

Bahrainis get set for Gulf Cup title-defence

Head coach Helio Sousa steps up final preparations for senior men's national football team in Basra | P12

Ukraine says Russia plans new mobilisation to 'turn tide of war'



Emma Roberts adopts a chihuahua rescue puppy

AIB, KIMSHealth and RBH sign Medical Services Finance deal

Russia blames 'mobile phones'

Moascow

Russia's defense ministry yesterday blamed the illegal use of mobile phones by its soldiers for a deadly Ukrainian missile strike that it said killed 89 servicemen, raising the reported death toll significantly.

Although an official probe has been launched, the main reason for the attack was clearly the illegal mass use of mobile phones by servicemen, the ministry said.

"This factor allowed the enemy to track and determine the coordinates of the soldiers' location for a missile strike," it said in a statement issued yesterday.

Israel demolishes villages structures



A house demolished by Israeli soldiers

Jerusalem

The Israeli military has demolished homes, water tanks and olive orchards in two Palestinian villages in the southern West Bank where some residents are at risk of imminent expulsion, residents and activists said yesterday.

One of the villages whose structures were demolished on Tuesday is part of an arid area of the West Bank known as Masafer Yatta, which the Israeli military has designated as a live-fire training zone.

Some 1,000 residents of the eight hamlets that make up Masafer Yatta are slated for expulsion.

Some 1,000 residents of the eight hamlets that make up Masafer Yatta are slated for expulsion, an order Israel's Supreme Court upheld in May after a two-decade legal battle.

A 'strong force'

HM King hails National Guard 'valiant and brave efforts' to protect Kingdom sovereignty and stability

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has praised the valiant and brave efforts of the National Guard's staff.

HM the King stressed that the National Guard has become a strong force in protecting the country's sovereignty and stability and a dependable source of support to the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and to the Public Security.

His Majesty was speaking as he received National Guard President, General His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and expressed his appreciation of the National Guard competence, progress and high readiness.

The meeting was attended by HM the King's Personal Representative HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, BDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi and senior National Guard officers.

HM the King asked the National Guards President to convey his greetings and congratulations to all the staff and his best wishes of further success.

Royal praise

HM King Hamad praised the joint National Guard and Pa-



HM the King receives the National Guard President who presented him with a memorial gift and a book on Bahrain's achievements

"The National Guard has become a strong force in protecting the country's sovereignty and stability and a dependable source of support to the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and to the Public Security."

- HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA, THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES



kistani Army military exercise Al-Badr-7 in its seventh edition, and stressed that it was part of the cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two

countries stemming from their deep-rooted and robust bonds. The National Guard presented HM the King with a memorial

gift and a book "Royal Vision" that documents the achievements during the prosperous era of His Majesty.

HH Shaikh Mohammed expressed his gratitude to HM the King for the generous care and unlimited support accorded to the National Guard and its affiliates.

Conclusion

The National Guard yesterday concluded the joint drill Al-Badr-7.

General HH Shaikh Mohammed patronised the ceremony, which was held amid the celebrations marking the National Guard's 26th anniversary.

The ceremony was also attended by the BDF Chief of Staff, Pakistani Army Director General of Training and Evaluation Inspector General Lt. Gen. Muhammad Chiragh Haider and other officers.

Jordanian Prime Minister arrives in Bahrain

TDI | Manama

Jordan's Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Dr Bishr Khasawneh, and his accompanying delegation arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday to take part in the fifth meeting of the Bahrain-Jordan Joint Higher Committee.

Dr Khasawneh is on a visit at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Upon arrival at the Bahrain Interna-



The Jordanian Prime Minister with Dr Al Zayani

tional Airport, he was welcomed by Foreign Minister and Head of the Convoy of Honour, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Cabinet Affairs Minister, Ham-

ad bin Faisal Al Maliki, and Muharraq Governor Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai.

He was also welcomed by the Jordanian Ambassador to Bahrain and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Rami Saleh Wriekat Al Adwan, Bahraini Ambassador to Jordan, Ahmed Yousif Al Ruwaie, and Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, Hamad Al Mahmeed, in addition to a number of senior officers from the Bahrain Defence Force, Interior Ministry and National Guard.

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HM King appoints officials at Prime Minister's Office

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree (1) of 2023, based on the proposal of the Prime Minister and following the approval of the Cabinet.

Under the decree, the following officials were appointed at the Prime Minister's Office:

1. Dr Aref Abdulrahman Ali Al Hammadi was appointed Director-General of the Office of the Special Representative of HM the King, His Highness



HM the King

Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

2. Abdulla Ali Saad Al Dossari was appointed as Executive Director for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

3. Mishaal Adel Yousif Al Ayadhi was appointed as Executive Director of the Office of the Special Representative of HM the King.

The Prime Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Directors at His Majesty Special Representative office named

● HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister issues edict

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (1) of 2023 appointing directors in the office of the Special Representative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa



HRH Prince Salman

Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, based on the proposal of the

Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office.

Under the edict, Mohammed Ali Mohammed Al Humayqani was appointed as Director of the Coordination and Follow-up Directorate, and Mohammed Khalid Al Kaabi as Director of the Protocol Directorate at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Director General of the Prime Minister's Office shall implement the provisions of this edict, which comes into effect immediately, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Hopes high for Kingdom's bid to revive old natural pearl industry

Although there is no depletion of pearl oyster beds, the trend may be waning

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Natural pearls are among the most ethically and sustainably produced luxury gems. The traditional pearl business, which was once the foundation of the Kingdom's economy, is being worked on again.

For millennia, Bahrainis have been free diving to collect pearl oysters from the ocean floor. According to reports, the majority of families were traders, drivers, drillers, and dealers in the pearl trade prior to the discovery of oil.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Loyal Bushehri, DANAT Marketing and Communication Manager, said: "The demand has grown a little in recent years, particularly for natural pearls from Bahrain, and it has become more popular, more in style, especially for young people, so we



The Pearling Path is located in the Muharraq island, close to Bahrain's capital, Manama. It encompasses 330,000 square metres including oyster beds and buildings related to the 19th century pearl industry.

have noticed a rise in comparison to the previous five years. "The current data gathered by project scientists seeks to evalu-



Pearl oysters are among Bahrain's most precious natural treasures

ate the status of the pearl oyster beds by analysing pearl oyster density and abundance as well as changes in population size structure.

"According to a survey that our organisation, DANAT, conducted with the Supreme Council for the Environment, preliminary findings from a temporal comparison between 2012 and 2021 indicate that there will not be a

depletion of pearl oyster beds."

The majority of Bahrain's economies were dependent on the pearl industry in the 1920s and 1930s, so every citizen is descended from the industry and they have inherited that from their great grandfathers. That is why it will always be a part of their culture, Bushehri pointed out. As a result, she believes that people in Bahrain are fairly

"The demand has grown a little in recent years, particularly for natural pearls from Bahrain, and it has become more popular, more in style, especially for young people, so we have noticed a rise in comparison to the previous five years."

- LAYAL BUSHEHRI, DANAT MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION MANAGER

educated.

Meanwhile, a pearl shop owner who does not want to be identified said: "The art of extracting pearls and the professionals associated with its promotion and trade are seen less these days. Drastic measures need to be taken to revive pearling and its trade.

"Pearl was immense for Bahrain, and the economy used to benefit from it. One would walk into the souq and find the vibrant marketplace and traders would eagerly show off their

latest pearl ornaments to lure customers. That passion is still there but not every customer would want to buy it.

"Youngsters are unaware about the role played by pearl drivers and traders, they have to learn about the importance of pearls in the development of Bahrain. The Kingdom still has a good reputation for selling good quality pearls, we still have the expertise and the people who are needed to take this industry forward and that itself is a big bonus for our country."

Agriculture Minister conducts inspection tour



Al Mubarak is briefed on ongoing efforts to remove rainwater

TDT | Manama

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak yesterday inspected emergency teams, as well as ongoing efforts to suction rainwater in internal areas and neighbourhoods, in the presence of a number of heads and members of municipal councils.

Al Mubarak stressed continued precautions and preparations to drain rainwater pools in neighbourhoods and inte-

rior areas, and to respond to all inquiries and complaints, whether through the hotline or from various channels.

During the inspection tour, he was briefed on the mechanism for receiving reports and inquiries via the hotline and other channels which are available in the four municipalities.

"We have 68 tanks working round the clock to remove rainwater, and distributed over the four governorates in coordination with other competent authorities," he said.

BDF-Council cooperation

Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam. The meeting reviewed cooperation between the BDF and the Council and issues of common interest. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed congratulated Al Musallam on his election as Speaker and wished him success.



Industrial and commercial



Industry and Commerce Ministry Adel Abdulla Fakhro received yesterday Jordanian Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yousef Shamali. Fakhro noted the importance of exchanging experiences in the industrial and commercial field and enhancing bilateral cooperation in this aspect to meet common aspirations and interests.

Joint security work



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received his Jordanian counterpart, Mazin Abdallah Hilal Al Farrayeh, who is on a visit to Bahrain to participate in the meetings of the Supreme Bahrain-Jordan Committee. Chief of Public Security, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, was present. The two sides agreed to form joint security meetings to implement a memorandum of understanding between both countries and review cooperation and coordination to face regional and international security challenges.

Serious environmental problems in Kingdom are 'exposed' by rains

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The attention of many people is currently on the environmental problems that could develop as a result of the rains that have been pouring in the country these days.

Although there are bins for garbage disposal everywhere, it is common knowledge that many people do not throw their trash in the cans.

During a visit to Manama, Juffair, Sitra and Mahooz areas, it was seen how people had disposed of their trash outside of the garbage bins.

