight near the number of points south of the city of Aleppo", reporting only

earlier indicating they were of civil war in Syria, Israel has launched hundreds of air A US military official, re- strikes on its territory, primariquesting anonymity, said the ly targeting Iran-backed forces "US did not conduct any defenincluding Lebanese Hezbollah fighters as well as Syrian army

Israeli strike on Monday near Israel rarely comments on Damascus killed Razi Moussaindividual strikes targeting vi, a senior commander in the Syria, but it has repeatedly said Quds Force, the foreign operit will not allow arch-foe Iran, ations arm of Iran's Islamic which backs President Bashar Revolutionary Guard Corps.

South Africa files ICJ case accusing Israel of 'genocidal acts' in Gaza

HISTORY

outh Africa launched a case on Friday at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for what it said were "genocidal" acts in Gaza, with Israel rejecting the case "with disgust.'

According to a statement, the ICJ application related to alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention, and said that "Israel has engaged in, is engaging in and risks further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza."

In The Hague application, South Africa also says that Israel has been acting "with the requisite specific

of a \$147.5 million sale of in October.



intent... to destroy Pales- Israeli security forces surround a car which was reportedly used by a Palestinian to ram into Israeli tinians in Gaza as part of soldiers at the entrance of al-Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron in the occupied West Bank

munitions and related equipment fuses, primers and charges be for review by Congress, accord- the Palestinian group carried out territory

Israel, which is battling Hamas The secretary of state has dement said, adding: "It is incum-Israel, which has carried out Israel.

estimated total cost from \$96.51 Army stocks.

earlier this month to approve quiring a new notification, the capability as a deterrent to re- Israeli figures.

US approves 'emergency' sale of munitions to Israel

he United States on Friday conflict that began with a shock exists that requires the imme-munitions consistent with inter-that has killed at least 21,507

155mm high-explosive artillery Israel requested that 155mm waiving the normal requirement el-Hamas conflict began when ministry in the Hamas-ruled

to Israel under an emergency pro- added to previous foreign mili- ing to the statement, which said a cross-border attack from Gaza The civilian deaths and the

vision that waives the usual contary sale cases, increasing their the munitions will come from US on October 7 that killed about destruction in Gaza from the

The same provision was used million to \$147.5 million and re-

the sale of nearly 14,000 rounds US Defense Security Cooperation gional threats and to strengthen Following the attack, the Unit-tional image has taken a beating

of 120mm tank ammunition to Agency said in a statement. its homeland defense," the state- ed States rushed military aid to over its continued backing for

announced the approval attack by the Palestinian militants diate sale to the government of national humanitarian law." people, mostly women and chil

in Gaza in a highly destructive termined that "an emergency bent on all countries to employ a relentless campaign in Gaza

the broader Palestinian na- recalled all its diplomats tional, racial and ethnical from the country.

Israel rejected the charge, its ambassador in South Afwith disgust the blood libel its decisions. spread by South Africa and It can also order emer-

In the ICJ filing, South the full resolution of cases, Africa asks the court to which can take many years.

been a vocal supporter of el-Hamas war. the Palestinian cause, with ICC chief prosecutor Kathe ruling African National rim Khan said South Africa, against apartheid.

1,140 people, mostly civilians, ac- Israeli campaign has caused a

Israel" of the weaponry, thereby The latest round of the Isra- dren, according to the health

China tensions rising, US revives WWII-era Pacific airfield

Israel in turn has recalled with Israeli foreign min-rica. Decisions by the ICJ, istry spokesman Lior Hai- which judges disputes beat writing on X, formerly tween states, are final -- but Twitter: "Israel rejects it has no means of enforcing

its application" to the ICJ. gency measures pending

protect against further, se- In November five counvere and irreparable harm tries, including South Afto the rights of the Palestin-rica, called for an International Criminal Court South Africa has long investigation into the Isra-

Congress (ANC) party often Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comolinking it to its own struggle ros and Djibouti -- all ICC members -- had sought an Pretoria has strongly con- investigation of "the situdemned Israel's response to ation in the state of Pales-

handout picture released by the Venezuelan Armed Forces on December

29, 2023, shows Venezuelan fighter jets and frigates conducting military

British warship in Guyana waters,

fanning tensions with Venezuela

on Friday, further fueling Guyana border, in response to tensions over a territorial dis- Britain sending a warship to pute with Venezuela, which the area in a show of support has launched a major military to its former colony. exercise in response to what Britain said Friday the Veneit termed an "unacceptable" zuelan military exercises were

exercises near the sea in dispute with Guyana

AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

ry, but has long been claimed ment."

by Caracas.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday or-ABritish warship arrived dered over 5,600 troops to join a "defensive" exercise near the

"unjustified and should cease."

Venezuela and Guyana have London diverted the patrol been locked in a land dispute vessel HMS Trent to Guyana over the oil-rich Essequibo "as part of a series of engageregion which makes up about ments in the region during her two-thirds of Guyana's territo- Atlantic patrol task deploy-

UN Security Council calls for Afghan special envoy

AFP | United Nations, United

and its Taliban leaders.

ghanistan following the return gust 2021.

It followed an independent The resolution was adopted assessment report issued in after 13 members of the Securi-November which called for ty Council voted in favor, while greater engagement with Af- Russia and China abstained.

The United Nations Securi- The resolution calls on the lution on Friday calling for the Guterres to name a special enappointment of a special envoy voy to promote the independfor Afghanistan to increase en- ent report's recommendations, gagement with the country particularly regarding gender

to open a range of flexible military

the north of the island.

to power of the Taliban in Au-

and human rights.

China expels nine army officials from parliament: media

military officials from its moves in the military estabparliament, including four lishment since defence mingenerals of the army's strate- ister Li Shangfu was abruptly gic missile unit, in a sweeping sacked in October following reshuffle following the ap- months of speculation about pointment of a new defence his whereabouts. Appointed

munist Party.

No explanation was given strategic post.

for the officials' removal.

