

Saudi and Russia 'stand united' to stabilise oil prices  
 AFP | Vienna

Saudi Arabia yesterday dismissed talk of discord with oil ally Russia, praising their coordinated decisions to remove barrels from the market in efforts to prop up prices.

Oil producers are grappling with falling prices and high market volatility amid fears of global economic slowdown and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has upended economies worldwide.

On Monday, Riyadh said that it would extend a production reduction of one million barrels per day (bpd), which began in July, to August to boost prices.

UK forces face probe over killings in Afghanistan  
 London

Britain's defense minister yesterday said allegations of unlawful killings in Afghanistan being examined by an independent inquiry relate to UK special forces.

The inquiry which opened in March was "now reaching the stage of substantive hearings, and I can confirm that the allegations relate to the conduct of UK Special Forces," Ben Wallace told parliament in a written statement.

Biden supports Sweden's Nato membership bid  
 AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday said he "fully supports" Sweden's Nato membership bid as he spoke alongside Sweden's prime minister at the White House.

Biden said he was "anxiously looking forward" to the bid being ratified.

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HM King commends BDF 'patriotism and courage'

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, expressed his pride in Bahrain's defence staff and their competence, and noted their constant keenness to carry out patriotic tasks entrusted to them with courage and determination.

HM the King was speaking as he visited yesterday the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

Upon arrival, HM King Hamad was received by Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of BDF, Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Commander of the Royal Guard's Special Force, Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of



Defence Affairs and senior BDF staff.

The Armed Forces Supreme Commander received a number of newly graduated officers of the 200th batch from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) in the United Kingdom. HM the King congratulated the graduates, wishing them continued success in serving their country.

He praised Bahrainis' keenness to excel in military and civil services to serve their country in the best way.

The graduates expressed their gratitude to HM the King for his support and encouragement to the citizens to achieve further success in education.

The attendees congratulated HM King Hamad on Eid Al Adha.



HM the King with BDF General Command senior officials and staff, along with newly graduated officers



From strength to struggle

Russian invasion of Ukraine 'catastrophic failure'

London

Russia has lost about half of its combat effectiveness since launching its invasion of Ukraine, which has turned out to be a "catastrophic failure."

This was according to Britain's Chief of the Defense Staff Admiral Tony Radakin.

"The manner in which Russia has conducted its illegal invasion of Ukraine... [Russia] has

lost nearly 50 percent of the combat effectiveness of its army for very, very little gains," Radakin told a parliamentary hearing yesterday.

He stressed that the invasion was a "catastrophic failure for Russia," and added that consequences of Russia's war on Ukraine included: "It has a diminished place in the world and an economy under pressure."

As for the Russian military

machine, Radakin said: "It has approximately fired last year over 10 million shells, and at best it can produce maybe 1 million shells a year. It has lost over 2,500 tanks and at best can replace those tanks at the rate of 200 tanks a year."

He praised the Ukrainian's counter-offensive efforts: "Even in the last few weeks, Ukraine has taken back more ground than Russia has taken in the last year."

He also addressed questions on whether the counter-offensive was moving too slowly or didn't achieve as much as anticipated.

"In terms of where the Ukrainian counter-offensive is at the moment... The full counter-offensive still hasn't happened. I would describe it as a policy of staff, stretch and strike. Staff the Russian lines and attack their logistics, their command and control. You then have, stretch,

which is how do you take a front line which is over a thousand kilometers [long] and make that more of a problem for Russia than it is for Ukraine?"

He added: "That's why you're seeing multiple axes being probed and feints from Ukraine at present. And you're seeing Ukrainian forces that are yet to breach the defensive lines of Russia that has dug in over the winter."

