



Real Madrid confirm French striker to depart after 14 years at the Bernabeu

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BUSINESS

5

Ithmaar Holding shareholders approve plans to improve capital

Five are rescued by Coast Guard

TDT | Manama

The Coast Guard patrols have rescued five people south of Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bridge from an accident between a boat and a fishing dhow.

Shortly after the case was reported to the main Operations Room, the maritime patrols rushed to the scene and rescued them. The National Ambulance provided them with first aid and referred them to the hospital.

The Coast Guard called upon seafarers to follow the weather reports and instructions and provide safety tools onboard. Assistance calls are received through 1700000 and 994.

Canada-bound narcotics seized
Dubai

Dubai Customs have aided Canadian authorities with the seizure of more than 547 kilograms of drugs destined for the country.

The narcotics were found in shipping containers originating from an Asian country. Officers used sophisticated systems for tracking suspicious shipments, the news agency said.

The drug seizure was in line with the authority's efforts to combat cross-border crimes and prevent the trafficking of illegal substances.

Saudi oil output cut
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia will extend its voluntary cut of 500,000 bpd until the end of December 2024, in coordination with some countries participating in the OPEC+ agreement, the Kingdom's energy ministry said yesterday.



Building Bridges and Fostering Stability: Exclusive Interview with Israeli Ambassador Eitan Na'eh

P8

220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain condolences with India over trains accident

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to India President Droupadi Murmu over the loss of lives in the accident involving three trains in the district of Balasore in Odisha

state in the east of India. HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman offered their deepest condolences and sympathies to the president, the families of the victims and the people of India, wishing those injured speedy recovery.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, HE Narendra Modi.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



President of India

Royal support for legislative reform

HM King Hamad issues order adjourning first session of sixth Legislative Term

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Order (29) of 2023, adjourning the first session of the sixth Legislative Term of the Shura and Representatives councils, as from today.

The Royal Order shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Following its issuance, HM the King received cables of thanks from Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam.

Al Saleh extended profound thanks and gratitude to HM King Hamad for his constant support to the work of the legislative branch. He took pride in the democratic and legislative march and its achievements.

Al Musallam extended profound thanks and gratitude to HM King Hamad for his royal

confidence in the Council's role in achieving the interests of the kingdom and its people.

He lauded HM King Hamad's unwavering care for the "Democratic Monument", the Representatives Council, which is one of the fruits of the royal reform project.

The two legislative leaders pledged to remain loyal to HM the King and the cherished homeland, to enhance the kingdom's progress and bring about more achievements to its citizens.

Inspiration

The Shura Council Chairman pledged to continue drawing inspiration from HM King Hamad's wise visions to ensure the sustainability of the kingdom's accomplishments.

"We will remain devoted to Your Majesty and the nation, while seeking to attain more progress and prosperity to the



Chairman Al Saleh



Speaker Al Musallam

cherished kingdom and its loyal people," he said, extending utmost congratulations to HM the King on the endorsement of the general state budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal years.

Al Saleh praised HM King Hamad's directives to constantly improve the citizens' living standards, and to strengthen cooperation between the legis-

executive branches.

He commended HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's initiatives and constant cooperation with the Shura Council, contributing to enacting more national legislation and laws aimed at boosting the progress march currently witnessed by the kingdom during HM the King's prosperous era.

Commitment

His Royal Highness received a cable of thanks from Al Musallam.

The Speaker expressed gratitude for HRH Prince Salman's commitment to enhancing cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, under the directives of His Majesty.

He highlighted that the cooperation that has been achieved is in line with His Royal Highness' efforts to further develop the Kingdom and serve its citizens.

Joy for 'bookworms'

Largest floating book fair coming to Bahrain!

Julia Cassano

TDT | Manama

Bahraini bookworms are anticipating the largest floating book fair (Logos Hope), docking in the Kingdom from Wednesday, June 7, to Sunday, June 18, assembling thousands of titles for book lovers to check out!

The Logos Hope is a non-profit enterprise operated by GBA Ships, an international, charitable organisation based in Germany.

Logos Hope encompasses



Logos Hope

Logos Hope carries more than 5,000 titles on board

more than 5,000 book titles on board and a stock of half a million books, so those with a passion for reading and literature can explore several genres catered to both children and adults.

Science, languages, dictionaries, arts, medicine, and sports are just some of the genres that

book enthusiasts will be able to check out.

Not only does the floating book fair stop in Bahrain, but Logos Hope was in Abu Dhabi, UAE from Thursday, May 18, until yesterday. And after it stops in the Kingdom, it will go to Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman.

Logos Hope accepts numerous currencies ranging from Bahraini dinars, euros, and US dollars, and the entrance fee is 500 fils, but children under 12 enter for free.

Opening hours are from 4 pm to 11 pm.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

Bahrain greets Denmark on Constitution Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, on her country's Con-

stitution Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman wished HM Queen Margrethe II abundant health and happiness, and the friendly Danish people further progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, HE Mette Frederiksen.

Tamkeen's programs support Bahrainis' career development

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund, Tamkeen, has announced the commencement of work on several program tracks focused on supporting wages of Bahraini employees and supporting their career development in various fields.

It is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to carry on efforts to improve the living standards of Bahraini nationals through more initiatives.

This followed the agreement between the executive and legislative branches on the budget law for fiscal years 2023-2024 which encouraged the launch of initiatives aimed at increasing wages of Bahrainis employed in the private sector through wage support programs dedicated to a number of occupations, as well as the enhancement of career development programs for Bahrainis and incentivising enterprises to increase Bahrainisation rates.

These directives will strongly contribute to the achievement of the national goal of making Bahrainis the first choice of employment in the

labour market.

Commenting on this, Maha Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) said: "We are keen on introducing initiatives aimed at integrating Bahrainis in the labour market and increasing their career development opportunities by combining training and wage increment support which will contribute to developing national talent and placing them in quality jobs."

She confirmed that Tamkeen is currently working on designing a number of new support tracks to support some of the occupations and specialties in the market with the purpose of expanding the range of beneficiaries and providing them with the skills required in the market, thus enabling them to climb the career ladder and get access to quality job opportunities.

She highlighted that Tamkeen recently launched Career Pathway maps for several sectors starting with Financial Services and Telecommunications as part of the Skills Bahrain reports. Work is currently underway to finalise the skills requirements for nine remaining sectors which will be launched in due time.

School exam results available online

TDT | Manama

School exam results for the second semester of the academic year 2022/2023 are now available online.

This was announced by Nawal Ibrahim Al Khater, Undersecretary for Policies, Strategies, and Performance at the Ministry of Education.

The results, endorsed by Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma yesterday, will be available online through the students exam results digital service on the national eGovernment portal and the educational por-

tal provided by the Education Ministry (eduNET).

Al Khater said the results of primary students as well as the first two intermediate grades will only be available online within the next two days.

Al Khater noted that a QR Code has been added to secondary graduation certificates issued by the committee in charge of collecting student's grades, providing an additional feature for verifying the information on the certificate.

Grade appeals will be available as per standard procedure, she added.

Directorate honours two inmates

TDT | Manama

The General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation has honoured two inmates by providing them with phone prepaid cards to

enable them to interact more with their families. The initiative comes to socially support inmates and provide them with all their rights, including phone calls, to help in their reintegration into society.

BJA new Board of Directors formed

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Journalists Association (BJA) has elected its new Board of Directors during a General Assembly regular meeting held at the Alumni Club in Adliya.

The eight-member board is composed of Abdul Rahman Al Medfa (Vice Chairman), Rashid Al Hamer (General Secretary and International Relations), Mohammed Al Sae (Treasurer), Mohammed Bahar (Head of the Membership Committee), Mansoor Shaker (Head of the Activities Committee), Ahmed Karim (Head of the Sports Media Committee), Bassam Albdwi (Head of the Media Committee)



Isa Al Shaiji
Chairman
Alayam



Abdul Rahman Al Medfa
Vice-Chairman
Bahrain TV



Rashid Al Hamer
General Secretary & Intl Relations
Alayam



Mohammed Al Sae
Treasurer
Alkhabr Alkhaleej



Mohammed Bahar
Head of the Membership Committee
Alayam



Mansoor Shaker
Head of the Activities Committee
Alayam



Ahmed Karim
Head of the Sports Media Committee
Albhad



Bassam Albdwi
Head of the Media Committee
Bahrain TV



Zahraa Habib
Head of the Liberties Committee
Alwatan

and Zahraa Habib (Head of the Liberties Committee).

Incumbent Chairman Isa Al Shaiji has been re-elected un-

opposed for a new term.

Al Shaiji expressed thanks and gratitude to the BJA mem-

bers for their vote of confidence, pledging to exert all efforts to deliver BJA goals.

'More awareness' needed to combat HIV virus effectively

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

The US Embassy in Manama hosted a webinar discussion where distinguished doctors discussed the treatment, prevention, and importance of de-stigmatising HIV/Aids in the Kingdom.