Their removal is one of a se-♦ hina has expelled nine ries of high-level restructuring in March, Li disappeared from The decision, announced public view in August before late on Friday by the state being formally dismissed in news agency Xinhua came af- October. On Friday Beijing ter a meeting of the Central appointed Dong Jun as the Committee of the ruling Com- new defence minister, ending a months-long vacancy in the

Ukrainian strikes in Russia kill four, officials

Moscow, Russia

ing three children in the Rus- said. "The Ukrainian armed rod and Bryansk over the past Belgorod. According to pre-Saturday. Ukrainian attacks in are two dead children and inthe city of Belgorod killed one jured," governor Vyacheslav man late Friday and two chil- Gladkov said.

dren on Saturday, while a child Ukrainian strikes killed at was also killed by shelling in least four people includthe Bryansk region, officials sian border regions of Belgo- forces shelled the centre of 24 hours, local officials said liminary information, there

AFP | Washington, United States

In the middle of the Pacific Locean, an abandoned US airfield once key to dropping the nuclear bomb on Japan -- and nearly lost to history amid encroaching forest -- is being revived.

But as the Americans hack away at the jungle overgrowth at Tinian island airfield and other old, World War II-era bases across the region, it won't be with Japan on their mind.

Rather, it's Beijing's growing influence in the Pacific that is spurring the recovery of a slew of abandoned runways on the 40 square-mile (100 square-kilometer) speck of land that makes up Tinian, part of the US territory of the Northern Mariana Islands.



II-era airfields has provided Pa- comes amid a serious military Defense's 2022 planning docu- ian airport are already underway, gust 9 of that year, the planes that executable avenue to enhance -- and as China builds its own new Strategy, reads. infrastructure in the region," a spokesperson told AFP.

bases in the region, including in spokesperson told AFP.

Tinian's old military airfield "has extensive pavement under-"has extensive pavement under-"

and partners," it did not mention fashion the Indo-Pacific region kei Asia. what officials have described as preferences," the Department of ment" at the island's nearby civil- Including, on August 6 and Au- Service (CRS).



"Rehabilitation of World War "an extensive" facility on Tinian

Though the statement men- "The most comprehensive and neath the overgrown jungle. We'll If little known now, the airfield some 200,000 people. tioned a "sense of urgency" en- serious challenge to US national be clearing that jungle out be- at Tinian was perhaps the most In the last three years, money abling PACAF to "enhance... war- security is the (People's Republic tween now and summertime," Air important -- and the busiest -- in annually allocated to Indo-Pafighting capability and improve of China's) coercive and increas- Force General Kenneth Wilsbach the world in 1945, as its six hastily cific military construction costs deterrent posture alongside Allies ingly aggressive endeavor to re- recently told Japanese outlet Nik- built runways played host to US has doubled, from \$1.8 billion in and the international system to Meanwhile, military projects sions against Japan, some 1,500 2023, according to a recent report But Washington's plans for suitits interests and authoritarian for "fuel and airfield develop- miles (2,300 kilometers) away. from the Congressional Research

cific Air Forces (PACAF) a rapidly pivot to the Pacific in recent years ment, called the National Defense according to the PACAF spokes- dropped nuclear bombs on Hiro-

B-29 bombers carrying out mis- 2020 to just shy of \$3.6 billion in

"Little Boy" and "Fat Man," as

the weapons were known, killed

Tinian isn't the only World War II-era base being revamped: new defense appropriations also include money for construction at Basa Air Base in the Philippines

It's part of a Pentagon strategy No 'super bases'

bases, able to operate outside of Tinian isn't the only World the larger, longstanding installa- War II-era base being revamped: tions in Japan, South Korea and new defense appropriations also the American island territory of include money for construction at Basa Air Base in the Philip-On Tinian, initial work started pines, "along with ongoing pronear the civilian airport in Feb- jects" at the Royal Australian ruary 2022, before extending to- Air Force's Darwin and Tindal ward the World War II airfield on bases, according to the PACAF

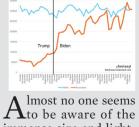
spokesperson. Within two years, tarmac reha- "A lot of our strategy there is oilitation and the construction of taking many of the World War fuel tanks are set to be completed, II airfields that frankly are overat a budget of at least \$162 mil- grown by the jungle, and there's lion, part of contingency plans still concrete or asphalt underin the event "access to Andersen neath," Wilsbach said in a Sep-

Air Force Base or other western tember speech. Pacific locations is limited or "We're not making super bases denied," according to Air Force anywhere. We're looking for a financial documents reviewed place to get some fuel and some weapons, maybe get a bite to eat and take a nap and then get air-

borne again.' Satellite images already show the extent of the work underway, including a new tarmac built just north of the civilian airport.

Not far off, satellite images show other military developments -- from China, which has created artificial islets among the diplomatically contested Spratly Islands, used to host its own air

@SecBlinken



@elonmusk

Disclaimer: (Views expressed editorial stance)





Achartered flight from the @WHO Global Logistics Hub landed in Port #Sudan yesterday with 34 MT of emergency health supplies & equipment for the diagnosis & treatment of #cholera, #malaria & other life-threatening illnesses to protect the

health of vulnerable pop-

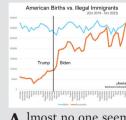
ulations in Sudan.



1023 has been a par-Licularly deadly year for journalists who work in conflict zones. As journalists stand up for truth, the world must stand with them.

@antonioguterres

Ukraine todav. As Putin continues his brutal war of aggression, we must support Ukraine in defending itself. Congress needs to act in the new



immense size and lightning growth of this issue. According to the mayors, it is already overwhelming essential services in New York, Chicago and other cities.

by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our

Cher: People are 'nicer' at **Christmas**

Celebretainment | Los **Angeles**

↑her thinks Christmas ✓ makes people "nicer".

The 77-year-old singer who has Chaz, 54, and Elijah, 47, from her previous marriages - believes the festive season brings out the best in everyone and makes them appreciate what they

She told Britain's OK! magazine: "People are nicer, you know, they're kind of somehow on their best behaviour. Christmas brings out that in people, I think. It's a great time of year to just try to stop what you've been doing and concentrate on being happy with your family and your friends and doing things for people that are not as fortunate. It's a time where you feel the

Despite her global fame, the 'Turn Back Time' hitmaker insisted her own Christmas celebrations are always "normal" and "traditional"

She said: "I have lots of really young friends and I've got children. I'm like the old woman in the shoe when it comes to godchildren.