Due to this, the drainage systems of rainwater disposal in every city have been blocked and this has become the main reason for the main roads to be filled with water.

The situation is getting serious because garbage is being dumped in different places, even though the garbage collection is done regularly in the country.

In Gudaibiya, some people



Garbage bins are placed in various locations all over the Kingdom



"The environmental cleanliness of a country is like an ornament ... I believe that in a developed country like Bahrain, we must all take responsibility to keep our streets clean."

- NAYAN CHANDRA, BANGLADESHI RESIDENT IN BAHRAIN

leave the tea cups on the road. Many people like to drink hot tea on rainy days and dumping it on the road has created a big environmental problem.

Additionally, there is a really unpleasant situation around the city as a result of the cigarette buds not being disposed of in the trash cans.

Every outlet provides polythene bags even for small items,

and it is sad that they are left everywhere. If this situation continues, there is no doubt that Bahrain will have to face severe environmental issues as it has happened in many countries.

Although there is not such a large population of mosquitoes in the country, there is a risk of such a situation emerging in Bahrain due to the continuous accumulation of plastic and other

garbage.

In Bahrain, which is trying to implement green concepts, it is important to prepare a good plan regarding waste management before 2025.

A 27-years-old man, Bangladeshi Nayan Chandra, told The Daily Tribune that many people are reluctant to dispose of garbage in landfills, especially disposable tea cups and plastics.

"The environmental cleanliness of a country is like an ornament. In Asian countries like Bangladesh, people voluntarily come together with a cleaning campaign due to lack of proper waste management. I believe that in a developed country like Bahrain, we must all take responsibility to keep our streets clean," he said.

He added that programs

should be organised to pay close attention to waste management among the youth in the Kingdom.

At a time when even the country's money has to be used for waste management in many countries of the world, the time has come for Bahrain to pay attention to this issue.

Bicyclists beware of bad weather, always prioritise safety

● Take extra precautions during rainy days

Staff reporter
TDT | Manama

As rainy and foggy weather conditions are being reported, many using their bicycles to travel to work, the grocery store, or just to go for a ride should reconsider their transportation methods.

When heavy rain conditions increase, it is crucial that safety measures are put in place, or another alternative of transportation is considered to ensure one's and others' safety on the road.

An online user wrote: "I use my bike (within a three-kilometre radius) to travel to friends' house, take a trip to the grocery store, get to school and the gym. However, the past couple of days of rain has made it more difficult for me to bike, as it has become more dangerous."

Extra precautions should be taken if one is choosing to bike in the current rainy weather conditions.

In rainy or foggy weather conditions, visibility is reduced. Therefore, it is crucial to wear bright or neon-coloured outer layers and waterproof clothing, place lights on your bike to increase visibility, and give a bicyclist more distance to slow down as water can reduce braking power.

Reflective layers can also be a great measure taken to provide more visibility to drivers when one is riding a bike near to them.



Rainy days put bicyclists at risk for accidents

Also, rain can cause rusty chains that can become a safety hazard when riding. As the rain rusts chains quicker than usual, it is essential to dry the chain off after a wet ride, and to then store the bike in a dry, and warm location.

Locals spoke to The Daily Tribune.

"I would not recommend bicycling in this weather. It is already difficult for us to see a couple of cars in front of us, let alone someone riding their bike. The heavy rain and fog decrease a driver's visibility to see around them," one resident said.

"Drivers should be driving slowly and using their indicators to communicate with other drivers on the road during this time."

Bicycling during current weather conditions could risk safety on the roads; however, if individuals are choosing to bike, safety measures should be put in place before doing so.

Shura affirms Bahrain support for Palestinian cause

TDT | Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali Sbin Saleh Al Saleh has affirmed Bahrain's stance towards the Palestinian cause.

He affirmed the Kingdom's support towards the continuous endeavours for a two-state solution, and the establishment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their lands with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Al Saleh was speaking as he received the Palestinian Ambassador to Bahrain, Taha Moham-



Al Saleh receives the Palestinian Ambassador

med Abdul Qadir, who conveyed the greetings of Palestinian Central Council (PCC) Chairman Rawhi Fattouh.

The Shura head highlighted

Bahrain's support towards the noble efforts and continuous steps to establish peace, spread coexistence and international tolerance, and enhance security

and stability in the region.

He praised the Bahraini-Palestinian relations, stressing the council's keenness to strengthen relations with the PCC.

Ambassador Qadir congratulated the Speaker for obtaining royal trust in the sixth legislative term.

He praised the Kingdom's progress in various fields and support of sustainable development projects under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's leadership, and Bahrain's firm stance towards the Palestinian cause.

EWA digital power metres installation is on track

TDT | Manama

The installation of hi-tech power digital meters is expected to be completed by June 2023 as planned, said Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) President Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed.

He said that the project, which is on track, is one of EWA strategic initiatives which aim to bring about digital transformation in the electricity and water sector in Bahrain.

The new digital meters provide subscribers accurate readings automatically and remotely without the need for any human intervention, in addition to the automatic disconnection of the electric current in case of additional loads.

The new metres can also record readings related to the quality of the electric current for subscribers.

Restaurant owner on trial for trafficking four Asian workers

TDT | Manama

The First Supreme Criminal Court began the trial of a restaurant owner for trafficking four Asian workers.

The suspect, who is in his twenties, was accused of forcing the victims to work over 10 hours daily, seven days a week, withholding their salaries, and depriving them of weekends, as well as failing to pay them overtime.

The defendant was charged with the following: during 2022, he trafficked the victims (four restaurant workers) by receiving them, transporting them, and sheltering them in circumstances whereby their consent could not be counted for the purpose of exploiting them.

He put them to work overtime without pay in conditions incompatible with the nature of employment, depriving

them of lawfully stipulated weekends, and unjustifiably withholding their wages.

The victims submitted a report indicating that they had come to the Kingdom of Bahrain to work in the defendant's restaurant. The agreed upon eight-hour shift was often exceeded by four extra hours without compensation.

They were also made to work seven consecutive days with no weekends while the restaurant owner withheld their passports. Police investigations confirmed the exploitation.

Public Prosecution initiated investigations as soon as the incident was reported. The victims' statements were taken, the defendant was interrogated and police investigations were requested. After witness testimonies, Public Prosecution referred the defendant to a criminal trial.

NSSA team takes part in virtual space forum



Dr Al Aseeri
TDT | Manama

A National Space Science Authority (NSSA) team headed by its CEO, Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, participated in the Future of Space virtual forum along with leaders in the space field.

The forum aims to review the latest developments, discuss various ideas and the best ways to explore the future of the sector.

It also aims to ensure the proper exploitation of advanced technologies and harness them for the development of the space sector.

Charity beach walk aims to help Friendship Society for the Blind

● 1.5km event to kick off at Marassi Beach tomorrow at 3:30 pm

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Ayadi Relief has partnered with Dana Zubari in organising a charity walk to raise funds for The Friendship Society for the Blind.

Ayadi Relief is an international and humanitarian, youth-led association that aims to serve affected communities in the Middle East and Africa.

According to the Ministry of Health, approximately 40 million people are blind around the world. Additionally, another 110 million are suffering from severe visual impairment.

The ministry reported eye trauma as an important cause for blindness in Bahrain. A study was conducted on cases of eye injuries that required hospital admission, and a total of 489 patients were evaluated with 90 percent being males and 10 percent females.

Children under 20 years old constituted 41.3 percent of total cases, with males accounting 85



Participants in last year's 'A Run for Ramadan' around Bahrain Harbour

percent and females accumulated 19.9 percent.

The charity walk consists of a 1.5km walk located at Marassi Beach tomorrow at 3:30 pm. The event is inclusive to everybody, and all the funds raised are donated 100% to Ayadi Relief. The ticket price is BD5 to attend the charity walk.

Zubari, co-founder of Tru Active Sportswear, told The Daily Tribune: "The charity event includes everyone of all ages, even kids are allowed, and the event provides free entry to them. There are no dangerous or unsafe measures surrounding the event, so parents are able to bring their children



whilst supporting the cause, free of worry."

"The aim is to use the money raised to create a better space for The Friendship Society for the Blind. For example, adding textured walls for them to touch

"The aim is to use the money raised to create a better space for The Friendship Society for the Blind. For example, adding textured walls for them to touch and feel."

- DANA ZUBARI, CO-FOUNDER OF TRU ACTIVE SPORTSWEAR

and feel."

The use of different materials with varied textures improves the recognition of tactile images by young blind people.

Zubari uses her social media platforms to shed light on vari-

ous topics in the Kingdom such as encouraging women to stay fit and get active for free of charge.

She arranges a running and walking event twice a week for women (free of charge) to inspire women to get active, as she

aims to strengthen communities for women to feel safe, as well as to engage with other women.

She highlighted that making this event free of charge caters to all women who range in different socio-economic levels.

Essentially, Zubari said: "It is important that women of all socio-economic backgrounds are able to get active in a safe environment, whilst not having to spend a massive amount of money to do so."

Dana also carried out an event last year which hosted the yearly Dilmunia Breast Cancer Awareness walk, bringing together 200 participants for the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

She also partnered with the charity 'A Box of Goodness' previously, to collect food during the holy month of Ramadan for families in need in Bahrain. They created 'A Run for Ramadan', a 3 km run around Bahrain Harbour, which encouraged members of the community to bring an item of non-perishable food to be distributed to families all around the Kingdom.

Dana said: "I want to give back to the community, even if it takes one percent of my time. I want to create safe spaces for women, as well as shed light on important topics."

Vow to implement major projects in Southern Governorate

TDT | Manama

Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa has stressed the governorate's continuous efforts to implement the major development projects to best serve the citizens.