Guest speakers included Dr. Nada Fadul, Professor of Medicine and Assistant Dean of DEI Education Programs at the Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Dr. Jameela Al Salman, Head of Medical Department, Infection Control and Quality, American Mission Hospital.

Beginning the discussion, Dr. Jameela said that HIV is a global epidemic.

Around 14 million people globally suffer from the disease; however, with modern technology, treatment has become more available, and education has assisted in preventing the disease.

Highlighting the Kingdom's efforts to combat the disease, she said: "Bahrain has an orderly system that will detect the cases and begin treatment as soon as possible, and when the patient is comfortable."

Dr. Jameela added that to



Dr. Jameela Al Salman



Dr. Nada Fadul

properly treat the disease, an effective system must be in place that includes follow-ups, communication, and awareness of how to treat the disease without the stigma attached to it.

Proper tools

Echoing what Dr. Jameela stated, Dr. Nada revealed that the world contains all the proper tools to end the HIV epidemic; however, it comes down to how the tools are implemented and if the stigma surrounding the virus can be defeated.

"The implementation begins at testing," Dr. Nada said.

More importantly, she said that testing must be available and encouraged by governments and countries to properly eradicate the virus.

"People must feel comfortable

to ask for testing, and health-care providers must be readily available to assure the patient and properly treat the virus," Dr. Nada said.

The doctor also revealed that people who are undetectable and whose virus is under control do not transmit HIV sexually to other partners.

Both doctors agreed that information as such assists in de-stigmatising the virus, and it allows people to live a normal, healthy life. However, to effectively combat the virus, more awareness must be raised.

Dr. Jameela pointed out that Bahrain and other GCC countries have placed efforts and created strategies to combat the disease in the region.

"There have been tremendous achievements across the region

to raise awareness regarding the virus. Social media, educational sessions, and experts collaborating are all steps that have been taken to combat the virus effectively," she said.

The stigma of HIV is a global issue, and it is one of the biggest barriers between us and ending the epidemic, the doctors said.

Stigma

"If there is one idea, I put forward that hindered the process towards ending the epidemic, it would be stigma," Dr. Nada relayed.

However, the stigma is not just limited to the region, but to the world.

The issue is that people fail to test themselves, even if symptoms arise, for fear of judgment.

However, the doctors shared that through the increase of programs, education, and training in the medical field, HIV can certainly be eradicated. And prevention is a big step in this.

To combat the disease, help, and awareness on the international scale, country scale, and community scale must be implemented so that people are educated on how to prevent HIV, feel safe to get tested, and have access to the best possible treatment available.

Bahrain celebrates World No Tobacco Day

TDT | Manama

An event was organised yesterday to mark the World No Tobacco Day, being held this year under the slogan "Let's grow food...not tobacco."

The National Committee for Combating Smoking and Tobacco of All Kinds and Products held the event under the patronage of Supreme Council of Health (SCH) President Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

The event was also attended by the Minister of Health Dr. Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hasan, the Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiq and other senior officials.

The SCH president stressed Bahrain's pioneering achievements within the comprehensive development process, led



Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla with senior officials and guests at the event

by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He highlighted the Kingdom's strides, which spanned many domains, including the health sector to prevent diseases and combat their causes.

He stressed the importance of the occasion as an opportunity to enhance community aware-

ness about the harmful effects of tobacco use, in line with the drive of the World Health Organization (WHO), noting the role of community efforts and partnerships to support effective plans, policies and measures to combat smoking and reduce its consumption.

Dr. Hasan said that the health damages of smoking of all kinds are proven through studies, research and statistics, and emphasized the importance of

raising awareness about this scourge helping smokers to quit to protect them from the diseases it causes.

She commended the efforts made by the National Committee for Combating Smoking and Tobacco of All Kinds and Products, which contributes to its fruitful role in preparing and supporting the implementation of plans and programs in partnership with all relevant governmental, and private bodies.

Unique ancient Arab coins exhibition is ongoing at Bahrain National Museum



Himyraite kingdom coin

Ashen Tharaka

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain National Museum is currently hosting an exhibition of ancient coins that reflect the history of Arabia, and many visitors who are interested in it are pouring into the venue.

In collaboration with Bahrain's archaeology and cultural authority, numismatic expert and founder of Arados auctions Mohamed AlAradi created this exhibition to highlight the history of ancient Arab coins.

One of the important ancient coins on display in the exhibition are the coins of Arabia Felix, and AlAradi as they discussed the significance of these in an interview.

According to AlAradi, Arabs were key players in the region and they were called different names in Ancient Scripts like Hajirits (descendants of Hajr the Mother of Ishamel son of Ibrahim the Prophet), or they would call the Ishmaelites (as in descendants of prophet Ishmael son of Prophet Ibrahim) or Saracens and more.

In 24 AD, Emperor Augustus was convinced by Roman



Mohamed AlAradi

Merchants that the Yemeni kingdoms had a lot to offer including gold and silver.

This made Augustus assemble an army that sailed from Egypt to Najran (modern Saudi Arabia) then a nomad called Saleh from the Nabateans (an Arab kingdom where there capital was Petra Jordan regions from 169 BC to 106 AD). Saleh was none other than the Minister of King Obados second.

Saleh was supposed to lead the Romans to Arabia Felix (modern Yemen); however he misled the army on purpose to avoid getting Yemen conquer this Roman army was destroyed from hunger, disease and thirst and this was the only Roman march at that time to Arabia Felix.

The coins of Arabia Felix can be found in the exhibition daily from 8 am to 8 pm (except Tuesday) at the Bahrain National Museum.

Eco-friendly Bahrain moving towards a 'green economy'

Kingdom joins international community in celebrating World Environment Day today

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

It is supported by many non-governmental organisations, businesses, government entities, and represents the primary United Nations outreach day supporting the environment.

When it comes to fostering a green economy, the Kingdom of Bahrain is constantly eager to improve environmental protection.

According to the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) reports and data, the government has begun to pay significant attention to the issue of food security in response to the impact that the greenhouse effect and global warming are having upon climate change.

In the green economy, technological initiatives are crucial to achieving the Kingdom's 2030 vision. To address the problems the Kingdom is having with planting, iGA has launched a number of projects.

These projects focus on mapping the geospatial locations of countries' vegetation. The botanical atlas is one of the important results of that effort.

iGA made this great initiative with main goals to measure and classify the vegetation health, identify and classify vegetation habitats, in addition to the classification of the vegetation as



e-waste collection drive by Bohra community



Volunteers planting trees at first Earth Day Bahrain



Planting of the seedling No. (100,000) of mangrove trees in the Ras Al Mutla area

per their types and height in the Kingdom.

Waste

In a recent interview with Sadeq Rahma, a senior environmentalist at the Supreme Council for the Environment, Bahrain collected 1.8 million metric tons of waste in 2021, largely from domestic waste and less industrial waste than in prior years.

"That is why we are putting forth quick-moving programs to lead our country towards sustainable goals," Sadeq Rahma told The Daily Tribune.



Mangrove trees

A ceremony was held last month to celebrate the planting of the seedling No. (100,000) of mangrove trees in the Ras Al Mutla area, south of the Kingdom.

It was held under the patronage of the National Security Advisor, Supreme Defence Council Secretary General and Royal Guard Commander Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Royal Guard carried out the ceremony in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, as part of the national afforestation plan Green Bahrain.

Projects

In addition to the government-led initiatives, a number of NGOs and well-known organisations stepped up to join these programs to help the Kingdom accomplish its aims.

The Bohra community organised an e-waste collection drive in an effort to protect the environment by avoiding dangerous waste goods that might



Sadeq Rahma

leak into groundwater or end up in landfills and instead reusing, recycling, and discarding them.

In favour of environmental conservation, more than a hundred volunteers participated in the first Earth Day Bahrain - health & wellness event in April by planting trees at Water Garden City Beach in Manama.

Reminder

World Environment Day 2023 is a reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters. The steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution are the consequence of this action. It is time to accelerate this action and transition to a circular economy.

Motorist and insurance company are ordered to pay BD10,000 to traffic accident victim

Ashen Tharaka

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court obligated a motorist and an insurance company to pay BD10,000 to the family of a Bahraini man who was injured in an accident caused by the defendant.

The court also obligated them to pay legal interest at 2% as well as attorney fees and expenses.

The plaintiff's lawyer stated that on November 2021, his client was involved in a traffic accident caused by the defendant. As a result, he became permanently unable to work.

"The Traffic Court sentenced the defendant to three months of imprisonment and a fine of BD1,000 while the Court of Appeal upheld the ruling, making it final," the lawyer pointed out, explaining that the joint tort liability, whereby a causal relation exists between fault and damage, is applicable to the first defendant as the driver of the vehicle insured by the second defendant.

The lawyer indicated that his client suffered an injury that prevented him from working for a period of six months from the date of the accident.