"We just do normal Christmas things. I don't know, I never plan it. I could be dancing or could be in the kitchen putting mashed potatoes on everybody's plates. That's how we do it.

'There's turkey and dressing and pumpkin pies. We're very traditional when it comes to celebrating the dinner. Everybody expects

"We have a long line and then everyone just takes their own, what they want.

'We always have a party though, and decorate the house."

D e spite her flamboyant persona, Cher insisted she can actually be very "shy". Cher



Celebretainment | Los Angeles a great antidote to

Zac Efron loves to "disconlife in Los nect" in nature when he's Angeles finished a project.

The 36-year-old actor can be. find his "true self" again in the great outdoors and needs to do that to decompress after he's completed work on a role before he can reconnect with his loved ones.

He told The Rake magazine: "When filming is done I need to disconnect.

"Be out in nature and let the character drift out of me and I then find my true self again.

"The best place for me to do that if not in nature is to be somewhere new

"I think you need to re-engage with who you are before you head back ad try to be with your friends and family."

The 'Iron Claw' actor loves getting to travel and immersing himself in a new culture, which he sees as

He said: "One of the how "small" When filming is done I c a n need to disconnect. Be out in nature and let the character drift out of me and I then find my true self again. The best place for me to do that if not

in nature is to be somewhere new. I think you need to reengage with who you are before you head back ad try to be with your friends just for and family press, being ZAC EFRON

Zac Efron

called across to Japan for 'Hairspray' and I got to see Japanese culture and I was really taken with that.

biggest blessings

of my journey

is that I've

been able

to travel

from a

young

age.

"At

t h e

be-

gin-

ning

it was

really

"That curiosity in me kept growing and usually if I am not working then I will be on a trip finding something new.

"A new part of the world, trying the food, meeting the people, finding out as much about their culture as possible.

"It is a great way to live, and it opens your eyes to something much bigger than Hollywood, it can all feel very small if you're stuck in LA and I was stuck there for quite a few years."

Natalie Portman had never seen Star Wars before being cast

Celebretainment | Los Angeles words and names before you

Tatalie Portman had nevuntil she was cast in the fran-

played Padme Amidala in she wasn't "comfortable" 1999 prequel 'The Phantom shooting a sex scene for the Menace' and its 2002 and 2005 film, she was thankful there sequels, and though she was was an intimacy coordinator "aware of the lingo" of the sci-fi world, she hadn't actually sat through any of the original trilogy.

She admitted to Radio Times magazine: "I didn't know the films at all before I was cast!

"I was aware of the lingo, as American culture is so immersed in 'Star Wars'.

"Even you've never seen the movies, you know what Princess Leia buns are, what a lightsaber is, what a Jedi is, you know who Yoda and Obi-Wan are... you know all these **Natalie Portman**

even see the films.

"But I only saw the films er seen a 'Star Wars' film when I was approached to do

Natalie can next be seen in The 42-year-old actress 'May December' and although

on board to guide her through it.

She said: "It's never comfortable. And we just figured it out between ourselves. I think we all had a very good, open communica-

"But I think intimacy coordinators can be really wonderful, especially in environments that are uncomfortable or hostile. It can be helpful to have some sort of structure around it."

Eminem seeks protective order against Gizelle Bryant, Robyn Dixon in trademark dispute case

ANI | Los Angeles

 ${f R}$ apper Eminem's legal beef the subjects at issue." The documents also wives of Potomac' stars Gizelle that the motion filed by Bry-

As per People magazine, Eminem requested a protective order against Gizelle and who first opposed Robyn on December 15 in their their trademark ongoing trademark dispute application back case regarding their trademark in February 2023. application for the name of the Reasonably Shady podcast.

In the filing, the rapper opposed the TV personalities' re- Gizelle and quest made in late October Robyn filed that he appear in person for to tradea deposition.

The Grammy winner, podcast's name who has long been recog- in order to sell nized by the Slim Shady merchandise. and Shady monikers and Eminem's owns the trademark to team filed an use on his merch and re- opposition to cords, cited in the filing that, claiming that it would be "unduly it could cause burdensome" for him to consumer conbe deposed himself due fusion.

to his "limited knowledge of

The documents also argued Bryant and Robyn Dixon rages ant, 53, and Dixon, 44, was "premature and procedurally improper," as they "have yet to serve" Mathers,

The trade-

mark battle began after mark their

Eminem

Kevin Hart suing YouTuber LaTasha Kebe over interview 'ransom' threat

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

evin Hart is suing You-Tuber LaTasha Kebe.

The comic, 44, has taken a case of extortion against the influencer, known as Tasha K, after she allegedly threatened to release a bombshell interview with his former assistant unless he paid her a six-figure

According to a lawsuit ob- damaging nature" tained by Page Six, LaTasha sat of the interview as down with Kevin's former a "threat to Hart" assistant Miesha Shakes for not paying the

in November to record a "ransom" allegedly chat in which the latter demanded. made "false and defamatory statements regarding Hart".

Kevin claims that statement from after the interview an Kebe at the 2:06 alleged associate of mark of the vid-LaTasha's called his eo specificalteam and threatened to ly warning 'publish the interview that, 'When unless Hart paid a ran- you don't som of \$250,000".

At the time, they alleg- to get money

told during the sit-down, which were linked his marriage and business dealings, would be "damaging" to his reputation.

LaTasha is then said to have posted a "teaser" for the interview in which she and

Miesha allegedly "touted the supposedly salacious and

The lawsuit said: "The teaser included a pay, we have

edly warned Kevin the stories by any means necessary."

At that point, Kevin's team allegedly contacted police and sent LaTasha a cease and desist letter, noting that Miesha had previously signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement as well as a Confidentiality Agreement while working for Kevin from 2017 until 2020.

But on 22 December 22, LaTasha allegedly told Kevin she would be posting the full interview, which went live that evening on her subscription-based web-

> site. Kevin is now suing both women for extortion and invasion of privacy and suing

Miesha for breach of contract and defamation.