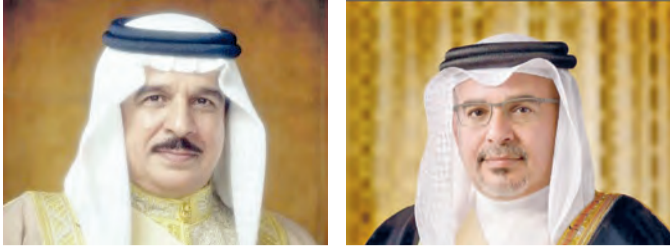
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HM the King

HRH Prince Salman

## HM King, HRH Prince Salman congratulated on Hajj success

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, yesterday received cables from the Head of the Bahrain Hajj Mission, Shaikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al Qattan.

Shaikh Adnan extended sincere congratulations to HM the King and HRH Prince Salman on the success of this year's Haj season, stressing that the royal directives to the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs and the Bahrain Hajj Mission to provide all services and facil-

ities to Bahraini pilgrims had contributed to the success of the Bahraini mission.

He also extended deepest thanks and gratitude to HM King Hamad and His Royal Highness for commending the role played by the Supreme Committee for Haj and Umrah Affairs and the Bahrain Hajj Mission in kingdom's success in winning the award for the best office for pilgrims' affairs, among three countries that received the highest satisfaction rate from their pilgrims for the Hajj season 1444, as part of the "Labbaytum" Award granted by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

## Bahrain greets Comoros

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 con-

gratulations to President Azali Assoumani of the Comoros, on his country's Independence Day. HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman wished President Assoumani abundant health and happiness on this occasion.

# Biodiversity, marine pollution deal signed

London

In the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on biodiversity and marine pollution.

It was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, on behalf of Oil and Environment Minister, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina, and Tim Green, the Deputy Chief Executive of UK-based Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).

The MoU aims to create a framework of action between Bahrain's Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) and Britain's Cefas by allowing them to explore areas of cooperation in monitoring the environment, marine life, climate change sciences, marine food security, biodiversity and safety from pollution.

Under the MoU, the two



Dr Al Zayani and Green at the agreement-signing ceremony

parties will also be able to exchange scientific and technical information, visits, training, research and cooperative projects, in addition to enhancing and developing the capabilities of their cadres and laboratories. It will also help them to protect and monitor natural marine resources in the region, and to provide technical advice.

Commenting, Dr, Bin Daina

affirmed the role played by the UK in protecting the environment at the global level.

He highlighted the robust long-standing Bahrain-UK relations, noting that the MoU reflects the two kingdoms' keenness to step up their joint cooperation and coordination in the environmental field by providing a framework for action in the fields of monitoring

the environment and marine life.

### Global peace and security

Dr Al Zayani, met the Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Lord Tariq Ahmad.

The meeting was on the sidelines of HRH Prince Salman's visit to the UK.

The Ambassador of Bahrain in London, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, and the UK Ambassador to Bahrain, Roddy Drummond, attended the meeting.

Dr. Al Zayani and Lord Tariq discussed longstanding Bahrain-UK ties and developing ties, in addition to cooperation spanning the political and economic fields to serve common interests.

They also reviewed the impact of regional and international developments on global peace and security, as well as Mideast disputes and crises and efforts to achieve security and stability in the region.

## Bahrain welcomes Egypt-Turkey pact

TDT | Manama

Bahrain welcomed the agreement between Egypt and

Turkey to raise diplomatic representation and appoint resident ambassadors in both countries. The Ministry of Foreign

Affairs affirmed the agreement was a positive step that would contribute to strengthening cooperation.

### Bahrain-US defense partnership



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Senator Rick Scott, Member of the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services. Minister of Defence Affairs, Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, attended the meeting. Shaikh Khalifa praised the Bahraini-US ties and the ongoing cooperation in all fields, including in the military and defense sectors. The BDF Commander-in-Chief affirmed the importance of the partnership between Bahrain and the US which continues to see ongoing development.

### Boosting cooperation



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam. The meeting reviewed cooperation between the BDF and the Council of Representatives.

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## Bahrain confirms UK as sea-air cargo services official partner



Fakhro with Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, the UK Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade

London

Bahrain has granted the United Kingdom an accreditation certificate to become an official partner for sea-air cargo services.

This decision came during His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's official visit to the UK.

Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro said that this partnership reflects the longstanding relationship between Bahrain and the UK.