"He was bedridden, suffered great material losses, and to

date remains incapable of carrying out his job to the fullest extent. His parents who relied on his earnings were also harmed, in addition to his wife, children and brothers who were affected morally and financially," the lawyer stressed.

As a result, the lawyer requested material and moral compensation for the damages suffered by the plaintiff and his family.

The court referred the plaintiff to a medical committee at the Ministry of Health to submit a report on his condition. The report confirmed that he suffered from tissue injury in his left leg and a fractured knee cap that required surgical intervention.

The committee estimated the permanent disability caused by the accident at 15%. Thus the plaintiff's representative requested that the two defendants be jointly obligated to pay the plaintiffs an amount of BD12,000 as comprehensive compensation.

The victim suffered an injury that prevented him from working for a period of six months from the date of the accident



Vegetation classification as per their vegetation height over the Capital and Northern Governorate

Court upholds ruling obligating dental center to pay BD1,200 to patient

TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court of Appeal upheld a ruling obligating a dental medical center and the doctor running it to compensate a patient with BD1,200 following a medical error of fitting a crown over an untreated tooth.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) report indicated that the defendant violated professional protocol by forgoing X-rays, which led to failure in diagnosis and treatment.

The plaintiff's lawyer stated that her client visited the medical center due to a toothache, and the defendant fitted a crown over her tooth. However, the plaintiff continued to suffer from acute pain.



After consulting with other doctors, she discovered that the tooth required nerve treatment prior to any fittings. The plaintiff filed a complaint with NHRA, which concluded in its report that there was medical malpractice on the part of the defendant.

The lawyer pointed out that according to the Court of Cas-

ation, the doctor is obligated to exercise vigilant efforts consistent with established medical practices for the care of their patients.

"The doctor is not responsible for the patient's condition given the administration of necessary care and all possible means of treatment. However,

the doctor is responsible for any errors that cause harm to the patient due to ignorance of technical matters or negligence in patient care," the lawyer highlighted.

NHRA, the authority entrusted with determining the occurrence of medical malpractice concluded in its report that the defendant violated professional protocol by failing to take X-rays of the patient's teeth, leading to failure in diagnosis and treatment, thereby proving the defendant's responsibility.

Thus, the court upheld the ruling of the first instance to jointly obligate the medical center and the doctor to pay the plaintiff an amount of BD1,200 in addition to attorney fees and expenses.

Filipino artists take centre stage at Pinoy Independence Day Festival



Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain H.E. Anne Jalandon-Louis with Mr. Yusuf Lori, Capital Governorate Director of Information and Follow-up, and officials from Lulu Hypermart

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will experience the festive Filipino spirit as the celebration for the 125th Philippine Independence Day begins!

The month-long celebration, which started at Dana Mall on 2 June 2023, was well-attended by Filipinos and different residents in Bahrain.

The "Pinoy Independence Day Festival" was organised with the support of the Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom and partnered with Lulu Hypermarket, Filipino Creatives Bahrain, and Good Cause Bahrain.

The event hosted several Filipino activities such as traditional games, cooking shows, live art show by the FilCreatives artists, short film showing, live performances and all

day food and retail bazaars.

Filipino Creatives Bahrain exhibited their Filipino themed paintings throughout the day. All the artworks showed the beauty of the Philippines' landscape, portraits, and flora-inspired paintings.

Artists of FilCreatives also showed their creative talent by doing on-the-spot paintings. The crowd was inspired by the talent shown by the artists.

Catherine Paje, one of the founders of FilCreatives, stated that "We are thankful for opportunities like this because it is one way of reaching out to the people the beauty of the arts. Performing and talking to different people we meet is a wonderful opportunity for the artists to express themselves and at the same time, giving inspiration to everyone who joins the celebration.

Bahraini artist displays an exceptional talent

Ashen Tharaka

TDT | Manama

Buthaina Ghanem Shaheen works for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture as a project officer for the development of cities and villages, and has a passion for art.

She has loved art and lovely drawings since she was a young child, and she especially likes Picasso's paintings.

Ghanem is a skilled artist who uses a variety of colours and techniques. Arabic calligraphy writing in graphite, pencil, and charcoal on pine wood – an oil



Drawing with graphite pencils and charcoal



painting – pan pastels, canvas, and acrylic are a few of them. The time it takes to finish the technical drawings varies

depending on the type of artwork she is sketching, but in any event, it never takes longer than a week.

She enjoys sketching with "acrylic" colours, drawing with graphite pencils and charcoal.

"I am proud to have created this work of art. It is a special drawing of His Royal Highness Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Deputy Supreme Commander, and his honorable sons," said Ghanem.

"It also features Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King Hamad Isa bin Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women,

where I utilised charcoal and graphite pencil."

She has created paintings on canvas using acrylic paints that depict natural landscapes and other classic works, such as the southern artist's "Ain Umm Ghuwaifa" picture.

"I think Bahrain will be the center of Arab culture and beauty," she said.

The statement made by HRH Prince Salman to support the Bahraini artists and promote initiatives that consolidate Bahrain's position in the fields of art emphasises the limitless provision made by the Bahraini government to artists and talented people, Ghanem told The Daily Tribune.



Buthaina Ghanem Shaheen

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Financial Statements
31 DECEMBER 2022

هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Kingdom of Bahrain - مملكة البحرين

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 December 2022

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	1,285,973	749,147
Total non-current assets	1,285,973	749,147
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	2,517,872	1,799,983
Cash and bank balances	32,395,965	33,662,460
Total current assets	34,913,837	35,462,443
Total assets	36,199,810	36,211,590
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surplus	11,764,523	13,984,605
Total accumulated funds	11,764,523	13,984,605
Non-current liabilities		
Employee end of service liabilities	45,971	39,081
Lease liabilities	313,140	276,698
Deferred income	18,428,308	15,392,873
Total non-current liabilities	18,787,419	15,708,652
Current liabilities		
Deferred income	4,904,096	4,375,717
Lease liabilities	299,427	297,313
Trade and other payables	444,345	1,845,303
Total current liabilities	5,647,868	6,518,333
Total liabilities	24,435,287	22,226,985
Total accumulated funds and liabilities	36,199,810	36,211,590

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES for the year ended 31 December 2022

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2022	2021
INCOME		
License fees	5,115,287	3,845,095
Frequency and spectrum fees	9,730,339	9,899,725
Numbering fees	1,078,512	1,086,530
Other regulatory income	1,711,006	4,122,517
Interest income	731,721	775,408
Other income	400,863	236,361
Total income	18,767,728	19,965,636
EXPENSES		
Staff costs	(3,862,575)	(3,030,280)
General and administrative expenses	(1,170,541)	(948,808)
Consultancy and legal fees	(1,445,741)	(1,430,684)
Advertising and publicity	(59,616)	(80,696)
Lease interest expense	(22,653)	(35,558)
Depreciation	(442,079)	(455,005)
Total expenses	(7,003,205)	(5,981,031)
Surplus for the year	11,764,523	13,984,605
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total surplus for the year	11,764,523	13,984,605

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 December 2022

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2022	2021
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	11,764,523	13,984,605
Adjustment For:		
Depreciation	442,079	455,005
Provision for employees' benefits	6,890	7,597
License fee income	(1,131,342)	-
Additional IFRS 16 impact/lease Liability	(324,602)	(16,239)
Amortisation of deferred income	(4,375,717)	(3,890,901)
	6,381,831	10,540,067
Working capital changes:		
Increase in trade and other receivables	(717,888)	(882,853)
(Decrease)/ increase in trade and other payables	(269,617)	218,359
Increase/ (decrease) in lease liability	38,558	(251,366)
Increase in deferred income	7,939,531	6,533,152
Net cash generated from operating activities	13,372,415	16,157,359
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property and equipment	(654,305)	(90,003)
Decrease in security deposit	1,131,342	-
(Increase)/ decrease in term deposits with banks	(25,000,000)	24,018,770
Net cash generated (used in) / from investing activities	(24,522,963)	23,928,767
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Transfer made to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy	(13,984,605)	(11,091,353)
Net cash used in financing activities	(13,984,605)	(11,091,353)
Net (decrease) / increase in bank balance	(25,135,153)	28,994,773
Bank balance at 1 January	32,531,118	3,536,345
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	7,395,965	32,531,118

* 20** results reflect the adoption of IFRS 16. Prior periods have not been restated. Refer to Note 3(a) for further details.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Eng. Maryam Ahmed Jumaan
Chairperson

Philip Marnick
General Director

Ithmaar Holding shareholders approve plans to improve capital

TDT | Manama

Shareholders of Ithmaar Holding, a Bahrain-based holding company, yesterday approved plans to improve the capital of the Company.

The initiative, proposed by the Board of Directors, includes injection of Tier 1 Capital of up to \$200 million which will be subject to legal and regulatory approval.