Kevin Hart

SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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How to play Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column own and each 9-box square contains all

CROSSWORD

Across 1- Basics: 5- Wild party: 9- Mimic: 13- Wyoming resource: 14- Politico Kefauver: 16- Actress Hatcher; 17- Kachina doll maker; 18- Onto; 19- Follow; 20- Recipe amt.; 21- Low island; 22-Compel by intimidation: 24- Lowly worker: 26- Molecular component: 27- Body of salt water 29- Meat fat; 33- Mission-stopping command; 34- Mower brand; 35- Kit item; 36- President pro_; 37- Massenet opera; 38- Song syllable; 39- Gave the once-over; 41- Don Juan's mother; A2- Plait; 44- Keep at a distance; 46- Mikhail's wife; 47- Now_me down...; 48- Campus mil. group; 49- Asian deer; 52- Distress call; 53- Lyric poems; 57- No_!; 58- Plant problem; 60- Playthings; 61- Earth Day subj.; 62- Floor worker; 63- Legal wrong; 64- Pigeon coop; 65- Ruse: 66- Mars, to the Greeks

Down

1- Zwei cubed; 2- Simpleton; 3- Hats; 4- Cinderella candidate; 5- Lighthouse; 6- Dam extending across the Nile; 7- Corset stiffener; 8- Part of H.R.H.; 9- Try; 10- Fleshy fruit; 11- Actor Stoltz; 12- Make angry; 15- Subdivision; 23- Alley—; 25- Devour; 26- __ con pollo; 27- Follows orders; 28- Celestial body; 29- Recipient; 30- Little bits; 31- Water wheel; 32- Delighted; 33- To (perfectly); 34- Sharp; 37- Mosque tower; 40- Trickle; 42- Cricket need; 43- Soft cheese; 45- In the manner of; 46- Series of prayers; 48- Lover of Juliet; 49- Blueprint detail, for short; 50- With the bow, in music; 51- Debatable; 52- Offer; 54- Entrance; 55- Bronte heroine;

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Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020030 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL KHALEEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaleei@hotmail.com

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

AL ASRIA CONSTRUCTION Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34461253 or ALASRIACONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM

Charcoal Gourmet Burger Snack W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020031 or GOURMETBURGERBAH@GMAIL.COM

ALPHA KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND REFRIGERATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39956377 or BERNARD@ALPHABH.NET

HAJI YOUNAS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33808409 or Wasiyounas7@gmail.com

VNSB CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34178733 or VIJESHMAYYANNUR@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL KHALEEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaleei@hotmail.com

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@ macbh.com

Clean and green services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17792434 or

cleangreenbh@gmail.com
Al hallaq gate for Construction of buildings
company bahraini pa has a vacancy for the
occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified
applicants can contact 17555536 or INFO@

applicants can contact 17555536 or INFO@ ALHALLAQ.COM
PLAN FUTURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably

for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111135 or SHSUFYAN.0302@GMAIL.COM

ITALIAN HOUSE REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37150700 or DEELAW135@GMAIL.COM

TAJ MAHAL TOWERS CONTRACTING AND GENERAL TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66371998 or BADARMOHAMMAD186@YAHOO.COM

JIDALI FOR STATIONERY AND PHOTOCOPY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36779152 or JIDALICOPY@GMAIL.

PAK KASHMIR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33472787 or NAMEEK150@GMAIL.COM

ABU USAMA GENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34569303 or CRWORKSBH@GMAIL.COM

P S P CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38268013 or DHARMANDRA72012@GMAIL.COM

VARGHESE GARAGE SPARE PARTS
W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation
of PAINTER(METAL SPRAYER), suitably
qualified applicants can contact 33697675 or
TECHNOVRG@GMAIL.COM

RIGHT WAY INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33120290 or HIJABLODHI.HL@GMAIL.COM AL JONOBIA BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33788886 or AALDOSERI71@GMAIL.COM

B S G CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING STRUCTURES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66968294 or

TOFEEQRAJA121@GMAIL.COM
SHAHZAD NASEEM CARGO HANDLING
W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of
WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can
contact 66755077 or SHAHZAD.NASEEM99@

GMAIL.CC

REALTIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38202577 or SHAHZAD.NASEEM99@GMAIL. COM

DEXOOM DIGITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33672661 or DEXOOM. BH@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD IRFAN REAL ESTATE BAHRAINI
PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy
for the occupation of WORKER, suitably
qualified applicants can contact 34541886 or
IMRANHAFEEZ455@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED HASAN AHMED BUHMAID)
KHUDHUR(8601 has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39029606 or khalilbuhmaid@hotmail.com

SALEH AHMED SALEH BAHAR / NAJEM ALSAMAA-7628 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39282709 or BAHARSALEH9@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO. COM.BH

ASB SECURITY SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35070603 or MAGICSHINE775@YAHOO.COM AHMADI INDUSTRIES B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271333 or HR@ AHMADIPEPSI.COM

KAFLAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39871069 or ADEL. JABBER@WPHOME.COM

Al enma house for security services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

AL ROBA FOR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably gualified applicants, can contact 3350653 or

qualified applicants can contact 33529523 or BHINDERG052@GMAIL.COM
SENON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES

REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37469002 or ASANKAACC@ YAHOO.COM

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST

vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

BASHIR 88 FACILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34419817 or BASHIRSGD72@GMAIL. COM

GHULAM MURTAZA AND SONS COMPANY
WLL has a vacancy for the occupation
of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants
can contact 17255801 or ABUKHALID@
GHULAMMURTAZA.COM

Mahmood akbar alireza co w I I has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39676758 or info@maargcms.com

ABDULHADI ALAFOO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alafoo@ batelco.com.bh

Uco Engineering W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36216664 or hr@bakgroup.net

bakgroup.net

Al wasm Ironing clothes has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/
PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39639093 or

Mohdalkaabi26@outlook.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

NASSER SAEED AL-HÄJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO. COM.BH

ASB SECURITY SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY

GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35070603 or MAGICSHINE775@YAHOO.COM KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

Regency hotel has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227777 or MOHAMMED.SANAD@IHG.COM

ALAMSAL CONSTRUCITIONG CO has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17775816 or AMSALWLL@YAHOO.COM

RAIHANA CORNER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17239612 or KHALIFA.BAHAR@HOTMAIL.