Fakhro emphasised the importance of strengthening ties, especially across the sea and air transport sectors.

This new initiative is designed to deepen economic and trade relations that will attract investments and result in prosperity for both nations.

The minister highlighted

that granting the UK this certificate enables companies in the country an opportunity to obtain an official accreditation certificate as an authorised operator of the sea-air cargo service.

Companies based in these countries will be able to request accreditation as an operator from the Government of Bahrain as a result of the project to grant partner status to more countries. This approach falls under Bahrain's wider strategy to expand its international partnerships.

Bahrain launched the Global Center for Maritime and Air Cargo Services to enhance the effectiveness of Khalifa bin Salman Port and Bahrain International Airport.

As opposed to Khalifa bin Salman Port and Bahrain International Airport, which only offer sea or air services, the center provides both sea and air cargo amenities at a significantly lower cost.

## Restaurant owner jailed and fined for human trafficking

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court handed down a five-year prison sentence and a BD5,000 fine to a restaurant owner who coerced four female employees into sitting with customers, while also withholding their salaries and confiscating their passports.

The victims were only provided with two meals a day and were burdened with their own medical expenses. The owner's

female assistant received the same five-year prison sentence and BD5,000 fine, while a third defendant was sentenced to three years in prison and a BD2,000 fine.

The victims were held captive and closely guarded to prevent their escape. They sought help from a Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) inspector, leading to the charges of human trafficking, labour law violations.

# Solid Bahrain and UK relations set to soar

Continued growth of economic and investment cooperation in various sectors is on the horizon

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

The relationship between Bahrain and the United Kingdom will witness continued development and growth in various sectors, Her Excellency Representative Dr. Mariam Al Dhaen said yesterday.

Stating that more investment is expected due to the improvement in the relationship in the immediate future, Dr Al Dhaen added that the ties between the two countries have a strong foundation of mutual respect, appreciation, and close cooperation.

She also confirmed that the bilateral partnership between Bahrain and the UK has expanded and has been strengthened through the signing of many agreements, protocols, and memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Her Excellency noted that the



DR. MARIAM AL DHAEN

The recent visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the UK highlighted the significant importance of continuing to support the economic and investment cooperation between the two countries. This will help to open up new opportunities in key sectors and strengthen Bahrain's economic position

recent visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the UK highlighted the significant importance of continuing to support the economic and investment cooperation between the two countries. This will help to open up new opportunities in key sectors and strengthen Bahrain's economic position, she said.

By explaining more about the Bahrain-UK ties, Dr. Al Dhaen

said that the recent memorandums of understanding signed between the two countries cover important aspects of sustainable development, such as biodiversity and marine pollution. They also cover cooperation and exchange of experiences in the fields of financial and banking training and education, as well as training Bahraini citizens in the UK, she said.

Shedding more light on the scope of the MoUs, Her Excellency noted that they will help

to enhance promising opportunities for joint work as they include the provision of asset management services and the promotion of investment opportunities.

The agreements also related to the launch of services for the examination of pearls and precious stones, she added while pointing out that it is particularly significant, as it confirms Bahrain's position as a pioneering leader in this field.

## Danat signs deal to expand into British market

London

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, attended the signing of an agreement between the Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (Danat) with MALCA-AMIT, during his official visit to the UK.

The agreement was signed by Noura Jamsheer, the CEO of Danat, and Charles Frederick Richard Turner, Managing Director of MALCA-AMIT.

The agreement stipulates MALCA-AMIT will handle communication with prospective clients and facilitate their requests to examine pearls, jewellery, and gemstones.

From the outset, MALCA-AMIT will arrange for items to be sent to Danat's laboratory in Bahrain for testing. After the evaluation is complete, MAL-

CA-AMIT will securely ship items back to customers along with the corresponding inspection certificate. This process adheres to the highest standards and principles of security in the industry.

Danat's strategic decision to expand into the British market is designed to leverage the market's rich experience in the jewellery and gemstone trade. London, in particular, serves as the global hub for numerous jewellery houses, making it a prime destination for individuals seeking pearls, jewellery, and gemstones.