The plan was presented to Ithmaar Holding shareholders at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Seef District and chaired by



Officials during the EGM held yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton

Ithmaar Holding board member, Mohammed Bucheeri. The

EGM was attended by members of the Ithmaar Board of Directors, its executive management

team and its Sharia Supervisory Board, as well as representatives from the Central Bank

of Bahrain (CBB), the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), the Bahrain Bourse, and statutory auditors KPMG Fakhro.

“The EGM has been concluded after successfully approving all items of the agenda including the decision to improve the capital of the Company,” said Ithmaar Holding Chairman, His Royal Highness Prince Amr Al Faisal.

“The initiative to inject Tier 1 Capital will strengthen the Company’s consolidated equity and will allow us to implement our strategic objectives,” said HRH Prince Amr.

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Tough talks as OPEC+ weighs fresh output cuts

● Meeting started three hours later than originally scheduled

● An output cut of one million barrels per day (bpd) was being discussed

AFP | Vienna

Tough negotiations between major oil producers led by Riyadh and Moscow were under way yesterday to consider slashing output further in a bid to prop up prices.

The 13-member Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) headed by Saudi Arabia was consulting with 10 other oil majors, including Russia, to review the grouping’s future output policy.

The in-person OPEC+ meeting -- which started three hours later than originally scheduled -- was dragging on through Sunday afternoon at the group’s headquarters in Vienna, a source close to the talks told AFP.

Analysts had largely expected OPEC+ producers to maintain their current policy, but signs emerged this weekend that the 23 countries may make deeper cuts.

An output cut of one million barrels per day (bpd) was be-



Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al-Saud arrives



UAE’s Minister of Energy and Industry Suhail al-Mazrouei arrives



Alexander Novak, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, arrives



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ing discussed, according to the source close to the talks.

In April, several OPEC+ members agreed to cut production voluntarily by more than one million bpd -- a surprise move that briefly buttressed prices but failed to bring about lasting recovery.

Bloomberg news agency reported a fight with the grouping’s African members threatened to derail the gathering.

were announced, with Brent crude falling close to \$70 a barrel, a level it has not traded below since December 2021.

Traders worry that demand will slump, with concerns about the health of the global economy as the United States battles inflation and higher interest rates while China’s post-Covid rebound stutters.

On arriving in Vienna on Saturday, Emirati energy minister

Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei said he expected the outcome of Sunday’s meeting to “balance the market and ensure we are ready for any challenges in the future”.

Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak “sees no need for OPEC+ to change course” because it would hardly benefit from higher prices, Commerzbank commodity analysts said in a research note.

Since Western sanctions hit Moscow over Ukraine, Russia has been shipping oil to India and China as the Asian giants soak up the cheap crude.

Novak did not comment as he entered the OPEC building yesterday.

Morocco protesters demand govt action on cost of living



Members of Morocco’s Democratic Confederation of Labour (CDT) trade union attend a demonstration in Casablanca

Casablanca

Hundreds demonstrated yesterday in Morocco’s economic capital Casablanca to protest against the surging cost of living in the North African country and urge action by the government, AFP correspondents said.

Protesters from the Democratic Labour Confederation (CDT) rallied in Casablanca’s historic centre “to shout out our discontent with price hikes and with attacks on purchasing power”, protester Abdellah Lagbouri told AFP.

Lagbouri came to the rally from Agadir, a city further south on the Atlantic coast. Other demonstrators also travelled from across the country to Casablanca for the protest.

AFP correspondents saw scuffles between security forces and protesters, but said the rally ended without major incident.

“It’s shameful, workers’ livelihoods are in danger,” demon-

strators shouted.

CDT official Tarik Alaoui El Housseini said the organisation had initially planned a march on Casablanca, but objections from local authorities made them opt for a rally instead.

Morocco has seen months of rising prices, particularly of food, fuel and other basic staples, in part due to recurrent drought that has affected the agriculture sector.

Year-on-year inflation slowed in April to 7.8 percent, after 10.1 percent in February and 8.2 percent in March, according to official figures.

Nadia Soubat, another CDT official, said the group denounced “the government’s inaction in applying the social accord achieved last year”.

The agreement signed in April 2022 between the Moroccan government and major labour unions stipulated a rise in minimum wages in both the public and private sectors.

Crisis-hit UK business-lobby insists on right to survive

London

The new head of Britain’s leading business lobby group yesterday urged members to back her in a crunch vote this week as it confronts an existential crisis over alleged sexual misconduct.

The Confederation of British Industry has been mired in



Rain Newton-Smith

scandal since the claims were made public this year, with reports last week claiming the CBI could collapse without major cuts.

More than a dozen women say they were sexually harassed at the CBI and two others alleged they had been raped. Police have launched an investigation.

The allegations have triggered an exodus of companies from the CBI, and new director general Rain Newton-Smith said they had been “absolutely devastating”.

But speaking on BBC television, she added: “I hope we are emerging from what has been a really deep and painful crisis for us as an organisation.

“I came back as a female leader to lead the organisation because I really believe in the people we have.”

At an extraordinary general meeting on Tuesday, remaining members will vote on a resolution to put their confidence in reforms by Newton-Smith of the CBI’s “governance, culture, and purpose”.

Asked if she believed the organisation had a right to survive Tuesday’s vote, she said: “I absolutely do because I’ve seen just how effective we are when we have a collective voice of business.”

Newton-Smith took over from Tony Danker, who was forced out in April over a separate misconduct allegation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I, I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELLED BY, AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. ROBERT FROST

TODAY IN HISTORY

1873

Sultan Bargash bin Said under British pressure closes the infamous slave market of Zanzibar in modern day Tanzania

1963

State of siege proclaimed in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini arrested



1967 Six-Day War begins between Israel and the neighboring Arab states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria

1968

Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan assassinates Robert F. Kennedy, shooting him 3 times and wounding 5 others at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. Kennedy dies the next day.

News in brief

All 19 people caught in landslide in southwestern China's Sichuan province yesterday have been confirmed dead, state media reported...



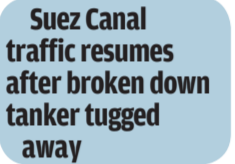
China landslide death toll rises to 19 as rescue work ends

US special climate envoy John Kerry has met senior Emirati officials in Abu Dhabi, including the head of the United Nations' upcoming climate change conference...

Egypt deployed three tugboats yesterday to tow away an oil tanker that had broken down and caused brief delays in the Suez Canal...



Suez Canal traffic resumes after broken down tanker tugged away



Suez Canal traffic resumes after broken down tanker tugged away

Kuwaitis again called to vote amid political paralysis

Kuwait is staging its seventh general election in just over 10 years tomorrow amid a persistent deadlock with the executive branch that has stalled reforms.

One of the world's largest producers of crude oil, Kuwait adopted a parliamentary system in 1962, but repeated political crises over the past years have resulted in state paralysis.

On April 9, its seventh new government in three years was announced after the previous cabinet resigned in January only three months after taking office.

The emir, 85-year-old Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has stepped back from political life in favour of the crown prince, 82-year-old Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

China warns 'NATO-like' alliances could lead to conflict in Asia-Pacific

China's defence minister warned yesterday against establishing NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying they would plunge the region into a "whirlpool" of conflict.

Li Shangfu's comments came a day after US and Chinese military vessels sailed close to each other in the flashpoint Taiwan Strait, an incident that provoked anger from both sides.

Li warned that these alliances would "plunge the Asia-Pacific into a whirlpool of disputes and conflicts".

Li's comments echoed long-held Chinese criticism of the United States' efforts to shore up alliances in the region and counter China's rise.

Cause and 'people responsible' for India train crash identified: minister



Police inspect the wrecked carriages of a three-train collision near Balasore, in India's eastern state of Odisha

AFP | New Delhi

India's Railway Minister Isaid yesterday the cause and people responsible for the country's worst train crash in decades had been identified, pointing to an electronic signal system without giving further details.

"We have identified the cause of the accident and the people responsible for it," India's Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told news agency ANI, but said it was "not appropriate" to give details before a final investigation report.

The death toll from Friday's crash near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, was expected to climb above 288. Ashwini said the "change that occurred during electronic interlocking, the acci-

dent happened due to that", a technical term referring to a complex signal system designed to stop trains colliding by arranging their movement on the tracks.

"Whoever did it, and how it happened, will be found out after proper investigation," he added. There was confusion about the exact sequence of events but reports cited railway officials as saying that a signalling error had sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track. It slammed into a freight train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was also passing the site.

Odisha state's chief secretary Pradeep Jena confirmed that about 900 injured people had been hospitalised.

Three Chinese astronauts return safely to Earth

AFP | Beijing

Three Chinese astronauts working at the country's space station have returned safely to Earth, state media reported yesterday, hailing the mission as a "complete success".

The return capsule of the Shenzhou-15 spaceship touched down at a landing site in northern China's Inner Mongolia region, according to state news agency Xinhua.