AL AYYAM WATER DISTRIBUTION has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35021314 or daljeet.s.sekhon@gmail.com

Ramko carment factory has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39857788 or badooh@ gmail.com

GULF PEARL HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217333 or isaali22bh@gmail.com

WADI ALI FOOD STUFFS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39394411 or otaibi5575@ gmail.com

HAMEEDA MOHAMMED ABDULRAZZAQ has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or BUZAAL1970@GMAIL.COM

FADHEL JUMA MULLA ABDULLA
ALI has a vacancy for the occupation of
BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants
can contact 39255886 or HARIS.PATLA3@
GMAIL.COM

ISFAHANI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742428 or admin@ isfahanigroup.com

ERNST & YOUNG - MIDDLE EAST has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38899982 or SARA_EBRAHIM@BH.EY.COM

ALBAROON AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILES MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36681223 or XBAHRAIN@HOTMAIL. COM

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO. COM.BH

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVLOPMENT
CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of
MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact
17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667181 or mjmh69@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

WESTMINSTER GULF CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39453805 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET ALAALI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17566444 or alaalico@batelco.com.bh

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

Manar Alomran Scaffoldings Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36992388 or bahrain@manar.com.sa Palace art trading co. w.l.l has a vacancy

qualified applicants can contact 33336717 or DEEPAK1974@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVLOPMENT

CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of

for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably

CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO.

ARAB Union Contracting Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

Golden Connections for Electrical Services
Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the
occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified
applicants can contact 39394642 or INFO@
KADI RH

JASIM MOHAMED BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37090204 or JASIMBH72@GMAIL.COM ALI JUMA MARHOON AHMED - NIWAT BUMTAYR -13022 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39446717 or ALI.JUMA. MARHOON79@GMAIL.COM

NANA SUPERM has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36540555 or abdullatheefnana@gmail.

METALS OF BAHRAIN CO. W .L .L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830707 or TAWFIQ@MEBA.BH

ALMANSOORI CATERING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786006 or MANSURI@BATELCO.COM.BH

AB EBAHIM ELECTRICAL WDRICSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39656528 or FARDAN 83@HOTMAIL.COM

PADEL YARD has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OPERATING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777509 or NAFIE@ BATELCO.COM.BH

BAKAK LUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39232232 or ENTESAR. E1971@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVLOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM CITY GLASSES W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39813203 or acityglass@

STARCO CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39688440 or MMSBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

BAYT ALWAFA FOR ABAYAS has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36311147 or UMISA4943@GMAIL.COM

UQMAN ALHADDAD CONTRACTING
W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation
of BLACKSMITH (GENERAL), suitably
qualified applicants can contact 17730091 or
SWEETLOQ@YAHOO.COM

AL MAHOOZ SHOEMAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667573 or ALWESAM71@HOTMAIL COM

AL MUTANABI AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699269 or

qualified applicants can contact 39699269 or ESHEHABI@HOTMAIL.COM

On spot computer has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or

UMZAAL1975@GMAIL.COM

JAHECON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAHECON@

BATELCO.COM.BH

CAMEL READY CLOTHES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39411711 or

CAMEL-GROUP@HOTMAIL.COM

DSV SOLUTIONS B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17461000 or safa.naser@dsv.com

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

ARAB Union Contracting Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

WESTMINSTER GULF CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39453805 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.

NFT

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVLOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM Hertel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633899 or MOHAMMED.QASSIM@ HERTEI COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or HR.ADMIN@HAJIHASSAN.COM PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

BAHRAIN TOURISM COMPANY - CROWNE PLAZA BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINEE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17746318 or hussain. almajed@gulfhotelsgroup.com

AL YASEEN ELECTR ICAL CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1729/1154 or A Y A Y@HOTMAIL.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

FLORA CONTRACTING MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623882 or accounts@florabh.com

ALEZZ CONTRACTING MECHANICAL SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258381 or admin@ alezzco.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

Mohammed Noor Bukhari Restuarant has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36061136 or sm.alkhabbaz@hotmail.com

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@

Prince Plus Burger has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17321000 or Prince@ mediaco.com

RED FOX AUTO SERVICS has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33662622 or MALNOOH1973@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

JOOD LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33895962 or MD8888DM@GMAIL.COM

REEF AL YEMEN RESTAURANTS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000422 or WHAIDARAH@GMAIL.COM URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajilnath@

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO. COM BH

AL MOHAMMEDIA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39016666 or MIAN35ALI@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or

hrd@dreamgroup.bh

TEZGAM SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33266232 or TEZGAM1122@GMAIL.COM

SUPUN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of
WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can
contact 33249820 or MASIMMAHI743@GMAIL.

ALSOWALEF COFFEE SHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33967764 or BUDANAH2@HOTMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ASEPES LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39113901 or ANESBABUKM@GMAIL.COM

ANEESBABUKM@GMAIL.COM

Nesma Studio Fashions has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39662647 or admin@

naseemalandalos.com

THEJUS GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33777401 or DAWN.JACOB@THEJUSGROUP.

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or htd@dreamgroup.bh

occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39118101 or YJARADI@ HOTMAIL.COM
CLEAR VISION OPTICAL W L L has a vacancy

LAVIE PERFUME has a vacancy for the

for the occupation of SALES EXCUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38384025 or ACCOUNTS@CLEARVISIONME.COM

AVAILABLE TRADE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 34035017 or EVERGREENDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM GOLDEN EAGLE LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39787710 or

SIDIII.66@GMAIL.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L
has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER
(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can
contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

Bahrain mechanical construction co. w.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725027 or BAMCO@BAMCOGROUP.NET TASTY PLAZA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for

qualified applicants can contact 17783636 or AALAALI@HOTMAIL.COM **EVA BEAUTY SALON** has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17595797 or evasalonw@

the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably

gmail.com

USMANS NEW LOOK SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33379334 or

USMAN_DC@YAHOO.COM
Green square power technologies and control solutions has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17640732 or ALAWAMIHVAC@

HOTMAIL.CO.UK

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ASRAR ALNAIZAK BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39056893 or AIDAK88@YAHOO.COM

NASSER SAEED AL-HAJRI CORPORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17312220 or AHCGLOBE@BATELCO. COM.BH

UMM ALSUBBAN MECHANICAL CONTRACTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17491190 or usmc@batelco.com.bh

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

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Nadal draws qualifier at comeback tournament in Brisbane



AFP | Brisbane

 ${f R}$ afael Nadal avoided meet- or Australian wildcard Jason Kubler in the second round, comeback tournament after drawing a qualifier in the Brisbane International, with Rus- ter-final opponent. sia's Aslan Karatsev a potential second-round opponent.

has been out of the game for almost 12 months following hip surgery after the 2023 Australian Open in January.