He affirmed continuous direct communication with citizens through field visits to reach out



The Southern Governor during the online discussion

to their needs and assess progress of the ongoing projects in cooperation with the competent authorities.

This came as HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali met online yesterday through the governorate's virtual Majlis with dignitaries and citizens from the Southern Governorate.


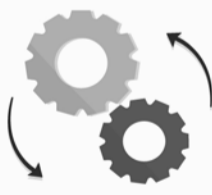
The Deputy Southern Gov-

ernor, Brigadier Isa Thamer Al Doseri, and a number of officers and senior officials also attended the discussion.

HH the Southern Governor affirmed that the achievements, projects and major occasions witnessed by the Southern Governorate in 2022 are a source of pride for the governorate and its citizens, in light of the directives

and care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The citizens expressed thanks and appreciation to HH the Southern Governor for his keenness on communicating with them and following up on their needs.

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is undergoing a scheduled systems upgrade & maintenance from **9 pm on 5th Jan until 9 pm on 7th Jan 2023.**

All NBB branches will be closed and NBB Debit Cards, ATMs, Fawri+, Fawri, Fawateer, Digital App, CDMs and Business Online Banking will be unavailable during this system upgrade. NBB Credit and Prepaid cards will be available during this time.

The Bank will not contact you during this period requesting any information. For further information visit our website and follow our social media channels. We apologise for the inconvenience. Our Contact Centre remains available on 17214433.

Licensed by CBB as a Conventional Retail Bank

Academic cooperation

The Higher Education Council (HEC) Secretary General and Board of Trustees Vice Chairperson, Shaikha Dr Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, met with the Head of Professional Development Programmes at Cambridge Assessment International Education, Sarah Turner. Shaikha Dr Rana was briefed on the cooperation between the Cambridge Foundation and the Arab Open University, through the Cambridge professional development programs for teachers in Bahrain and ways to enhance it to develop academic staff and the professional capabilities of teachers and professors. She said that the council is keen to deepen partnerships with all educational and training institutions from around the world.



Joint inspection campaigns

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted inspection campaigns in the Muharraq, Northern and Southern Governorates, in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science at the Ministry of Interior and the Governorates' respective Police Directorates. The campaigns resulted in reporting several violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The reported cases were referred for legal action. LMRA stressed its commitment to report violations through an intensive inspection plan, in coordination with the relevant government entities. It renewed its call to all members of the society to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices, by reporting violations via the electronic form on the authority's website www.lmra.bh or by calling the authority's call centre on 17506055.



Alba closes 2022 with a record-breaking production of 1,600,111 MT



Alba team during a group photo opportunity

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, has set a new historic production record of 1,600,111 metric tonnes

(MT) in 2022 -- an increase of 38,889 MT versus 1,561,222 MT in 2021 (+2.5% Year-on-Year), as announced by the Company today 03 January 2023.

"This all-time production record translates our motto 'op-

portunities don't happen, we create them by doing the best we can with what we have'. We also look forward to set new highs in the future driven by our in-house production creep," Alba's Chief Executive Officer,

Ali Al Baqali, said. A special ceremony, attended by the Executive Management, Directors, Managers and employees from various departments, was held at Alba's Product Yard to mark this achievement.

AIB, KIMSHealth and RBH sign Medical Services Finance deal

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank (AIB), has recently signed an agreement with KIMSHealth and Royal Bahrain Hospital to provide financing packages for the Bank's customers.

The signing held at Al Baraka headquarters was attended by Fatema AlAlawi - Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, Ali AlDerzi - Head of Branches and Sales, Dr Ahmed AlRashed, Chief Operating Officer of Royal Bahrain Hospital.

This agreement provides customers to pursue treatment



Officials following the deal signing

from either KIMSHealth or Bahrain Royal Hospital with a low

profit rate financing. Al Baraka Islamic Bank's

Chief Retail Officer, Fatema AlAlawi, said: "This agreement is part of the Bank's continuous role in community partnerships towards delivering tailored banking services and products that meet the needs of our customers."

Dr Ahmed AlRashed, Chief Operating Officer at Royal Bahrain Hospital, said: "We are incredibly pleased to be part of this joint cooperation with one of the most prominent Islamic financial institutions in the Kingdom, and we are positive that Al Baraka's medical financing scheme will play an integral role of our patients' best interest".

Bank ABC Egypt completes merger with BLOM Bank Egypt

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC (Arab Banking Corporation) has completed the legal merger of its two Egyptian subsidiaries - BLOM Bank Egypt and Bank ABC Egypt.

The two banks have now become a single legal entity after receiving final regulatory approvals, including those of the Central Bank of Egypt and the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones. This follows Bank ABC's acquisition of a 99.5% stake in BLOM Bank Egypt in August 2021. The two banks will continue to operate a normal service while work continues to fully integrate their products and services.

Bank ABC Group Chairman, Saddek Omar El Kaber, commented: "Combining these two successful local banks gives us the scale and diversity needed to fully capitalise on our growth ambitions."

The merger triples Bank ABC Egypt's market share and takes its total assets to EGP 67bn on a combined basis.



Saddek Omar El Kaber



Sael Al Waary



Amr Tharwat

All customers of the fully combined bank will be offered a wider range of services, supported by a much larger network of branches and ATMs. More innovative digital services are also planned, including Bank ABC's mobile-only bank 'ila' and leading payments capabilities of its subsidiary, Arab Financial Services (AFS).

Sael Al Waary, Acting Group CEO, Bank ABC, commented: "We are on our journey to build

an exciting bank for the future. We want to be the bank that offers the best experience with agility, efficiency and innovation at the core of our services."

Amr Tharwat, Bank ABC Egypt MD & CEO, commented: "We also remain focused on providing customers with a full, uninterrupted service throughout our integration."

A new board and leadership team will oversee the integration of the two banks. Branch-

es and ATMs of both Bank ABC Egypt and BLOM Bank Egypt will continue to provide the same access to existing services to their customers throughout the integration process. Over the coming months, BLOM Bank Egypt branches and ATMs will be rebranded to Bank ABC however they will continue to provide uninterrupted access to their existing services until the process of integration completes.

BENEFITPAY adds new security feature

TDT | Manama

BENEFIT has recently announced several security enhancements to the BenefitPay application to enhance the user experience when switching mobile phones.

The latest enhancements include prompting users to deactivate the BenefitPay account used on their old phone before activating it on their new device, as this step contributes to enhancing user safety and security while limiting electronic fraud risks.

Ahmed AlMahri, Head of BENEFIT's Business Development and Services Department, said: "As part of its efforts to improve and protect users' experiences, BENEFIT is eager to periodically introduce improvements to its services and evaluate best practices. In this regard, we recently modified the activation mechanism of the BenefitPay application in a new phone, as the new procedure requires that the



user first cancels the activated account on the old phone before proceeding to install the application on the new phone, by selecting the Deactivate feature in the Settings menu on the old device."

He added: "If the old phone is not available for any reason or due to formatting the old device, the customer must visit BENEFIT's customer service centre at the Company's headquarters in Seef District, where the deactivating process will be completed by a qualified employee after verifying the customer's identity. This measure is taken to ensure security and compliance with consumer identity verification regulations to protect them from fraudsters."

It is important to note that personnel of The BENEFIT Company will not contact consumers and ask for passwords, OTPs, or customer data, and if customers are subjected to such a situation, it is a fraud attempt.

BHB to list 64 T Bills, 12 Ijarah Sukuks this year

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) said it will list 64 Treasury Bill and 12 Short-Term Islamic Lease (Ijarah) Sukuk issues this year, unless stated otherwise.

The total value of the T-Bill Issues is BD 4.42 billion, while the total value of the Short-Term Islamic Lease (Ijarah)

Sukuk Issues is BD 312 million.

The move is as per Resolution No. (1) for 2023 issued 3rd of January 2023.

The decision matter Treasury Bills and Short-Term Islamic Lease (Ijarah) Sukuk that are issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain on behalf of the Government of Bahrain for 2023 at Bahrain Bourse on the issuance date.

KPI visits Bapco refinery



The Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) recently hosted a delegation from Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) headed by KPI President and Chief Executive Officer - Eng. Shafi Al Ajmi on a tour of the Bapco refinery. The delegation was welcomed by the Bapco Chief Executive Officer, Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery and members of Bapco's Executive Management Committee. The delegates applauded the transformation progress of the Kingdom's energy industry, citing the Bapco Modernization Programme (BMP) and agreed to conduct further visits to strengthen bilateral collaboration.

Oil prices fall further

Reuters | London

Oil fell sharply yesterday after slumping in the previous session, weighed down by demand concerns stemming from the state of the global economy and rising COVID cases in China.

Brent futures fell \$3.04 to \$79.06 a barrel for a 3.7% loss by 1452 GMT. U.S. crude

dropped \$2.91, or 3.8%, to \$74.02. Both benchmarks plunged more than 4% on Tuesday, with Brent suffering its biggest one-day decline in more than three months. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) pumped 29 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, the survey found, up 120,000 bpd from November.

News in brief

◆ **US President Joe Biden** will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House on Jan. 13 covering North Korea, Ukraine, China's tensions with Taiwan, and a "free and open Indo-Pacific," the White House said on Tuesday. The two leaders will discuss "a range of regional and global issues including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs, Russia's brutal war against Ukraine, and maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the White House said. The meeting between Washington and its key Asian partner in standing up to China's increasing might comes as North Korea's missile tests and calls for a larger nuclear arsenal worry US allies in the region. Kishida announced next week's US visit in a nationally televised New Year news conference on Wednesday.