Astronauts Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu emerged from the capsule in "good physical condition", Xinhua reported.

"The mission... was a complete success," it said. Footage showed medical officials in white jumpsuits and face masks swaddling



Taikonaut Zhang Lu waves as he leaves the capsule of the Shenzhou-15 spaceship after landing in China's Inner Mongolia

the astronauts in blue blankets and carrying them away from the arid landing site, where the copper-coloured capsule lay flanked by red flags.

The trio had spent six months at the Tiangong space station,

conducting spacewalks and a variety of scientific experiments. China last week sent three more astronauts -- including its first civilian in orbit -- to the space station as part of the successor Shenzhou-16 mission.

NATO chief urges Turkey not to veto Sweden's bid

Turkey has dragged its feet over admitting Sweden to the military alliance

Sweden and Finland applied to join amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine

AFP | Istanbul

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg yesterday called on Ankara to drop its opposition to Sweden's bid to join the US-led defence alliance, hoping Stockholm's accession would be finalised "as soon as possible".

Pressure is building on Erdogan to greenlight Sweden's NATO membership ahead of a summit planned for July in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

"Membership will make Sweden safer but also make NATO and Turkey stronger," Stoltenberg told journalists after meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and newly appointed foreign



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (C) NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (L) and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan (R) as they attend a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey

minister Hakan Fidan, who was head of the intelligence agency, in Istanbul. "I look forward to finalising Sweden's accession as soon as possible," he said.

On Saturday Stoltenberg attended the inauguration of Erdogan, who was re-elected to serve another five years, in a lavish ceremony joined by dozens of world leaders in the capital Ankara.

NATO member Turkey has dragged its feet over admitting Sweden to the military alliance. It and Hungary are the only two NATO countries yet to ratify the membership bid. Sweden and Finland dropped decades of military

non-alignment and applied to join the alliance in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Finland formally joined NATO in April. - Anti-Turkey protests - Erdogan has accused Sweden of being a haven for "terrorists", especially members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group blacklisted by Turkey and its Western allies.

"Sweden has taken significant concrete steps to meet Turkey's concerns," Stoltenberg said. "This includes amending the Swedish constitution, ending arms embargo, stepping up counter-terrorism operations including against the

Israel buries three soldiers killed near Egypt border

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel yesterday buried three soldiers killed in a firefight at its usually secure border with Egypt and announced an "exhaustive and thorough" investigation into the deaths.

Egypt has blamed the fatal clash in the Negev desert on a member of its security forces who was also killed, saying he had crossed the border in pursuit of drug traffickers when he encountered the Israeli troops.

The Israeli army said an Egyptian "assailant" shot dead two soldiers at a post on the border. The discovery of their bodies triggered a manhunt during which the third soldier was killed as well as the suspected attacker.

Israel's border area with Egypt has not often been marred by violence since Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel following the Camp David



An ambulance is pictured near the Israeli Mount Harif military base near the city of Mitzpe Ramon in Israel's southern Negev desert, adjacent to the border with Egypt

accords of 1978. As Israel mourned those killed the previous day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it had sent Egypt a "clear message", speaking at the opening of a cabinet meeting on Sunday.

"We expect that the joint investigation will be exhaustive and thorough," he said. "This is part of the important security cooperation between us, which has benefited both coun-

tries over the years." Egypt's army said a member of its security forces had crossed the border "chasing drug traffickers" before he was killed in an "exchange of fire which left three dead on the Israeli side".

The two Israeli soldiers whose bodies were found early Saturday at a guard post close to the Harif military base were identified as Lia Ben Nun, 19, and Ori Izhak Iluz, 20.

Ohad Dahan, also 20, was killed during the manhunt later on Saturday, the army said. A fourth Israeli soldier, a non-commissioned officer, was lightly wounded, it added.

Ben Nun was laid to rest on Sunday in the central Israeli city of Rishon LeZion.

"I love you and miss you already," her sister Ofir said in her eulogy. "I don't know what I'll do now."

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Australia to create marine park the size of Spain



Sydney, Australia

Australia plans to create a marine park almost the size of Spain around remote islands off its southeast coast, the government announced yesterday.

Under the proposals, the existing Macquarie Island Marine Park will be tripled in size, bringing a total of 475,465 square kilometres (183,578 square miles) under protection.

That is an area roughly the size of Spain or Cameroon and much larger than Vietnam or Japan.

The protections mean the area will be "completely closed to fishing, mining and other extractive activities", accord-

ing to Australia's Minister of Environment Tanya Plibersek. Existing fishery operations targeting the Patagonian toothfish will be allowed to continue.

Macquarie Island sits halfway between Australia and Antarctica and is home to royal penguins, fur seals and a sub-antarctic science hub.

"Macquarie Island is an exceptional place. It's a remote wildlife wonderland - a critical breeding ground for millions of seabirds, seals and penguins," said Plibersek.

Environmental groups have backed the plan, fearing the area could be targeted for seabed mining and unsustainable commercial fishing.

Nepali guide rescues climber from Everest death zone

AFP | Kathmandu

A Nepali guide abandoned his ancient's Everest summit bid to rescue a Malaysian climber in a deadly mountaineering season that has seen at least twelve deaths.

Gelje Sherpa was guiding a Chinese client to the 8,849-metre (29,032-feet) peak and planned to assist him to paraglide down.

Instead, only a few hundred metres from the summit, they came across a lone man clinging to a rope and shivering in the area known as the "death zone".

The area above 8,000 metres has earned its name because of



Nepali guide Gelje Sherpa

its thin air, freezing temperatures and low oxygen levels that heighten the risk of altitude sickness. It is also notorious for its difficult terrain. "When I found him in that state, my heart did not let me leave him there," Sherpa told AFP.

Many other climbers had walked past the man that day, but he declined to criticise them. "It is a place where you have to think of your survival first," he said.

Sherpa told his client -- who will have paid at least \$45,000 to attempt Everest, including a permit fee of \$11,000 -- to return without a summit.

BETTER YOU KNOW Nepal issued a record 478 permits for Everest to foreign climbers this season and about 600 climbers and guides reached the top. Twelve climbers have been confirmed dead, and five more are still missing.

"When I decided to go down, my client did not agree at first. Of

course, he was there after spending a lot of money, it must have been his dream for years and he had to find time to come here to climb. "He got angry and said he wanted to go to the summit.

"I had to scold him and tell him that he has to descend because he was my responsibility and I couldn't send him to the summit on his own. He got upset."

He explained that he wanted to take the sick man down the mountain.

"Then he realised that by 'rescue' I meant that I wanted to save him. He understood and then he apologised later

LEGAL VIEWPOINT Corporate Governance - How to achieve best results. Includes a top 4 tweets section with social media icons and a disclaimer box.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT Corporate Governance - How to achieve best results. Main body of the legal article discussing corporate governance principles and the role of the Board of Directors.

Building Bridges

Israeli Ambassador Discusses Fostering Bilateral Relations with Bahrain while Ensuring Regional Stability: An Exclusive Interview with Eitan Na'eh

In a captivating interview, Israeli Ambassador Eitan Na'eh discusses how his understanding of Bahrain's socio-cultural diversity has influenced his diplomatic priorities. Emphasising the significance of building relationships with the people rather than just institutions, he highlights the need for increased travel between Bahrain and Israel to promote mutual understanding. On the occasion of Israel celebrating 75 years of independence, Na'eh also delves into the potential collaborations in sectors such as Aggrotech, healthcare, alternative energy, and food tech, envisioning Bahrain as a gateway for exporting Israeli technology.

P. Unnikrishnan

Q: How has your knowledge and understanding of Bahrain's sociocultural mosaic influenced your priorities as the Israeli Ambassador?

A: My knowledge about this country was limited when I arrived in Bahrain a year and a half ago. However, over time, I have come to understand and appreciate the rich socio-cultural mosaic of this great nation. Acquiring this knowledge has allowed me to prioritise the initiatives that can be undertaken in Bahrain.

Q: How do you approach diplomacy in Bahrain, and why do you emphasise building relationships with the people rather than just institutions?

A: In my diplomatic endeavours, I have adopted a holistic approach that strongly emphasises building relationships with the people of Bahrain. While political, economic, commercial, and cultural connections are essential, the enduring aspect of people-to-people relations forms the foundation of any diplomatic engagement.

It is crucial to recognise that developing relationships with individuals, rather than just institutions, is critical. Results cannot be achieved overnight; patience is required to witness the positive outcomes that emerge from these connections.

Q: How can promoting mutual understanding and knowledge through increased travel between Bahrain and Israel enhance bilateral relations?

A: Insufficient knowledge about our respective countries significantly contributes to negative perceptions. More Bahrainis must visit Israel to combat this and experience the reality first-hand. Seeing is believing. One must immerse oneself in a country's culture to understand it comprehensively and philosophically. Drawing inspiration from the fruitful interactions between Israelis and Indians, I have personally studied Indian philosophy in college, but only after visiting India I learned to fully appreciate its cultural

diversity. Through direct exposure, we can truly grasp the essence of a place.