It was feared that Nadal, the in 2013. winner of 22 Grand Slam singles titles, would never play professionally again.

However, he has fought his way back and was granted a number 84 Tamara Korpatsch wildcard to the season-opening Brisbane International in makes her highly anticipated preparation for the first Grand Slam of the year at Melbourne Park beginning January 14.

While he missed out on facing a seed, there are plenty of peting in Brisbane qualifying, 2022. including 2020 US Open cham-Schwartzman.

If Nadal advances, he will play eighth-seeded Karatsev with fourth seed Ugo Humbert lurking as a potential quar-

Britain's Andy Murray drew second-seeded Bulgarian Grig-The 37-year-old Spaniard or Dimitrov in an intriguing first-round clash.

> Murray is a two-time winner of the Brisbane International, and beat Dimitrov in the final

> In the women's draw, fourtime Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka will be pitted against Germany's world in the opening round as she

The Japanese star, who gave birth to daughter Shai in July and has previously struggled with her mental health, has accomplished players com- not played since September

If she sees off Korpatsch, she pion Dominic Thiem and for- will face three-time Brisbane mer world number eight Diego champion Karolina Pliskova in the second round.

Luiz sends Aston Villa joint top of Premier League, Man City close in

AFP | London

Douglas Luiz's late penalty took Aston Villa joint top of the Premier League with a 3-2 win over 10-man Burnley yesterday as Manchester City closed on the leaders by sweeping aside Sheffield United 2-0.

It looked like a festive season to forget for Villa was set to continue after dropping points at home for the first time this season to Sheffield United and blowing a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at Manchester United on Boxing

in off the underside of the bar (R) sent Unai Emery's men level on points with Liverpool at the top of the table and break Burnley

home side was quickly cancelled out by Zeki Amdouni.

Moussa Diaby restored Villa's lead before half-time and they final 35 minutes after Sander utes when the Spanish midfield-

But Villa's high line is begging into the far corner. to be picked off by opponents and Lyle Foster timed his run filled Haaland's shoes as the to blast past Emi Martinez 19 minutes from time.

as Jhon Duran was upended cross just after the hour mark.



But Luiz's spot-kick that crept Manchester City's Julian Alvarez (C) vies with Sheffield United's Oliver Norwood

inside the box and Luiz fired home.

Leon Bailey's opener for the Haaland for a seventh consecutive game due to a foot injury, City were never troubled by the

bottom-of-the-table Blades. Rodri ended Sheffield Unit-Berge saw a second yellow card. er surged forward and fired low

Julian Alvarez again ably itors a 2-0 half-time lead. Argentine tapped in his fourth appeared to have ridden out a gation battle were eased by the There was a final twist though points safe from Phil Foden's er's classy finish made it 3-0.

City move alongside Arsenal on 40 points, just two points the 65th minute. We needed to Despite missing Erling behind Villa and Liverpool, who are in action at home to Newcastle on Monday.

Chelsea snapped a run of four consecutive away defeats thanks to Cole Palmer's double but had had a man advantage for the ed's resistence after just 14 min- to withstand a nervy finale to beat Luton 3-2.

Powerful strikes from Palmer and Noni Madueke gave the vis-

goal in three games to make the second half storm when Palm-

Former Chelsea midfielder Selhurst Park.

We controlled the game until the 65th minute. We needed to win and we deserved the result

MAURICIO POCHETTINO

Ross Barkley sparked a Luton revival and Elijah Adebayo bundled home from close range to set up a thrilling finale.

"That is the Premier League. Luton are a team that fight until the end, you could see that from their games against Liverpool and Arsenal and Man City and Newcastle," said Pochettino.

"We controlled the game until win and we deserved the result."

Luton remain just one point adrift of safety as Everton slumped to a 3-0 defeat at Wolves.

Max Kilman, Matheus Cunha and Craig Dawson were on target for Gary O'Neil's men, who secured a third win in seven

Any fears that Crystal Palace Mauricio Pochettino's men could be dragged into the rele-Eagles first win in nine games as Brentford were beaten 3-1 at

Thunder end Nuggets winning streak, Bucks rally to beat Cavs

AFP | Los Angeles

The Denver Nuggets' six-**1** game winning streak came to an end on Friday with the defending NBA champions failing to a 119-93 loss at home to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 points for the Thunder, shooting 14 of 20 from the Oklahoma City Thunder's Shai field and making 10 out of 10 Gilgeous-Alexander shoots the ball



free throws.

The win moves the Thunder above the Nuggets into second place in the West on 21-9, behind eaders Minnesota (23-7).

The Nuggets' Serbian star Nikola Jokic made 19 points formance. shooting nine of 10 from the

gave up seven turnovers. break and extended their lead to ty good nights," he said.

20 points by the end of the third quarter.

It was the fifth time this season that Gilgeous-Alexander enjoyed a 40-point game and he said it was a "super fun" per-

"We have so many weapons field and had ten rebounds but on the floor that I get to play in space and when I play in space, The Thunder led 54-48 at the in my comfort zone, I have pret-



Bahrain's sporting triumphs: A glance at 2023's headline-making achievements

Bahrain's prominent place on the international sporting map is undeniable. From the world-class sportsmen and women to the Kingdom's hosting of some of the biggest international events in all kinds of sports, the tiny island nation is "punching above its weight" as it continues to further cement its status as a global sporting powerhouse. TDT takes a look back at some of the biggest sporting achievements that made the headlines in 2023.