Biden, Japan's Kishida to meet at White House on Jan. 13

◆ **Myanmar's military government** will release 7,012 prisoners under an amnesty to mark the country's independence day, state broadcaster MRTV reported on Wednesday, as the junta chief praised some countries for maintaining support for his nation. "I want to say thank you to some international and regional countries and organisations and individuals who positively cooperated with us... in the midst of all the pressure, criticisms and attacks," Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said in a speech to mark Myanmar's 75th independence day. "We are closely working with neighbouring countries such as China, India, Thailand, Laos and Bangladesh. We will work together for border stability and development," Min Aung Hlaing said in a speech at a parade in the capital Naypyitaw, complete with flag-waving civil servants, marching soldiers, tanks and a flypast by military jets.

The United Arab Emirates and China have asked the U.N. Security Council to meet publicly, likely on Thursday, over recent developments at Al



UAE, China ask UN Security Council to meet over Al Aqsa mosque - diplomats

Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, diplomats said on Tuesday. Israel's new far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir briefly visited Al Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem on Tuesday, a site also revered by Jews, angering the Palestinians and drawing a slew of condemnations.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Passengers to be compensated after algae spoils Australia-New Zealand cruise



Reuters | Sydney

Viking Cruises will compensate hundreds of passengers on its Orion cruise ship after cruisers were forced to stay on board and miss multiple stops because officials blocked port access due to marine growth on the ship's hull. The 930-guest capacity Viking Orion docked in Sydney yesterday, the final stop on what is normally a 15-day, 9-stop cruise of New Zealand and Australia.

But plans went awry, local media reported, after New Zealand officials asked the ship to leave the country's waters part way through its cruise after finding small amounts of biofoul - plants, algae and small animals - that grow on ship hulls.

Steaming directly to the southern Australian port of Adelaide and bypassing planned stops in Tasmania and New Zealand's south island, officials stopped the ship approximately 12 nautical miles out to sea while professional

divers cleared the hull. The four-year-old luxury vessel finished its journey as planned with stops in Melbourne and Sydney.

Stranded on board for eight days, Miami-based lawyer Julie Reby Waas said missing scheduled stops like Tasmania was "enormously disappointing" but it would not dissuade her from cruising again.

"Most of the people I think on the ship have kept their cool and have maintained a sense of humour," Reby Waas told Reuters.

"I think everybody is very tired of it. The ship is beautiful, but you know, there's only so much space to explore, and so I guess (it's) claustrophobic in some ways."

Viking confirmed to Reuters in a statement that all guests would receive a voucher equal to what they had already paid for use on any future voyages.

Tickets for a 15-day Auckland to Sydney cruise departing Jan 10 range from A\$8,995 (\$6,066.23) to A\$29,995 on the Viking website.

Ukraine says Russia plans mobilisation to 'turn tide of war'

● **Russia will throw 'everything they have left' into war - Kyiv**

● **89 Russian troops killed in New Year's strike - defence ministry**

● **Bakhmut on eastern front still scene of intense fighting**

Reuters | Kyiv



Ukrainian servicemen set up a mortar for firing it towards positions of Russian troops, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the outskirts of Bakhmut, Donetsk region

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Russia was planning to call up more troops for a major new offensive, even as Moscow was facing some of its biggest internal criticism of the war over a strike that killed scores of fresh

conscripts. Kyiv has been saying for weeks that Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to order another mass conscription drive and shut his borders to prevent men from escaping the draft.

"We have no doubt that the current masters of Russia will throw everything they have left and everyone they can round up to try to turn the tide of the war and at least delay their defeat,"

Zelenskiy said in his nightly video address on Tuesday.

"We have to disrupt this Russian scenario. We are preparing for this. The terrorists must lose. Any attempt at their new offensive must fail."

Russia's defence ministry on Wednesday blamed mobile phone use by its soldiers for a Ukrainian strike on New Year's Eve it said had killed 89 servicemen, the deadliest incident Moscow has acknowledged for its troops since the start of the war.

If Russia is planning a new mobilisation, the deaths of scores of conscripts on New Year's Eve could undermine morale. Hundreds of thousands of men fled Russia when Putin ordered the first call-up of reservists since World War Two in September after military setbacks.

Putin said last month there was no need for further mobilisation.

Ukraine garage turns beat-up cars into battle-ready vehicles

AFP | Kyiv (Ukraine)

An auto garage in Kyiv is giving beat-up cars a second life as battle-ready vehicles for Ukraine's military, trying to plug a supply gap as the war with Russia grinds on.

The shop formerly specialised in collision repairs, but that changed after Russia invaded in February and volunteers reached out about preparing vehicles to send to the front.

Now its mechanics spend long days working on pickup trucks and buses requested by the military for tasks including transporting weaponry and surveillance drones.

"We are not a wealthy country, and the state cannot provide all our soldiers with armoured four-wheel-drive vehicles, so pickups are a compromise," Anton Senenko, one of the volunteers coordinating the effort, said.

The repair work can make the difference between life and death for soldiers operating in eastern Ukraine, where fighting is currently concentrated, he said.

"Very often, there are breakdowns with cars in peacetime. But in wartime, such a breakdown can lead to a tragedy," he said.

"The car won't start, and that's it -- the soldiers can no longer escape from the enemy tank."

The vehicles are donated or



Ukrainian mechanics repair and modify used pickup trucks for use on the frontline of the war with Russia



Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which is internationally considered a war of aggression, is the largest military assault on the European State since World War II.

Russia Ukraine war has caused the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War with over 3.4 million Ukrainians fleeing the country. The ongoing conflict has also killed more than 10,000 people and has wounded at least 23,000.

purchased by fundraising Ukrainian volunteers, who often import them from neighbouring countries, including Poland, Latvia and Estonia.

Harsh terrain

On a recent afternoon, the garage's jumpsuit-clad mechanics were hard at work underneath two elevated vehicles, a Nissan pickup and a Toyota van, which needed engine work.

"We don't just change lubri-

cants and filters, we fully prepare the entire machine for the harsh conditions in which it will work on the front line," Senenko said.

That often means replacing suspensions and braking systems and can also involve combat-specific modifications like adding a turret or a mount for a Starlink internet dish.

As the fighting evolves, the military's requests have changed.

While two-wheel drives were once useful in some hotspots, the

rough eastern terrain where fighting is now concentrated requires four-wheel drives, preferably with off-road tires.

Soldiers used to request that cars be painted green to blend in with the landscape, but now they prefer grey or black to match the bleak winter conditions.

The work has provided an informal military education to garage owner Ruslan Kulagin, who previously did not have to consider such factors.

Bankrupt Sri Lanka to hold first polls since 2015

AFP | Colombo

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka yesterday announced its first nationwide elections since its president fled and resigned in the face of widespread protests, in what will be a test of popularity for his successor.

Local government polls



President Ranil Wickremesinghe

will be held before the end of February, officials said.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who replaced his deposed predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa, faces potential embarrassment in the vote, as he was his party's sole representative in parliament.

The 73-year-old Wickremesinghe, a six-times prime minister, won a parliamentary vote to replace Rajapaksa with the backing of Rajapaksa's SLPP party, but has no popular mandate. At the last local elections in 2018, his United National Party won just 10% of the 340 councils, while

conceding 231 to the opposition.

He has attempted to stall the polls, saying a bankrupt country cannot afford to spend the billion rupees (\$27.6 million) they would cost the independent Electoral Commission went ahead anyway.

In a brief statement

British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burns Richmond, Virginia

German Workers' Party forms, precursor to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi)



Mao Zedong writes "A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire"

US President Harry Truman labels his administration the "Fair Deal"

new of war'

But in a sign the Kremlin may now be considering one, a little known group claiming to represent widows of Russian soldiers released a call on Tuesday for Putin to order a large-scale mobilisation of millions of men. The Kremlin has not commented on that appeal.

Semyon Pegov, a war correspondent decorated by Putin, said on Telegram the mobile phone explanation "looks like an outright attempt to smear the blame", and there were other ways Ukraine could have spotted the base.

Other pro-Russian bloggers have said the strike was worsened because ammunition was stored at the site. Moscow has not confirmed this.

Pegov said the death toll would rise further: "The announced data is most likely for those who were immediately identified. The list of the missing, unfortunately, is noticeably longer."

field assets

"This is our contribution to the victory," the 46-year-old said proudly.

Cars in combat

So far, nearly 50 vehicles have been sent to the eastern front -- pickups, jeeps and a few buses, Senenko said.

The feedback from soldiers has been positive, said Vlad Samoilenko, who works with Senenko to coordinate the project.

"When you see that cars last in the field for months, it really warms the soul. It also inspires us," Samoilenko said.

Senenko added: "We are very pleased when the fighters themselves write to us and say that the car has already travelled 15,000 kilometres without a single breakdown."

As he spoke, two uniformed soldiers arrived at the garage to pick up a blue 2002 Toyota Hiace van they intended to use to transport a surveillance drone.

Imported from Norway, the van had required brake and engine work and smaller tune-ups like an oil change.

After inspecting the van, the soldiers posed for a picture with Senenko and Samoilenko, then drove away.

Looking on, Senenko, mock-crying, said sending the van into battle was as emotional as "sending a child off to school".

ince crisis

ELPP. Election Commission said nominations for the more than 8,000 councillor positions would be open from January 18 to 21, after which the vote must be held within 28 days.

The local polls set for February cannot bring down the current national administration.

Taiwan to give cash payouts to citizens in 'New Year blessing'



People wearing face masks as precaution against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) shop at a market in Keelung, Taiwan

Reuters | Taipei

Taiwan plans to give cash payouts of nearly \$200 to every citizen this year, Premier Su Tseng-chang announced yesterday, saying the island's economic growth will be shared by everyone.