Regrettably, the number of Bahrainis who have visited Israel, and vice versa, remains limited. It is time for both countries to facilitate two-way travel, allowing people to understand and enjoy the relationship. Whether it's a long weekend or a week-long trip, experiencing the food, meeting the locals, and witnessing the atmosphere and warmth of the people, will foster stronger connections.

At the Embassy, we are actively exploring ways to streamline the visa process, enabling more businesspeople to travel between our nations. Gulf Air has been instrumental in this regard, offering daily flights. I aim to encourage more Bahrainis to visit Israel, as both countries have unique offerings that can attract and captivate each other. I have been delighted to see many young Bahrainis sharing positive notes after they visit Israel.

Q: In what ways are you engaging with the younger generation to change perceptions and build a strong foundation for the future of Bahrain-Israel relations?

A: Connecting with the younger generation is crucial to build a strong foundation. They possess open and receptive minds, enabling them to understand and appreciate the synergies between our countries. Many young people who have visited Israel have documented their beautiful moments, immersing themselves in our cultural and scenic beauty. By facilitating interactions between young professionals from Bahrain and Israel, we provide them with a common ground for discussion and learning. For example, a young doctor or programmer from Bahrain will find much to discuss and learn from their Israeli counterparts and vice versa. We are also in the early stages of discussions with relevant ministries to establish a fellowship program for exchanging students for higher studies, further deepening our connections.

Noteworthy figures such as high dignitaries, NGO members, businesspeople, and young individuals graced our 75th Independence Day celebration. Although space constraints prevented us from inviting many, the perception of Israel has evolved significantly in Bahrain, thanks to the Abraham Accords.

Q: Can you elaborate on the investment opportunities and potential collaborations between Israeli and Bahraini companies in Aggrotech, healthcare, alternative energy, and food tech sectors?

A: We are poised to witness increased investment activity in the coming days. Israeli companies have already signed memorandums of understanding with reputable firms in Bahrain, with endless possibilities spanning Aggrotech, healthcare, and alternative energy. Food tech is another area of great interest. One of Israel's most influential healthcare has partnered with one of Bahrain's largest hospitals.

Israel leads the world in wastewater recycling, with a remarkable 90% recycling rate. In contrast, Spain, the second-highest recycling country, only recycles 20% of its wastewater. Numerous Bahraini businesspeople have expressed their interest in collaborating with Israeli companies. However, it is essential to acknowledge that substantial results may take several years to materialise. Israel has made significant strides in solar energy, and this is an area where we can forge partnerships with Bahraini companies, for example.

We also have plans to establish a neurology centre in Bahrain using Israeli technology, as both countries face similar challenges related to genetic diseases, such as sickle cell anaemia. Our advanced medical research centre can augment the existing facilities in Bahrain. While ongoing projects are being discussed, I cannot disclose further details due to their commercial sensitivity.

Q: How do you plan to strengthen bilateral relations between Israel and Bahrain through high-level exchanges and engagement between officials and ministers?

A: We are witnessing an increasingly robust exchange between Israeli officials and Bahraini ministers. The leaders of both countries are actively



Israeli Ambassador Eitan Na'eh

engaging in discussions. Our President visited Bahrain last year, and the Minister of Tourism will soon visit Bahrain. Numerous ministers from Israel and Bahrain have seen each other's countries, and many Bahrainis have travelled to Israel. I frequently meet members of the Royal family, ministers, and other esteemed dignitaries. Our countries have reached a stage where Jerusalem and Manama listen to each other.

Q: Can you provide more details on the support and collaboration between Israel and Bahrain in research and development, particularly in food tech?

A: Recognising that necessity is the mother of invention, our research centres in Israel has developed numerous cutting-edge technologies. We stand ready to set up joint research and development centres in Bahrain. Food tech is an area where we can easily collaborate. For instance, we have successfully developed and introduced "Redefined meat" and other alternative ways to consume or produce meat with companies like "Elef Farms" or "Beyond meat". We can now print meat in labs using 3D printers.

Q: How do you address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and what role do ongoing dialogues play in finding a resolution?

A: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has a deeply rooted history spanning a century and continues to persist. What is needed is an ongoing dialogue. We are committed to refrain-

BETTER
YOU
KNOW

The religious affiliation of the Israeli population as of 2022 was 73.6% Jewish, 18.1% Muslim, 1.9% Christian, and 1.6% Druze

ing from causing harm unless we have threatened ourselves. We are clear on this point. The loss of innocent lives provokes our reactions. I'm sure we can achieve real peace, if realistic ideas and demands can be made and can be met.

Q: What are your plans for Bahrain-Israel relations, and how do you envision transforming Bahrain into a gateway for exporting Israeli technology?

A: My vision for the future in this respect is that both countries should enjoy the advantage of this location as a gateway between East and West, for exporting and importing Israeli technology, industries, and trade, in collaboration with Bahrain, thereby creating a mutually beneficial outcome. I also wish us to be able to enhance bilateral relationships by focusing on regional security. The possibilities I envisioned a year and a half ago are now becoming more of a reality.



Pictures from the 75th Independence Day celebrations held at the Wyndham grant hotel

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Israel is the only country that entered the 21st century with more trees than in the 20th century. In the last 50 years, 260 million trees have been planted in Israel

Classifieds



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email: advt@newsofbahrain.com

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BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

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'Happy for men to take French Open night sessions,' says Gauff



Coco Gauff in action against Mirra Andreeva

AFP | Paris

Coco Gauff shrugged off French Open night sessions being monopolised by men, claiming it's a not a "hot-spot" for women players.

In 2022, only one of 10 night sessions at Roland Garros featured a women's singles match.

This year saw the first six nights also feature only men's singles with yesterday's last-16 clash between Aryna Sabalenka and Sloane Stephens set to be the first women's match at the seventh time of asking.

"I don't know if the night session amongst the players is a popular hotspot, to be honest," said American world number six Gauff.

"I guess for the TV and that's the prime spot, maybe yes, it does suck in that sense. But

"I don't know if Sloane or Aryna wanted to play at that time, but I know the ones I spoke to, no one really wants the night session. We were happy with the men taking it"

COCO GAUFF

amongst the players and from my conversations, I don't think a lot of people want that spot just because it is a late night."

The 19-year-old added: "I don't know if Sloane or Aryna wanted to play at that time, but I know the ones I spoke to, no one really wants the night session."

"We were happy with the men taking it."

Last year, tournament director Amelie Mauresmo, a former world number one and two-time Grand Slam title winner, caused a stir by saying men's matches were more attractive.

However, she insisted her remarks were taken out of context.

On Saturday, there were reports that fans were offering their Sunday night session tickets back for resale.

Men's world number one Carlos Alcaraz and 22-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic both played in the day time yesterday.

Sri Lanka square ODI series with win over Afghanistan

AFP | Hambantota

Sri Lanka bounced back to square the three-match one-day international series against Afghanistan yesterday, with a comprehensive 132-run win at Hambantota.

Having amassed a target of 324, the Sri Lankan bowlers skittled out the tourists for 191 inside 43 overs for their biggest win in ODIs over Afghanistan.

Quick bowler Dushmantha Chameera, returning to the side after a seven-month layoff after ankle surgery, bowled a couple of hostile spells to finish with two for 18.

Sri Lanka will be buoyed by the return of their main strike bowler, as they head to Zimbabwe straight after the series to play World Cup qualifiers.

There are no such problems for Afghanistan, who have already qualified for the World Cup later this year in India.

Chameera was well backed up by part-time offspinner Dhananjaya de Silva, who finished with



Sri Lanka's Dushmantha Chameera (R), Wanindu Hasaranga (2R) and Pathum Nissanka (2L) celebrate after the dismissal of Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz (L)

three wickets, including first-match hero Ibrahim Zardan.

Legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga polished up the tail claiming three for 42.

Zardan, who had top scored in the first ODI with 98 runs, was again among the runs with 54.

But the scoreboard pressure got to him as he edged an attempted cut shot that was well

taken by Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.

Captain Hashmatullah Shahidi top scored with 57 runs, before being trapped leg before by de Silva.

After that, there was little resistance by the Afghan batters as they lost six wickets for 23 runs.

Sri Lanka came into the game

YOU KNOW WHAT

Quick bowler Dushmantha Chameera, returning to the side after a seven-month layoff after ankle surgery, bowled a couple of hostile spells to finish with two for 18

making four changes, having lost the first ODI by six wickets on Friday.

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Pathum Nissanka had added 82 runs for the first wicket, with Karunaratne on a comeback trial doing well to post 52 off 62 balls.

Kusal Mendis then upped the tempo with a superb counter-attack, posting 78 off 75 balls with seven fours and one six.