HH Shaikh Nasser crowned endurance horseracing world champion



His Majesty the King's humanitarian work and youth affairs representative and Royal Endurance Team captain His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa registered another major accomplishment in his illustrious sporting career, by winning the FEI World Endurance Championship held at the Boudheib International Endurance Village in the UAE in February. HH Shaikh Nasser won the 160-kilometre race, which featured 126 male and female riders representing 36 countries from around the world.

Verstappen cruises to victory in season-opening **Bahrain Grand Prix**

Max Verstappen cruised to victory at the Bahrain Grand Prix, stamping his authority on the season in the opening race at **Bahrain International Circuit**



Bahrain enjoy best-ever Asian Games medal haul in Hangzhou



Bahrain enjoyed the Kingdom's best-ever performance at the Asian Games after bagging 20 medals at the 15th edition of the quadrennial, multi-sport event, held in Hangzhou, China. Bahrain's team of world-class athletes captured 12 gold, three silver and five bronze medals to finish an impressive ninth overall on the final medal standings. They were the top-ranked Arab national team amongst the total 41 countries from across the continent to step onto a podium.

Winfred bags world title in sensational 2023 athletics season

Bahraini elite athlete Winfred Yavi achieved one of the Kingdom's biggest individual accolades of the year, capturing the women's 3.000 metres steeplechase world title at the **World Athletics Championships 2023** held in Budapest, Hungary

Spirit Dancer races to Bahrain International Trophy victory!

The fifth running of the Bahrain International Trophy, and the first following the race's Elevation to Group 2 status, produced a memorable result and scenes of jubilation as the six- year-old gelding Spirit Dancer, coowned and bred by Sir Alex Ferguson, scored a decisive victory to land the winner's share of the \$1million prize fund. In front of an excited crowd at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), Spirit Dancer, ridden by Oisin Orr and trained by Richard Fahey, came clear of the finish for second and third place. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, was in attendance and he presented Sir Alex with the Bahrain International Trophy

BRAVE CF sets new records



Founded under the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, BRAVE Combat Federation officially entered the record books this year by achieving a historic number in its latest event. BRAVE CF 74, which took place in September in Nantes, turned France into the 29th nation to host a BRAVE CF production. It is a world record in mixed martial arts (MMA), with BRAVE becoming the first and only MMA organisation to achieve this number. BRAVE CF hosted four events between December 5 and 15 including the IMMAF Asian Championships

Minasyan claims double in weightlifting worlds

Bahrain's superstar weightlifter Gor Minasyan came away with a superb medal double at the World Weightlifting Championships 2023 held in Riyadh. Competing in the men's +109kg category, Minasyan ciinched siiver in the snatch and a bronze medal for his total lifts

Manama crowned first-ever FIBA WASL champions



Bahrain's Manama Club made basketball history this year after being crowned the first-ever champions of the FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL). The Kingdom's most decorated basketball club and reigning national league champions captured the gold medals in the inaugural edition of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)-sanctioned tournament after defeating Kuwait Sporting Club 67-59 in the gold medal game of the FIBA WASL Final Eight. which came to a close in Dubai



2 Seas Motorsport capture British GT teams' title

Bahraini-British motor racing team 2 Seas Motorsport cliched the GT3 Teams' Championship title in the 2023 Intelligent Money British GT Championship. 2 Seas, co-owned by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, captured the team's historic crown after winning four of the nine races held this past season in their Mercedes AMG-GT3 cars. Drivers James Cottingham and Jonny Adam also finished second and third, respectively, in the GT Drivers' Championship



DP World Tour stars set to compete in Bahrain Championship

The DP World Tour, also known as the PGA European Tour, is set to return to the Kingdom of Bahrain for the first time in 13 years with the Bahrain Championship, scheduled to take place at The Royal Golf Club from 1 to 4 February next year. Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy-chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa penned an agreement earlier this year to bring the major event to the Kingdom. Many of the leading DP World Tour elite stars will be teeing off in the Bahrain Championship, which features a prize fund

Muharraq, Al Khaldiya power through

Muharraq narrowly defeat Riffa on penalties, Al Khaldiya hit four past Ettihad to advance to HM the King's Cup semi-finals

Muharraq edge past Riffa after 5-4 penalty shootout triumph

Al Khaldiya outclass Al Ettihad with resounding 4-0 victory

TDT | Manama

uharraq and Al Khaldiya last night punched their tickets to the semi-finals of the 2023/2024 His Majesty the King's Cup—the richest football tournament in Bahrain.

Muharraq advanced with a 5-4 penalty shootout triumph against Riffa in a thrilling encounter between two of Bahrain's football heavyweights. The match was deadlocked at now set to meet in the final four set to take home BD100,000 in home off a cross from the left tors enjoyed a brilliant start af-1-1 at the end of regular and extra time.

Khaldiya, meanwhile, booked Bahrain Football Association. their berth following a resound-



Muharraq's Waleed Al Hayyam, right, vies for possession with Riffa's Komail Al Aswad during their exciting clash last night

has yet to be scheduled by the to the runners-up.

ing 4-0 victory over Al Ettihad. richest football competition in Manama face off with Al Itti- Khalasi hit a stunning left-footed Muharraq and Khaldiya are the Kingdom, with the winners faq while Busaiteen take on Al strike from several metres out- Yahya Al Dosari.

in a hugely exciting fixture that prize money and BD50,000 going

Matches in the competition's The HM the King's Cup is the quarter-finals continue tonight. 54th minute when Abdulla Al

Muharraq and Al Khaldiya are now set to meet in the final four in a hugely excit-

Ahli. Both games are scheduled

ing fixture

In Muharraq's tight victory, Riffa's Bahrain national team side ahead just two minutes after half-time with a fine low volley from close range. He slotted supplied by Vinicius Vargas Dos

side the penalty area. His shot Abdulkarim Al Fardan.

for the decisive shootout. There, Riffa's Ali Hassan Saeed and Muharraq's Ahmed Al Sherooqi got their respective sides off to a positive start, and then Ali Har- with a penalty in the 66th minam and Hassan Al Karani also converted.