The export-reliant economy, a global tech powerhouse for products including semiconductor chips, grew 6.45% in 2021, the fastest rate since it expanded 10.25% in 2010.

While economic growth is expected to slow in 2022 and 2023, the government has made plans to plough an extra T\$380 billion (\$12.4 billion) in tax revenue from last year back into the economy to help protect the island from global economic shocks, including subsidies for electricity prices and labour and health insurance.

Su said a total of T\$140 billion, part of the tax revenue, would be spent as cash payouts and each citizen would get T\$6,000 (\$195.61).

Iranian actor Taraneh Alidoosti released on bail

AFP | Tehran



Actor Taraneh Alidoosti

Iranian actor Taraneh Alidoosti, jailed for almost three weeks over her support for the country's protest movement, was released on bail yesterday, local media reported.

Alidoosti, 38, was arrested on December 17 after making a string of social media posts supporting the protest movement -- including removing her headscarf and condemning the execution of protesters.

"My friend was released on bail today", lawyer Zahra Minooee told ISNA news agency Wednesday.

Alidoosti has considerable international renown, performing in award-winning films by director Asghar Farhadi, including the Oscar-winning 2016 film "The Salesman".

Vietnam boy trapped in hollow concrete pillar declared dead

AFP | Hanoi

A 10-year-old Vietnamese boy trapped in a buried hollow concrete pillar at a construction site for four days was declared dead yesterday.

Rescuers in Dong Thap province in the Mekong Delta had been trying to raise the pillar from its 35-metre-deep (115-foot) hole and cut out young Thai Ly Hao Nam.

The boy fell into the 25-centimetre-wide (12-inch) shaft of the pillar -- sunk as part of a new bridge -- on Saturday, apparently while looking for scrap metal.

Doan Tan Buu, deputy chief of the province, said on Wednesday that the boy had died.

"He has been trapped in a hollow pillar very deep down... with multiple injuries and not enough oxygen for a very long time," he told journalists at the construction site.

"We had prioritised the res-



Efforts to rescue a Vietnamese boy trapped inside a hollow pillar at a construction site appear to have failed

cue of the boy. However, the conditions mean it is impossible the boy has survived," he added.

Buu said the announcement of the boy's death was made after consulting with medical experts.

Rescuers are determined to bring his body up as soon as possible for burial, but Buu admitted it was a "very difficult task".

Vietnam on Tuesday mobi-

lised hundreds of soldiers and engineering experts to try to rescue Nam.

A 19-metre metal pipe was lowered around the concrete tube in which the boy was trapped to allow them to remove mud and try to lift it out.

Rescuers had softened and tried to remove mud and water to reduce pressure around the pillar, but days of effort had failed to pay off.

Tehran protests against Khamenei cartoons in Charlie Hebdo's Iran special issue

News Wires

Iran warned France yesterday it would respond after "insulting" cartoons depicting Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei were published in the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

The weekly had published dozens of cartoons on the same day ridiculing the highest religious and political figure in the Islamic republic.

The magazine said the cartoons were part of a competition it launched in December in support of the protests triggered by the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, an Iranian Kurd who was arrested for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code for women.

"The insulting and indecent act of a French publication in publishing cartoons against the religious and political authority



File photo of a Paris news kiosk

will not go without an effective and decisive response," tweeted Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

"We will not allow the French government to go beyond its bounds. They have definitely chosen the wrong path".

The French magazine said the contest aimed "to support the struggle of Iranians who

are fighting for their freedom".

Charlie Hebdo published the caricatures in an special edition to mark the anniversary of a deadly attack on its Paris office on January 7, 2015 by assailants who said they were acting on behalf of Al-Qaeda to avenge the magazine's decision to publish cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

Geron's blood cancer drug succeeds in late-stage study

Reuters

Geron Corp (GERN.O) said on Wednesday its experimental blood cancer drug helped more patients achieve independence from blood transfusions when compared with a placebo in a late-stage trial, sending its shares up 50%.

Geron's lead drug, imetelstat, was being studied in patients with a type of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), a difficult to treat family of blood cancers. Patients with the disease require frequent blood transfusions to manage their anemia.

The company plans to submit applications for approval in the United States in mid-2023 and in Europe in the second half of 2023, and expects to commercially launch the drug in 2024.

It anticipates a peak market potential of \$1.2 billion in the United States and some key EU



A photo illustration shows a stethoscope and blood-pressure machine

countries, Chief Executive Officer John Scarlett told Reuters.

Nearly 40% of the 118 patients who were on the drug showed independence from transfusion for eight weeks, compared with 15% of the 60 patients on placebo, the company said in a statement.

The results suggest that treatment with the drug "may be altering the course of the disease," Chief Medical Officer

Faye Feller said in a statement.

The drug also met its secondary goal, with 28% of the patients using the drug not needing transfusion for 24 weeks, compared with 3.3% of the patients on placebo.

Adverse effects observed during the late-stage trial were consistent with previous trials, with low count of platelets and white blood cells among the most common.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Nearly 260 million fewer women have access to the Internet than men - effectively shutting them off from work & education opportunities. We must urgently close the digital divide, promote digital literacy and ensure women and girls can access the digital world.

@antonioguterres

02



National Green Hydrogen Mission, which the Union Cabinet approved today, is a landmark step towards sustainable development and creating investment opportunities for our youth.

@narendramodi

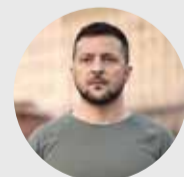
03



12 months ago, I was Person of the Year

@elonmusk

04



Together with @KlausIohannis we agreed on steps to further develop - cooperation, primarily in the defense sector. I thanked Romania for its solidarity and support in resisting Russian aggression. We discussed #PeaceFormula and issues of the bilateral agenda.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

celebs

Emma Roberts adopts a chihuahua rescue puppy

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Emma Roberts has adopted a chihuahua rescue puppy. The 31-year-old actress has taken to social media to reveal that she's adopted a puppy from the Labelle Foundation, an animal rescue organization that's based in Los Angeles.

Alongside a photo of her puppy, Emma wrote on Instagram: "Our new family member... We love him so much! Rescued from @thelabellefoundation. (sic)"

The Labelle Foundation explained in a now-deleted post that the puppy, known as Skunk, was

found abandoned in early December.

Skunk was suffering from a viral infection called Parvo at the time. The infection causes fever, diarrhea and vomiting, but Skunk has now been adopted by the actress.

Meanwhile, Emma previously admitted that motherhood has changed her entire outlook on life.

The actress - who has a two-year-old son called Rhodes with actor Garrett Hedlund - revealed that she started to think about the future of the planet after giving birth to her baby boy.

Emma shared: "Where before, I'm operating in the world on my own and I'm just kind of thinking about what's right for me. And when you have a kid, it's like, wait, how old is he going to be in the year 2050? What's the world going to look like?"

"For me, I definitely wanted to educate myself more on what I should be doing."

Emma is also mindful of the baby products that she uses.



Emma Roberts

Jeremy Renner shares hospital selfie following snow plow accident, expresses gratitude for "kind words"

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Jeremy Renner, who suffered from a traumatic injury after an accident on New Year's Day, has shared a selfie from his hospital bed, thanking everyone for their "kind words."

Taking to Instagram, Renner shared the picture along with the caption, "Thank you all for your kind words. Im too messed up now to type. But I send love to you all."

The comments section of the social media post was filled with wishes from several Hollywood stars including Chris Hemsworth, Chris Pratt, Taika Waititi and Orlando Bloom among others.

While Hemsworth wrote, "Speedy recovery buddy. Sending love your way!" for his 'Avengers' co-star, Pratt commented, "Continued prayers your way brutha."



Jeremy Renner

According to Fox News, Renner was injured in an area near Mt. Rose

Highway, a road linking Lake Tahoe, which straddles the Nevada-California border, and south Reno, reported Fox

News.

The Washoe County (Nevada) Sheriff's Office said late Sunday that Renner had to be flown by helicopter to a hospital for treatment.

A source told People magazine on Monday that Renner's injuries were "extensive." The actor's rep shared that Renner is "receiving excellent care."