Australia's Hazlewood out of WTC final, Nesar called up

AFP | Sydney

Australian pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood was ruled out yesterday of this week's World Test Championship final against India with Michael Nesar added to their squad.

Hazlewood has not played any red-ball cricket since injuring his Achilles in the Sydney Test against South Africa in January and only recently made his comeback in the Indian Premier

"Josh was very, very close to being given the green light but we are cognisant that our upcoming schedule means this is not a one-off Test match of us"

CHAIR OF SELECTORS GEORGE BAILEY



Australia's captain Pat Cummins (R) chats with teammate Josh Hazlewood (L) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (file photo)

League.

While he has been bowling at full speed in recent training sessions, he is still dealing with the injury and selectors opted not to risk him with a five-Test Ashes series against England to follow.

Nesar has been in scintillat-

ing form playing county cricket for Glamorgan, although Scott Boland is favoured to replace Hazlewood and lead the attack alongside Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon.

"Josh was very, very close to being given the green light but

Michael Nesar has been in scintillating form playing county cricket for Glamorgan, although Scott Boland is favoured to replace Hazlewood and lead the attack alongside Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon

we are cognisant that our upcoming schedule means this is not a one-off Test match of us," chair of selectors George Bailey said in a statement.

"Michael's county form has been strong and knowing that he was going to be close by allowed for him to keep playing and for us to be able to call on him. He is a great strength to have as part of the fast bowling group.

BETTER YOU KNOW

World number seven Ons Jabeur believes the best way forward is to follow the lead of the Australian and US Opens and schedule a men's and a women's match side-by-side in the night sessions

Benzema to leave Real

Real Madrid confirm French striker to depart after 14 years at the Bernabeu



● **Announcement comes a day after Ancelotti said Benzema would stay**

AFP |

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has agreed a deal to leave the club, the Spanish giants said yesterday.

The 35-year-old forward has been heavily linked this week with a lucrative move to Saudi Arabia and Saudi state television channel Al-Ekhbariya reported yesterday that he had signed with Jeddah-based Al-Ittihad.

"Real Madrid and our captain Karim Benzema have agreed to put an end to his brilliant and unforgettable era as a player at our club," said Los Blancos in a statement.

"Madrid want to show their gratitude and all their love to someone who is one of our greatest legends."

The announcement comes after Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti had said Saturday there was "no doubt" about Karim Benzema

Benzema's future being at Madrid, noting the forward had one more year left on his contract.

And Benzema himself had said "not everything you read on the internet is reality" after reports emerged in the week about his potential departure to Saudi Arabia, where his former Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo is playing for Al Nassr.

According to Al-Ekhbariya, however, the president of Saudi champions Al-Ittihad and his deputy were in Madrid "to officially sign" Benzema in a "record transfer with Real Madrid".

The TV channel said Benzema had agreed a two-year deal with the club, based on the Red Sea shores of the Gulf kingdom.

Leaving Lyon

The French forward joined Madrid in 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.

Benzema established himself as a key player alongside Ronaldo and Gareth Bale in the vaunted "BBC" attacking trident, before developing into the team's leader when the Portuguese striker left in 2018.

Benzema has lifted five Champions Leagues, four La Liga titles and three Copas del Rey with



Real Madrid and is the current holder of the Ballon d'Or for the world's best player.

He is Real Madrid's second top scorer of all-time, with 353 goals for Madrid, behind only Ronaldo on 450.

Benzema's final appearance for the club could be later yesterday when Madrid host Athletic Bilbao in La Liga at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid confirmed Saturday that Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz are all leaving this summer too, leaving plenty of space for new acquisitions in attack.

Ancelotti avoided talking on Saturday about Madrid's alleged interest in England and Tottenham striker Harry Kane.

"I'm not going to talk about the future of the squad that is in



Benzema established himself as a key player alongside Ronaldo and Gareth Bale in the vaunted "BBC" attacking trident, before developing into the team's leader when the Portuguese striker left in 2018

place," said Ancelotti.

"Kane is a great player, he is a Tottenham player, we have to respect the player and Tottenham."

Rise to glory

Benzema battled with Gonzalo Higuain for a regular starting spot in his early days at Madrid, and was once derided by then-coach Jose Mourinho for being a "cat" instead of the "hunting dog" he wanted.

While playing alongside Ronaldo, Benzema took the role of sup-

plier and worked hard to provide for his team-mate.

The forward greatly increased his goal output after Ronaldo left, playing centrally, and scored 44 in 46 games last season, a performance that earned him the 2022 Ballon d'Or.

Benzema's most recent conquest was the Copa del Rey in May, with Real Madrid beating Osasuna to lift the Spanish cup for the first time since 2014.

Benzema may cherish last season's Champions League triumph the most of all his successes because he played a crucial role in winning it.

The forward scored a stunning hat-trick to help Madrid come from behind against Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and progress.

Benzema netted another treble at Stamford Bridge in the quarter-finals against Chelsea and scored the extra-time goal in the second leg which sent his team into the semi-finals.

The forward also scored three goals over two games against Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to help Madrid reach the final, which they won against Liverpool in Paris -- his first Champions League triumph as the team's figurehead.

Djokovic into French Open quarters

● **Djokovic eases into record 17th French Open quarter-final and 55th at Slams**

AFP | Paris

Novak Djokovic reached his 55th Grand Slam quarter-final and record 17th at the French Open yesterday with a straight-sets win over Juan Pablo Varillas.

Djokovic, chasing a third Roland Garros championship and record-setting 23rd men's Grand Slam title, eased past his 94th-ranked Peruvian opponent, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The 36-year-old Serb, champion in Paris in 2016 and 2021, will face 11th seed Karen Khachanov for a place in the semi-finals.

Djokovic holds a commanding 8-1 career lead over the Russian including their only previous meeting at the French Open in 2020.

"I had never played my opponent before. I knew he was a clay court specialist and that I had to earn the victory. It was the best I played this week," said



Novak Djokovic plays a backhand return to Juan Pablo Varillas



I had never played my opponent before. I knew he was a clay court specialist and that I had to earn the victory. It was the best I played this week

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Djokovic after ensuring a 14th successive last-eight spot at the tournament.

On his record 17th quarter-fi-

nal in Paris, he added: "I am very proud of this record. I have put a lot of effort into my game and I am very motivated to continue."

Yesterday, Djokovic fought off a break point in the opening game of the first set before stretching out to a convincing 4-0 lead.

Two more breaks then helped him to a comfortable 5-1 advantage in the second set. It took Djokovic just 79 minutes to open a two-set lead.

That was in stark contrast to his gruelling third round win over Spain's Alejandro Dav-

idovich Fokina.

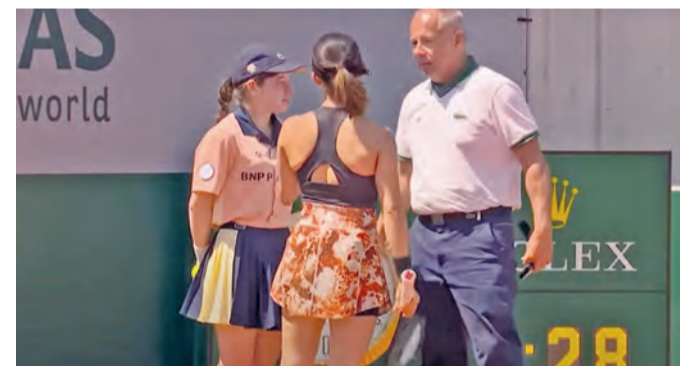
The first two sets then needed two hours and 53 minutes to negotiate and his eventual straight-sets win proved to be the longest three-setter he had ever played, clocked at three hours and 36 minutes.

Varillas, who had never won a Grand Slam match before this year's French Open, continued to wilt, slipping 2-1 down and then 4-1 down in the third before Djokovic put him out of his misery after a shade under two hours on court.



The 36-year-old Djokovic has yet to drop a set through four rounds. He is into a record 17th French Open quarter-final after making the last eight at a major for the 55th time

French Open pair Kato, Sutjiadi disqualified after ballgirl hit



A video grab shows Miyu Kato (C) speaking to the girl (L) and a match official

AFP | Paris

Miyu Kato and Aldila Sutjiadi were disqualified from the French Open yesterday after a ballgirl was accidentally hit by a harmless looking lob in an incident which also called into question the sportsmanship of their opponents.

The drama happened when the Japanese player and her Indonesian partner were leading 3-1 in the second set after opponents Marie Bouzkova and Sara Sorribes Tormo had claimed the opener.

Standing at the net, Kato gently backhanded a ball in the direction of the ballgirl standing at the opposite end of Court 14 in an apparent effort to help the flow of the match.

Instead, it hit the youngster on the back of the head.

Kato, 28, immediately apologised to the girl who was crying and shaking.