But Lazar Dordevic misfired for Riffa, and Nasser Mohammed put Muharrag ahead. Abdulaziz Humaidan stepped forward to for 5.30pm kick-offs at separate Khaled kept Riffa alive, before take the shot, and he made no Abdulwahab Al Malood coolly sent home for a 4-3 Muharraq advanatge. Al Aswad tied it one star Komail Al Aswad put his last time, and then Waleed Al Hayyam sent Muharraq through with his game-ending penalty.

In Khaldiya's match, the victer opening their account less than 20 seconds after kick-off. Muharraq equalised in the Dominique Mendy was the scorer, sending in a floating shot over opposing goalkeeper Mahboob

Khaldiya then doubled their came after the ball was cleared advantage on the stroke of halfoff a corner-kick, and it bounced time when Abdulla Al Hazza into the net past Riffa goalkeeper headed in from close range after Al Dosari failed to punch the Neither team could find the ball away to safety. His attempt net in extra-time, paving the way to clear went directly towards a waiting Al Hazza in front of goal, and the Khaldiya defender took advantage.

Mahdi Humaidan made it 3-0 ute. Khaldiya were awarded the spot kick after a foul by Ettihad's Emeka Francis Atuloma on Gleison Wilson Da Silva Moreira. mistake with his effort.

Mahdi Abduljabbar made it four for Khaldiya, scoring two minutes from full time after rounding the keeper on a oneon-one and tapping the ball into an empty net.

Veteran Ismaeel Abdullatif could have made it five for Khaldiya after Waleed Al Tayeb was brought down in the box by Ettihad's Haider Abdulla. But he missed his retaken penalty

Nabih Saleh stun Dar Kulaib in volleyball league

Nabih Saleh eke out five-set victory to hand defending champions first loss of season

Al Ahli power past Al Najma in three sets to rise to solo first place on league standings

TDT | Manama

Nabih Saleh posted a stunning five-set victory over defending champions Dar Kulaib to wrap up the fourth week Bahrain Volleyball League.

3-2 (17-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-25, eke out the big win. 15-13) result.

Hussain Ashoor was their their first loss of the entire sea- Al Ahli went to solo first place stage for the Golden Square.



Nabih Saleh blockers look to stop Dar Kulaib's Hassan Alaiwi during their match

Nabih Saleh were the under- Oyedepo added 13. Bahrain sen- in the losing effort. dogs in their contest against for men's national team stars

For Dar Kulaib, who tasted

of play in the Top Six round of leading scorer in the match, son, Mohammed Yaqoob was the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid finishing with14 points, while their top man with 25 points, Nigerian professional Oyewale while Ali Mohammed added 12

Nabih Saleh claimed their the previously undefeated ti- Sayed Hashem Isa and Moham- second victory in four outings is being played in a double tle-holders, but were able to med Jassim also had 13 apiece, to stay in contention for a place round-robin. The first round fight back from a set down and as Nabih Saleh enjoyed a bal- in the Golden Square semi-fi- continues until the first week of come away with a resounding anced effort from their side to nals, while Dar Kulaib stayed January, with the second round on three victories in four games. following soon after from Jan-

after coasting to a well-deserved 3-0 (25-18, 25-22, 25-19) triumph against Al Najma.

Bahraini international Ali Ebrahim scored 13 points to spearhead Ahli, while Mohammed Habib added 10 and Sayed Mohammed Abrar contributed nine. Nasser Anan finished with six markers to fuel the Ahli

For Najma, Swedish professional Jacob Link scored 22 points, but it was not enough to help lift his team to the win. Fadhel Abbas added six and Hassan Dhahi had five.

Ahli extended their undefeated record after four matches in the Top Six as they went to the top with Dar Kulaib's defeat. Najma, on the other hand, suffered their third loss to go with just a single win so far.

The Top Six of the league In another week four contest, uary 7 to 29. That will set the

Recharged Swiatek helps Poland sweep past Brazil in United Cup



Poland's Iga Swiatek hits a return against Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia

AFP | Perth

VV Swiatek helped Poland play freely without any other sweep past Brazil 3-0 at the thoughts to mess up my game." United Cup in Perth on Saturday with Zheng Qinwen stun- acz secured the day's second ning Wimbledon champion win with a 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-3 Marketa Vondrousova as Chi- comeback over Thiago Seyna beat the Czech Republic.

Swiatek led her top-seeded of reach. nation to the opening group after lifting the year-end women's championships last month in Mexico.

"It was peaceful for the first time, I was able to focus on practice and rest," Swiatek number 15. said after dominating Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-2, 6-2.

"I hope to be more dangerous this season -- I'll do my best," she said.

and can concentrate on ten- ka 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in China's maidnis," added the 22-year-old en appearance at the mixed three-time French Open champion.

Haddad Maia showed off her recharged mental strength.

"I worked hard in the pre-season and gained a lot TX forld number one Iga of confidence. I was able to

> Teammate Hubert Hurkboth Wild to put the tie out

Earlier, Zheng served up an win, crediting a calming few upset 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 win over the weeks away from the game seventh-ranked Wimbledon titleholder Vondrousova.

"It was just a normal match for me," said Zheng, the WTA's 2023 Most Improved Player who has risen to be world

"It doesn't matter who I face. I'm happy with the win and excited for my team," the 21-year-old added.

It followed teammate Zhang "I'm having such fun here Zhizhen defeating Jiri Lehecteams tournament.

Zhang held his nerve against Swiatek said the victory over Lehecka in a heavy-hitting clash, with the world number 58 dictating from the baseline.

Poisonous snake stops play at Australia tennis tournament

ominic Thiem's Brisbane International qualifying 🍒 match against Australian James McCabe was suspended for 40 minutes on Saturday after a poisonous snake slithered court-

McCabe had just wrapped up the first set 6-2 against the Austrian 2020 US Open champion when the reptile -- reportedly an eastern brown snake -- was spotted among electrical wires on the side of the court in front of spectators.



A video grab shows experts trying to remove the snake from the court

Play was halted until a snake catcher arrived and managed to tease it into a bag.

Eastern browns are capable of delivering a potent bite and their venom can result in progressive paralysis and uncontrollable bleeding, according to the website of the Australian Museum.

Australia is home to 20 of the world's 25 most venomous, but deaths from bites are rare.

Thiem eventually won the match to move within one victory of the main