Thank you all for your kind words. Im too messed up now to type. But I send love to you all

JEREMY RENNER

CINEMA

OPERATION FORTUNE: RUSE DE GUERRE

(PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/THRILLER) (NEW)

JASON STATHAM, JOSH HARTNETT, AUBREY PLAZA

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM

CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.30 + 2.30 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 6.30 + 7.30 + 9.00 + 10.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 12.15 + 1.15 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 7.45 + 8.45 + 10.15 + 11.15 PM

M3GAN

(15+) (THRILLER/HORROR/DRAMA) (NEW)

ALLISON WILLIAMS, VIOLET MCGRAW, RONNY CHIENG

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

SEEF (I): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

BLACK WARRANT

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) (NEW)

TOM BERENGER, CAM GIGANDET, HANI AL NAIMI

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

CITY CENTRE: 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

FINNICK

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)

ARTUR BABICH, PAUL CASTRO JR., CLIFFORD CHAPIN

OASIS JUFFAIR:(KIDS CINEMA): 2.15 + 6.15 + 10.15 PM

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.15 + 2.15 PM

SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM



MALIKAPPURAM

(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) (NEW)

UNNI MUKUNDAN, RENJI PANICKER, MANOJ K. JAYAN

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

AL HAMRA: 12.00 + 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

ANANDAM PARAMANANDAM

(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) (NEW)

ANAGHA NARAYANAN, INDRANS, AJU VARGHESE

SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 4.15 + 9.45 PM

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)

SAM WORTHINGTON, ZOE SALDANA, SIGOURNEY WEAVER

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 3.45 + 7.30 + 11.15 PM

OASIS JUFFAIR (3D): 11.00 AM + 2.45 + 6.30 + 10.15 PM

CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 4.30 + 8.15 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

CITY CENTRE: (IMAX3D): 12.15 + 4.00 + 7.45 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (II): 12.30 + 4.15 + 8.00 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II) (3D): 11.30 AM + 3.15 + 7.00 + 10.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL (3D): 11.45 AM + 7.15 PM

SHOTGUN WEDDING

(PG-15) (COMEDY/ACTION/ROMANTIC)

JENNIFER LOPEZ, JOSH DUHAMEL,

JENNIFER COOLIDGE

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.45 + 5.45 + 10.45 PM

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 4.30 + 10.30 PM

KAAPA

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

PRITHIVRAJ SUKUMARAN, ASIF ALI, INDRANS

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM

SEEF (I): 1.30 + 7.00 PM

AL HAMRA: 6.00 PM

THE SMURFS: NEXT ADVENTURES

(G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

SANDRA ASRATIAN, VINCENT BROES, TESS BRYANT

OASIS JUFFAIR:(KIDS CINEMA): 12.15 + 4.15 + 8.15 PM

CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 PM

SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM

SHALABY

(PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)

KARIM MAHMOUD ABDEL AZIZ, RUBY, BAYOUMI FOUAD

CITY CENTRE: 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

PLUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH

(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

ANTONIO BANDERAS, SALMA HAYEK, OLIVIA COLMAN

CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 PM

SEEF (I): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER

(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/DRAMA/SCI-FICTION)

ANGELA BASSETT, LETITIA WRIGHT, WINSTON DUKE

CITY CENTRE: 1.30 + 7.00 PM

SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM

MINDCAGE

(PG-15) (THRILLER/CRIME)

JOHN MALKOVICH, MARTIN LAWRENCE, MELISSA ROXBURGH

SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

DETECTIVE KNIGHT 2: REDEMPTION

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)

BRUCE WILLIS, COREY LARGE, LOCHLYN MUNRO

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 4.45 + 10.15 PM

CIRKUS

(PG) (HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA)

RANVEER SINGH, JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ, POOJA HEGDE

OASIS JUFFAIR: 3.00 + 8.00 PM

SEEF (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

AS GOOD AS DEAD

(PG-15) (ACTION)

MICHAEL JAI WHITE, TOM BERENGER, LUCA ORIEL

CITY CENTRE: 9.00 + 11.00 PM

BLACK ADAM

(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)

DWAYNE JOHNSON, ALDIS HODGE, NOAH CENTINEO

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 4.45 + 11.00 PM

Ana De Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis among Golden Globe presenters



Ana De Armas and Jamie Lee Curtis
Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ana De Armas, Quentin Tarantino and Jamie Lee Curtis are among the presenters at this year's Golden Globe Awards.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced a string of big-name stars on Tuesday (03.01.23) who will be handing out the prizes at the ceremony, which takes place at the Beverly Hilton in California on 10 January.

Also presenting at the event will be Tracy Morgan, Ana Gasteyer, Billy Porter, Colman Domingo, Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, Nicole Byer, Natasha

Lyonne and Niecy Nash-Betts.

As well as presenting awards, Ana is nominated for Best Actress in a Drama for her portrayal of Marilyn Monroe in 'Blonde', while Jamie is up for Best Supporting Actress thanks to her work on 'Everything Everywhere All At Once'.

It was previously announced this year's Golden Globe Awards - which will be hosted by Jerrod Carmichael - will see Eddie Murphy honoured with the Cecil B. DeMille award, and Ryan Murphy will receive the Carol Burnett award for his contributions to television.

SUDOKU

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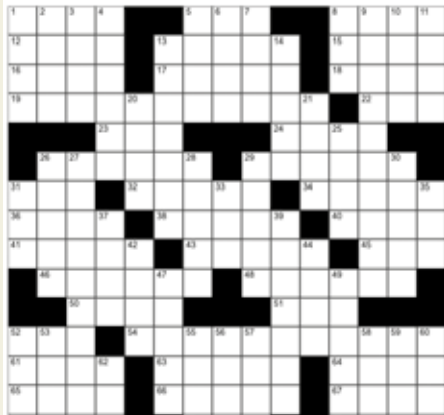
Yesterday's solution

6	5	8	7	2	9	1	4	3
9	4	2	3	5	1	6	8	7
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How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Sphere; 5- Gal of song; 8- Top-notch; 12- Nabisco cookie; 13- Disinfectant brand; 15- Career golfers; 16- Fly in the ointment; 17- Dicembre follower; 18- Responsibility; 19- Connective; 22- Hydrocarbon suffix; 23- High-pitched; 24- Student's final; 26- Carte blanche offer; 29- Comes up; 31- Posed; 32- Heron, usually white; 34- Fungal infection of the skin or nails; 36- Poses; 38- Unconventional; 40- Arouse; 41- Fortune-telling cards; 43- Civil rights org.; 45- Aardvark morsel; 46- Napkin fabric; 48- Ripe for a trial lawyer; 50- Composed; 51- Tankard filler; 52- Fulfilled; 54- Thoughtful; 61- The eyes have it; 63- Back in; 64- Antiquing agent; 65- Booty; 66- Conger catcher; 67- Ike's ex; 68- The _ Ranger rode a horse called Silver; 69- John _ Passos; 70- Finishes;

Down

1- Winter pear; 2- Florence's river; 3- Incline; 4- Bottleneck; 5- Match up; 6- I'd hate to break up _; 7- Actress Singer; 8- Mil. address; 9- Decorative; 10- Person, place, or thing; 11- " _ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 13- Freckle; 14- Beau; 20- Peter Fonda title role; 21- Off-ramp; 25- Garage sale sign; 26- Nymph presiding over rivers; 27- Allurement; 28- Main stem of a tree; 29- Gillette razors; 30- Paris divider; 31- Fast flier; 33- Zeta follower; 35- Illustrative craft; 37- Body of an organism; 39- Republic in South America; 42- Bath powder; 44- " _ Rider" starred Clint Eastwood; 47- Campfire treat; 49- Rebuke; 52- Factory; 53- Switch back?; 55- Require; 56- WWII battle site; 57- Angers; 58- Not "fer"; 59- Look after; 60- Historical periods; 62- Canonized Mlle.;

Yesterday's solution

S	T	R	O	P	S	E	N	D	I	N	G	O	
C	R	O	W	D	E	N	E	I	D	E	A	L	
U	I	T	L	A	N	D	E	R	S	L	A	T	
T	O	E	A	E	R	O	P	E	T	E	S		
H	E	R	N	I	A	S	S	T					
A	W	H	I	R	L	M	E	T	E	R	E	D	
M	E	E	T		A	A	A	A	T	O	P		
S	A	Y	I	N	G	S	A	P	P	A	L	L	
H	E	R	E	S	T	E	E	S	C	H	I	L	L
S	T	R	E	W	S	A	I	D					
B	O	R	E	R	S	O	A	R	S				
A	R	E	N	A	C	E	L	E	B	R	I	T	Y
A	T	E	A	T	A	N	A	A	U	G	E	R	
L	A	D	L	E	T	O	D	D	E	N	S	E	

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Guardiola says Man City will struggle to catch leaders Arsenal



Pep Guardiola

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola believes Manchester City have it all to do if they are to overhaul leaders Arsenal at the top of the Premier League table.

Reigning champions City can move back to within five points of the Gunners away to Chelsea on Thursday after Arsenal dropped points in Tuesday's goalless draw with Newcastle.

"We have to reduce the gap by playing good and winning games, but they (Arsenal) get more than 100 points if they keep this average and we will not catch them," Guardiola told a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"We have to be almost perfect and hope they drop points. Last night they were still excellent."

Chelsea have won just one of their last seven Premier League games but Guardiola still expects a difficult encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Final line-up for Bahrain Darts Masters announced

Former Premier League and World Cup of Darts champion Jonny Clayton added to list of darts stars

● Clayton joins stars including Michael Smith, winner of last night's epic PDC World Championship Final and newly crowned world number 1 ranked player

● Alain Abiabi of the Philippines, India's Nitin Kumar and Japan's Yuki Yamada added to Asian representatives

TDT | Manama

Jonny Clayton will complete the line-up of PDC representatives for the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters on January 12-13. The PDC's World Series of Darts will visit Bahrain for the first time this month in the opening event of this year's global tour.

Former World Champions Peter Wright, Gerwyn Price, Rob Cross and Raymond van



Jonny Clayton

Barneveld were amongst the stars already confirmed to compete in Bahrain. Welsh superstar Clayton, a former Premier League and World Cup of Darts champion, will complete the eight PDC representatives to compete at the Bahrain International Circuit.

He will also join newly crowned PDC World Champion and world number 1 ranked player, Michael Smith, who won

last night's dramatic final at Alexandra Palace in London.

The eight Asian representatives are headlined by Singapore's legendary star Paul Lim and Japan's recent World Championship representative Toru Suzuki. In addition, Japan's Yuki Yamada, Alain Abiabi of the Philippines, India's Nitin Kumar and Hong Kong's Man Lok Leung will star in the event. Bahraini darts players Bassim Mahmood and Abdunaser Yusuf secured their places last month through the local qualifying tournament.