At first Kato received just a warning but the supervisor was then called to the court and the pair, seeded 16 in the tournament, were disqualified from the third round match after Bouzkova and Sorribes Tormo had protested to the



The incident comes a day after 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva admitted she feared she would be defaulted after she angrily swiped a ball into the crowd during her singles match with Coco Gauff

umpire.

"I didn't see it, our team saw it," said Bouzkova. "But I saw that the girl was still crying for 15 minutes afterwards."

The warning first happened because the umpire didn't see that she was crying and she was in that kind of pain. We told the supervisor that he should look more into it because we saw the girl was crying and the ball had gone directly at her. It wasn't like the ball bounced or was a slower ball."

Motorcyclist dies in collision at German Ironman race

AFP | Berlin

The driver of a motorcycle carrying a cameraman covering an Ironman triathlon in the northern German city of Hamburg died yesterday after colliding with a cyclist participating in the race.

"According to initial indications, there was a head-on collision between the escort motorcycle and

an oncoming race cyclist," Hamburg police said in a statement.

The driver of the motorcycle, 70, died "at the scene of the accident", police said. The cause of the collision with the road bike during the European championship race was not immediately clear.

The 26-year-old amateur triathlete involved in the crash was

"seriously injured" and taken to hospital.

The cameraman riding pillion on the back of the motorcycle "suffered a shock" and similarly received medical attention, police said.

German public broadcaster ARD cut off its coverage of the event following the incident, though the race continued.



A video grabs show a motorcycle rider and cyclist falling after a collision

Verstappen extends title lead with masterful Spanish win

Max Verstappen outpaces Mercedes duo to cruise to Spanish Grand Prix victory

● **Red Bull driver finishes 24 seconds clear of Lewis Hamilton**

● **George Russell third; Sergio Pérez fourth in Barcelona**

AFP | Barcelona

Defending double world champion Max Verstappen extended his lead in this year's title race to 53 points yesterday when he completed a hat-trick by driving his Red Bull to a masterful victory in the Spanish Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Dutchman led from lights to flag to come home 24 seconds ahead of revitalised seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and George Russell, in their much-improved Mercedes' cars.

It was Verstappen's third consecutive win, his third in Spain, his fifth in seven races this season and the 40th of his career, achieved despite receiving three official warnings for exceeding track limits.

"It's such a big pleasure to drive a car like this," said Verstappen.

"And it showed again today. We were on different tyre strate-

gies out there today and mostly I was on the right one! And to win here is incredible."

Hamilton's second place provided him with his 11th podium finish in Spain, where he has won six times.

"Oh, man, what an awesome crowd and result," said Hamilton. "And I didn't expect that so hats off to the team and our factory for pushing us so close to the 'Bulls. We are chasing them down -- and George did a great job too to-

day."

Russell said he was surprised to finish third after starting 12th. "Kudos to the team for that," he said. "I had a great car today."

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez battled through the field, after starting 11th, to finish fourth ahead of Ferrari's home hero Carlos Sainz, Lance Stroll and his Aston Martin team-mate two-time champion Fernando Alonso, who was unable to extend his streak of podiums on home ground.

The race began in hot conditions with an air temperature of 25 degrees and the track at 42, but gathering clouds threatened. The risk of rain was 40 per cent.

Verstappen made a clean start and resisted Sainz into the first corner before, behind him, Hamilton swept round Norris, only for the McLaren to make contact under braking at Turn Two.

Norris's front wing was damaged,

requiring a pit-stop, but Hamilton escaped serious damage. The collision gifted Stroll third place, but this was not to be Aston Martin's day.

Russell also left the track on the opening lap, at the first chicane. He was not penalised, despite gaining five places from the start.

Verstappen stamped his authority on proceedings and by lap 11 led Sainz by 5.3 seconds with Hamilton, thanks to a sweeping pass on Stroll on lap eight, in third.

By mid-distance, Verstappen led by 13.7 seconds ahead of Hamilton, who was six clear of Sainz and pulling away. Russell, fourth, passed the Spaniard under braking at Turn One on lap 35, confirming the 'silver arrows' outright speed in the sunshine.

Verstappen responded with a lap in 1:16.330, the fastest. "OK, now can you bring it home within the white lines," came race engineer Gianpiero Lambiase's response.

plained of sliding on his worn hards, came in for his final stop on lap 53, taking softs to reach the finish. He was more than 16 seconds clear of Hamilton when he re-joined for his cruise to the flag.

With six laps remaining, he was shown a third black-and-white warning flag. "We can't afford anything," his team warned him as he enquired about his fastest lap.

Verstappen responded with a lap in 1:16.330, the fastest. "OK, now can you bring it home within the white lines," came race engineer Gianpiero Lambiase's response.



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen changes tyres during the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix race

"It's such a big pleasure to drive a car like this. And it showed again today. We were on different tyre strategies out there today and mostly I was on the right one! And to win here is incredible"

MAX VERSTAPPEN

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Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates his win

Mercedes boss warns team to stay realistic after double podium

AFP | Barcelona

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff yesterday thanked his engineers for a successful upgrades package -- but warned the team to stay realistic after a double podium finish at the Spanish Grand Prix.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton and teammate George Russell finished a strong second and third behind defending champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull, boosting team morale after a challenging run of results.

Their success yesterday lifted them to second ahead of Aston Martin behind dominant leaders Red Bull in the constructors' championship.

But a happy Wolff said he was keen to keep their big improvement in perspective and for the team to keep their feet on the ground.

"I'm very happy for the hard work that has been done," said Wolff. "We took some decisions to go in another direction."

"We changed so many parts, with many variables we don't understand. And it was a risky move..."

"I think we needed that shock at the beginning of the season -- that shook it up. But now you



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton competes in the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix race



Mercedes' success lifted them to second ahead of Aston Martin behind dominant leaders Red Bull in the constructors' championship

can see where the benchmark is -- and it's not where we want to be."

A revitalised Hamilton, who

is in negotiations to extend his contract which ends this year, was delighted with the result.

"George did a fantastic job and we have scored great points for the team. The factory should feel proud of the amazing work done to make this step for this weekend and last."

"The car felt great. Now, we have to make more steps to close the gap! This was more than I expected this weekend."

He added that it was a good signal to be fast at the Circuit de Catalunya.

"As long as I've been racing here, if you're quick here you should be quick elsewhere," he said. "But these cars have a narrow working window."

"But we have a very strong

"I'm very happy for the hard work that has been done. We took some decisions to go in another direction. We changed so many parts, with many variables we don't understand. And it was a risky move... I think we needed that shock at the beginning of the season -- that shook it up. But now you can see where the benchmark is -- and it's not where we want to be"

TOTO WOLFF

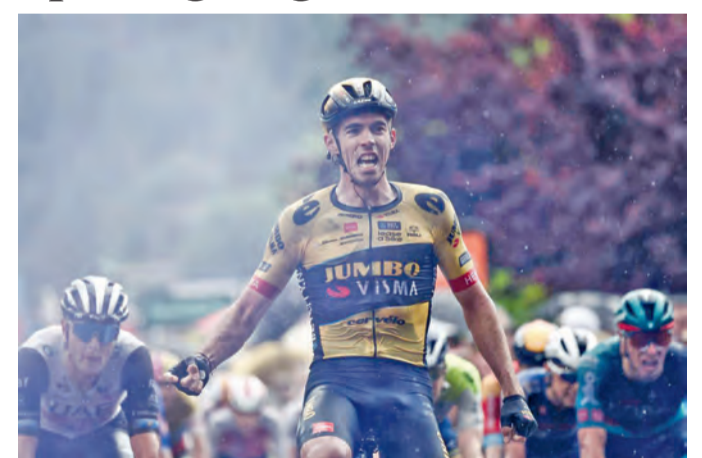
team. And George and I are punching out the results, weekend in and out, so now we will do all we can to catch the Red Bulls."

Asked about his personal motivation levels, he said: "Yes, I'm flat out and I'm not lifting."

Russell admitted he was surprised to finish on the podium after starting 12th.

"The car feels better and I'm delighted to get to third. We have to keep on pushing now."

Laporte sprints to Dauphine opening stage win



Jumbo-Visma's French rider Christophe Laporte celebrates as he crosses the finish line

AFP | Chambon-Sur-Lac

Frenchman Christophe Laporte pipped Belgian Rune Herregodts on the line in central France to win the first stage of the Criterium du Dauphine yesterday.

Intermarche-Circus-Wanty's Herregodts had been part of an early breakaway but finished in third place with Italian Matteo Trentin in second.

With less than a month to go until the Tour de France

last year's champion Jonas Vingegaard crossed the line just behind Jumbo-Visma team-mate Laporte.

One of France's contenders for the Tour, Julian Alaphilippe, also finished with the main group in a rain-soaked day to the south of the city of Clermont.

Laporte takes the Dauphine's overall leader's yellow jersey thanks to a 10 second win bonus before Monday's second stage, a 167.5km hilly ride eastwards from Brassac-Les-Mines to La Chaise-Dieu.