Nitin Kumar

The Bahrain Darts Masters 2023 will mark the opening round of this year's PDC World Series of Darts calendar. It will comprise two days of competition at the dome tent at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", which will be transformed into a spectacular darts venue for the event. Fans are set to experience an incredible atmosphere, with fancy dress encouraged and an extensive

Full list of players

PDC Representatives

- Peter Wright
- Michael Smith
- Gerwyn Price
- Luke Humphries
- Rob Cross
- Jonny Clayton
- Dimitri Van den Bergh
- Raymond van Barneveld

Asian Representatives

- Paul Lim
- Toru Suzuki
- Man Lok Leung
- Yuki Yamada
- Nitin Kumar
- Alain Abiabi
- Bassim Mahmood
- Abdunaser Yusuf

range of food and drinks on offer.

Tickets are now available and complete details on prices and can be found at bahraingp.com. The tickets can be bought on the BIC website or through the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Nortje's double strike leaves Australia at 147-2 on rain-hit day



South Africa's Anrich Nortje roars after removing Australia's Marnus Labuschagne

AFP | Sydney

South Africa strike bowler Anrich Nortje claimed the key wickets of David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne yesterday to prise Australia's grip on the third Test in Sydney as rain plagued the opening day.

Nortje was the Proteas' star man as he removed Warner cheaply for 10 and late in the day denied Labuschagne (79) his 11th Test hundred.

As bad light and rain conspired to prematurely end the first day, Australia were 147 for two with Usman Khawaja, who averages 98 in Sydney Tests, unbeaten on 54 and Steven Smith yet to score.

Nortje got the big breakthrough with a ripper, taking the edge of Labuschagne's bat to get him caught behind and

"I was trying to hit good areas, not trying to be fancy, just trying to keep it simple and try to hit the wicket as hard as I could. Luckily I got something out of it. It wasn't really a big set-up, just more to try and stay consistent and luckily we got some nip and bounce there

ANRICH NORTJE

end his 151-ball stay. "I was trying to hit good areas, not trying to be fancy, just trying to keep it simple and try to hit the wicket as hard as I could," Nortje said of the crucial dismissal.

Berrettini edges Italy ahead, Pegula gives US advantage at United Cup

● Musetti serves up Italian treat at, Keys edges US ahead

● Swiatek wins to keep Poland's United Cup hopes alive

AFP | Sydney

World number one Iga Swiatek outlasted Martina Trevisan to level Poland's United Cup city final yesterday after rising star Lorenzo Musetti produced an almost flawless display of serving to put Italy in front.

Musetti lost only three points on serve to beat Poland's Daniel Michalski 6-1, 6-1 in just 57 minutes in the best-of-five-match



Italy's Matteo Berrettini in action

Brisbane city final.

The winners of the city finals in Brisbane, Sydney and Perth

progress to the semi-finals of the inaugural mixed teams tournament along with the best-performing losing finalist.

The 20-year-old Musetti, who climbed to 23 in the world in 2022, had far too much firepower for his opponent, blasting 17 winners past the 260th-ranked Michalski.

"I was so focused today on the match and the serve was really good," he said. "But with every shot I had a great feeling for the ball so I think I played the best match so far."

However, Poland struck back when Swiatek battled past Trevisan 6-2, 6-4.

The three-time Grand Slam winner raced through the first set but was forced into a fight in the second, finally claiming victory in 1hr 51mins.

"I was honestly trying to settle myself down because I was seeing the ball really well today

JESSICA PEGULA

"It became tight at the end and I felt like she had her chances as well," Swiatek said. "My goal is to be more consistent and keep the same level of tennis right to the end."

In Sydney, a tenacious Madison Keys gave the United States an early lead over Britain before Cameron Norrie struck back when he won a high quality match against Taylor Fritz in their city final.

Medvedev blows away cobwebs to join Sabalenka in Adelaide quarters

AFP | Adelaide

Former world number one Daniil Medvedev locked in an all-Russian Adelaide International quarter-final with Karen Khachanov yesterday, while Aryna Sabalenka stormed back to book her place in the last eight.

Medvedev, runner-up at the last two Australian Opens, blew away the new year cobwebs with a 6-0, 6-3 romp over Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic.

It came a day after the 2021 US Open champion had to save nine set points against first-round opponent Lorenzo Sonego before the Italian retired hurt.

"I think it was a great match. Miomir is a tough opponent, a high-ranked player so there are

no easy guys left in Adelaide," third seed Medvedev said of the 29th-ranked Serb.

"I'm not sure there were any (easy opponents) from the first round, so really happy to be



Daniil Medvedev in action

"I'm not sure there were any (easy opponents) from the first round, so really happy to be through, happy with my level

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

set before closing out the match comfortably.

Next up is eighth seed Khachanov, who eased past Britain's Jack Draper 6-4, 6-2.

Rising Japanese star Yoshihito Nishioka also went through. Having dispatched fifth seed Holger Rune in the first round, he backed up to beat American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-3.

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HH Shaikh Nasser gives directives to prepare well for 'HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Endurance Championship'

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) will organise the "Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Championship" at the Bahrain International Endurance Village on Friday and Tuesday.

The event is held based on the directives from HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, the Honorary President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF),



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, under the patronage of the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Sponsored by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) is sponsoring the event, along with Ascon, the championship will feature international and local races, with the wide participation of stables and riders. In this regard, BREEF will receive entries for all categories

until Tuesday.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser expressed appreciation for the prominent efforts exerted by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad to boost the endurance sports in Bahrain, noting that HH's support for stables and riders will result in a fierce competition among the participants to reach the podium.

HH Shaikh Nasser asserted that the Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Championship has always been an important event in which jockeys compete and perform well, add-

ing that it provides a platform to discover youth talents that will be able to represent the kingdom at various external gatherings.

HH Shaikh Nasser indicated that last year's edition saw strong and open competition among riders and stables, noting that this year's championship will be successful, given the high level of the participants. He also wished all participating stables and jockeys every success.

HH Shaikh Nasser gave directives to BREEF to prepare well for the championship to ensure its success.

Everton boss Lampard defiant after Brighton battering



Frank Lampard

AFP | London

Everton manager Frank Lampard said his focus is on preparing the side for Friday's FA Cup tie against Manchester United after another crushing defeat left his job seemingly hanging by a thread.

Tuesday's 4-1 loss at home to Brighton, where the Toffees conceded three goals in six second-half minutes, meant the Merseysiders had accrued just five points from their last 10 Premier League matches.

A relegation battle for a second successive season is now assured, with Lampard saying it's up to him and his players to raise their game.

"It's not time to go into dressing-room talk after a result like that," he said. "I've been there before and it's about taking personal responsibility -- every player and myself.

"We're all in it together, it's not a question of anger. We're all disappointed, we all want to win games.

"That's for us to get right. Manchester United comes in a few days."

Loeb gives BRX second successive stage victory

Sebastien Loeb wins classic battle with Peterhansel as Al Attiyah extends overall lead in Saudi

Loeb put behind him two days of problems to win the fourth stage of the Dakar Rally

TDT | Manama

Sebastien Loeb gave Bahrain Raid Xtreme a second successive stage victory in the Dakar Rally yesterday after a spectacular battle in Saudi Arabia with the event's most prolific winner.

Loeb, whose overall victory hopes have been ruined by a spate of punctures and yesterday's rear suspension failure, produced a superb drive alongside Fabian Lurquin in their BRX Prodrive Hunter to edge out Stephane Peterhansel's Audi by 13 seconds on the 425km fourth stage.

Starting and finishing in Hail, the stage presented a classic battle between nine-time World Rally Champion Loeb and 14-time Dakar winner Peterhansel, with the BRX driver finally grabbing the lead after 327 km, and holding it to the finish.

His winning margin could



Sebastien Loeb and Fabian Lurquin powering their Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter to victory on the Dakar Rally's 4th stage

have been much greater, as he was without power steering towards the end of the stage, and lost about ten minutes.

Loeb's win, following second place on Monday, lifted him to provisional 14th overall, but more significantly brought him maximum points on the day towards his World Rally-Raid Championship (W2RC) bid with BRX.

Fourth fastest on the stage in his Toyota, Qatar's Nasser

Al Attiyah increased his overall lead to 18mins 18 secs over Saudi's Yazeed Al Rajhi in another Toyota.

Guerlain Chicherit's hopes of a second successive stage success with Alex Winocq in their Prodrive Hunter ended when they were forced to stop to carry out repairs after 342 km.

Orlando Terranova, third fastest yesterday in his BRX Prodrive Hunter with Alex Haro, made his way back to the bivouac af-

"I couldn't keep the car on the tracks. We span out at one point because I couldn't turn the steering wheel. It was very difficult to finish the stage, but at the end we still have the best time, so it's better than nothing

SEBASTIEN LOEB

ter 10km because of back pains which returned following a hard landing 24 hours earlier.

The Argentinian had his fourth and fifth vertebrae fused ten years ago as a result of a bike injury on the Dakar. Feeling pain in the same area, he decided a medical check-up was needed.

After an X-ray at the bivouac, he was resting and was consulting his physio before making a decision on resuming tomorrow.

Seventh fastest yesterday in their Prodrive Hunter, Lithuanians Vaidotas Zala and Paulo Fiuza also returned to the bivouac for repairs to their suspension.

After the rain which flooded



Orlando Terranova, third fastest yesterday in his BRX Prodrive Hunter with Alex Haro, made his way back to the bivouac after 10km because of back pains which returned following a hard landing 24 hours earlier

parts of the route yesterday and shortened proceedings, today's stage sent the cars through an opening 100km stretch of dunes before switching to tracks that presented navigational challenges on the return to Hail.

There were no problems for Loeb, however, as he served notice that he intends go one better at the wheel of his BRX Prodrive Hunter in the W2RC after finishing runner-up to Al Attiyah last year.

New Zealand fight back after Shakeel's maiden century in second Test

AFP | Karachi

Left-hander Saud Shakeel hit a maiden century yesterday before New Zealand hit back to keep Pakistan to 407-9 at the close of the third day of the second Test in Karachi.

Shakeel was unbeaten on 124 and Abrar Ahmed yet to score after New Zealand took four wickets in the final session for 70 runs, leaving the hosts 42 runs shy of the tourists' first innings total of 449.

Shakeel has kept his end intact for 488 minutes -- batting all day yesterday, and adding 83 for the fourth wicket with Imam-ul-Haq (83) and 150 for the fifth with Sarfaraz Ahmed (78).

But New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel dismissed Agha Salman (41) and Hasan Ali (four) as Pakistan slumped from 385-5



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel (R) plays a shot during the third day

to 397-9, losing four wickets for just 12 runs off 27 balls.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi took two wickets in as many balls, dismissing Naseem Shah for four and Mir Hamza without scoring before last-man Ahmed saw out the day.

Shakeel, who has hit 17 boundaries, was lucky to get a life off pacer Tim Southee when Tom Latham grassed a simple catch at short cover when the batter was on 102.

With wickets falling at the other end, Shakeel went into a

shell, scoring just 23 runs in the final session.

He completed his century before tea when he swept spinner Michael Bracewell for a boundary and then took a sharp single to reach three figures in 319 minutes of stoic batting.

"When I entered into the 90s I got nervous for 1-2 overs, but Sarfaraz told me don't take tension. Sarfaraz is a very senior player, I started my career with him. It was good that he was with me when I scored my century

SAUD SHAKEEL

Conte drops warning over Spurs future

AFP | London

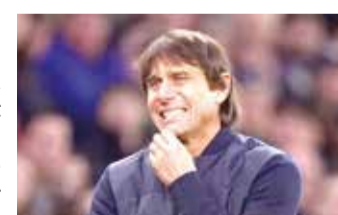
Antonio Conte has warned Tottenham he could quit if he no longer enjoys the challenge of trying to turn the club into serious challengers for major trophies.

Conte has been a domestic league title winner with Inter Milan, Chelsea and Juventus.

The 53-year-old led Tottenham to an impressive fourth place finish in the Premier League last season, an achievement he dubbed a "miracle" after he arrived to find the club in turmoil in late 2021.

But Conte has repeatedly spoken about the need for patience as he tries to build the foundations for sustained success at a club who last won a trophy in 2008.

Tottenham's inconsistent form this term has raised con-



Antonio Conte

"Now my task, I understood it very well, is to try to help the club go in the right direction

ANTONIO CONTE

cerns the Italian might not stick around if he doesn't get the backing he wants from chairman Daniel Levy to upgrade his squad in the transfer market.

Bahrain girls bow to Lebanon in WAFF opener



Action from the match

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth girls' national team bowed to their counterparts from Lebanon 0-2 yesterday in their opening game of the third West Asian Football Federation (WAFF) U16 Girls Championship, currently being held in Amman.

Cecile Iskandar scored both goals against the Bahrainis, finding the net on either side of the half in the 31st and 95th minutes.

Bahrain, coached by Khaled Hassan, tried valiantly to fight back but could not add to the scoreline.

They will look to bounce back in their next game when they take on the host Jordanians tomorrow. They will then face off with Palestine in their concluding first round fixture on Sunday.

Following this single round-robin, the teams ranked first and second on the table will play for the tournament title, while the third and fourth-placed squads will battle for the bronze medals.

Bahrain are also competing in the tournament to prepare for the 2024 AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup qualification competition, which will be held in April.

Man United not title contenders but belief is growing, says Ten Hag

Reuters | London

Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag said his side cannot be considered title contenders yet this season, but the belief in the squad is growing after another victory over Bournemouth on Tuesday.

Goals from Casemiro, Luke Shaw and Marcus Rashford at Old Trafford earned United a fourth league win in a row, closing the gap to leaders Arsenal to nine points.

United struggled to their worst-ever Premier League points total last season and have not won the English top



Erik ten Hag

flight title since 2013, when Alex Ferguson was still in charge.

"That's a big step," Ten Hag said when asked about United's involvement in the title race.

Bahrainis get set for Gulf Cup title-defence

Head coach Helio Sousa steps up final preparations for senior men's national football team in Basra

● Bahrain delegation members participate in official pre-tournament formalities

● Bahrainis to kick off group stage against the UAE on Saturday at 4.15pm

TDT | Manama

Defending champions Bahrain continued yesterday their final preparations for the start of the 25th Gulf Cup.

The tournament kicks off tomorrow in Basra, Iraq, with two matches on schedule in Group A. The host Iraqis take on Oman while Yemen clash with Saudi Arabia.

The Bahrainis are in Group B and they kick off their tournament campaign on Saturday against the UAE. Kuwait and Qatar face off that same evening. Matches are to be played at Basra International Stadium and Al Minaa Olympic Stadium.

The nationals continued their training yesterday under the supervision of head coach Helio



Bahrain players on the training pitch at Basra International Stadium

Sousa. The session lasted for an hour-and-a-half and it focused on the team's physical fitness and in-game tactics.

Also yesterday, Bahrain Football Association (BFA) secretary general Rashid Al Zoubi and Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation competitions committee member participated in a meeting of organisers. They discussed various issues concerning the running of the tournament.

Meanwhile, BFA media centre head and member of the tournament's media committee Ahmed Mahdi participated in

their gathering to discuss the logistical arrangements for the media delegates.

Today, the official pre-tournament coordination meeting will be held in which the administrative and media officers of the participating national teams will be taking part. Bahrain will be represented by administrator Yahya Buallay and media coordinator Mohammed Abdulghaffar.

During the gathering, the teams' official kits that will be used in the matches will be presented and approved.

Also today, the coaches of the teams playing tomorrow will hold their pre-game Press conferences. Bahrain's Sousa will be on the podium tomorrow amongst the coaches of the squads in action on Saturday.

Bahrain have a 23-member squad in Basra. The players in-

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Matches throughout the tournament are to be played at Basra International Stadium and Al Minaa Olympic Stadium

clude Ali Madan (Al Ajman FC, UAE); Abdulla Yusuf (Persija Jakarta, Indonesia); Ali Haram, Hamad Shamsan, Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Alaswad, Mohammed Jassim Marhoon and Sayed Redha Isa (Riffa); Abdulla Alkhalasi, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Amine Hasan, Sayed Mohammed Jaafar and Waleed Al Hayam (Muharraq); Ahmed Bughammar, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Adel and Sayed Dhiya Saeed (Al Khaldiya); Ebrahim Al Khattal and Mahdi Abdullatif (Manama); Ebrahim Lutfallah (Al Ahli); Omar Salem (Budaiya); Hamza Adrees (East Riffa).

Following their opener on Saturday against the UAE, the nationals play Qatar on 10 January and then go against Kuwait on 13 January.

The top two teams at the end of the preliminary round move on to the semi-finals, scheduled for 16 January. The final will then be held on 19 January.

Gulf Cup match schedule

(all times Bahrain)

Group A

Tomorrow: 6.45pm, Iraq vs Oman; 9.30pm, Yemen vs Saudi Arabia

9 January: 4.15pm, Oman vs Yemen; 7.15pm, Saudi Arabia vs Iraq

12 January: 6pm, Iraq vs Yemen; 6pm, Saudi Arabia vs Oman

Group B

Saturday: 4.15pm, Bahrain vs UAE; 7.15pm, Kuwait vs Qatar

10 January: 4.15pm, UAE vs Kuwait; 7.15pm, Qatar vs Bahrain

13 January: 6pm, Bahrain vs Kuwait; 6pm, Qatar vs UAE

Bahrain Club outclass Isa Town

● American import Xavier Gibson scores 36 points, grabs 22 rebounds in monster effort for victors

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Club posted a 91-74 victory over Isa Town last night in their week 15 game of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Bahrain Club used a one-sided second quarter to take control of the contest and held on to their advantage until the final buzzer.

They outscored their opponents 28-9 in that period to turn a 17-19 deficit at the end of the first to a commanding 45-28 lead at the break. They led by as many as 23 points the rest of the way, en route to securing their seventh win in 14 outings. Isa town were dealt their league-worst 12th loss.

American professional Xavier Gibson led all scorers with 36 points for Bahrain Club while also taking down 22 rebounds. Ali Abbas chipped in with 17 while Husain Safar had 11.

For Isa Town, Umar Barry scored 23 points while Mohamed Nabeel had 11 and Talal Qaheri 10.

Standings

	P	W	L	Pts
Manama	14	12	2	26
Al Ahli	12	10	2	22
Al Ettihad	13	9	4	22
Bahrain Club	14	7	7	21
Muharraq	12	8	4	20
Nuwaidrat	14	6	8	20
Al Hala	13	6	7	19
Al Najma	11	7	4	18
Sitra	13	3	10	16
Samaheej	13	2	11	15
Isa Town	13	1	12	14

League action continues tonight with a titanic match-up between title hopefuls Al Ahli and Muharraq.



Bahrain Club's Ali Asghar looks to attempt a basket as Isa Town's Mohamed Nabeel gets ready to rebound

AC Milan win 2-1 at Salernitana as Serie A returns



AC Milan's Sandro Tonali scores their second goal
Reuters | Milan

Sandro Tonali scored a goal and set up another to guide AC Milan to a 2-1 victory at Salernitana yesterday as Serie A returned after a seven-week break for the World Cup and the festive season.

Rafael Leao and Tonali struck in the first half as second-placed Milan moved to 36 points, five behind league leaders Napoli who play away to Inter Milan later.