Danat is actively involved in driving forward Bahrain's national plan to revive the Kingdom's pearl sector. Over the last six years, the institute has made significant advancements in several areas, including, providing jewellery inspection services, establishing global



Jamsheer and Turner sign the agreement

partnerships and developing comprehensive training programmes.

Danat continues to establish collaborations with renowned institutions in the region and across the world. The institution's primary objective is to contribute to the sector on a global scale by adhering to the

highest industry standards and leveraging scientific knowledge to ensure the guarantee, protection and enhancement of public trust in pearls, gemstones, and jewellery. Danat's persistent efforts continue to play a crucial role in strengthening the natural pearl trade in Bahrain and across the globe.

## Eight Bahraini innovators sweep Digital Content Awards

11th edition of MEET ICT Conference and BITEX

TDT | Manama

Eight Bahraini entities, comprising both companies and individuals, emerged as winners of the Digital Content Award in Bahrain. The announcement was made by the Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) during the inaugural day of the 11th edition of the MEET ICT Conference and Bahrain International Technology

Exhibition (BITEX).

These accolades were granted to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of the recipients within Bahrain's digital content industry. They serve as a means to foster innovation and creativity in a field that is experiencing significant growth in today's modern world.

In the "Government & Citizen Engagement" category, the e-Traffic App developed by the General Directorate of Traffic emerged as the winner.

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation's project, Widows and Orphans, secured the victory in the "Inclusion and Empowerment" category. The



Winners receive their Digital Content Awards

Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's initiative, Benayat, claimed the top spot in the "Smart Settlements and Urbanization" category.

The "Environment & Green

Energy" category saw Netmetering by Electricity and Water Affairs as the triumphant entry.

The Information & eGovernment Authority's (iGA) Be-Aware app secured victory

in the "Health & Well Being" category. Benefit's E-Cheque emerged as the winner in the "Business & Commerce" category. B4BHC.COM for Operating Websites emerged as the recip-

ient of the prestigious award in the "Culture and Tourism" category. Ms. Maram Aref Murad achieved victory in the "Young Innovators" category.

In the distinguished presence of Ms. Eman Al-Dosery, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the awards were presented to the deserving winners. Ms. Al-Dosery represented the patron of the awards, H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Notably, Mr. Tarek Fakhro, Chairman of BTECH, and Mr. Ahmed AlHujairy, Advisor of the Society, also graced the occasion.

# Transit passengers can tour Bahrain for free!

Tourists who are on layovers at Bahrain airport are offered free-of-charge visit for three hours to enjoy the Kingdom's unique tourism experience and real beauty

Julia Cassano

TDT | Manama

As the Kingdom strives to expand its tourism sector, tourists who are on layovers at Bahrain's International Airport, ranging from 5 to 24 hours, can experience a grand tour free of charge of the fascinating landmarks and exquisite tourist destinations the country has to offer!

This was announced by the Ministry of Tourism for transit passengers at Bahrain Airport travelling with the national carrier, Gulf Air, starting from July 5, 2023. The service is provided in cooperation between Gulf Air, Bahrain Airport Company, and the Bahrain Tourism

Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

For many, waiting in airports during travels is a hassle. And although the new Bahrain International Airport offers great dining and restaurants, shopping, the Souq Al Qaisariya, art galleries, and much more, getting a feel of Bahrain is a must!

Eligible tourists will get to experience the vibrant culture and rich history that the Kingdom has to offer with the new free tour. On top of this, the tour takes you to Bahrain's most loved and desirable destinations such as the Souq, famous historical landmarks, and museums.

This not only encourages tourists to see the Kingdom once, but come back again as well.

Passengers who are transiting in Bahrain for more than five hours and within 24 hours can book the three-hour tour.



Passengers who are on layovers can experience Bahrain's tourist attractions before continuing to their final destinations

A specialised work team in cooperation with all teams involved is fully prepared to meet expectations and ensure that tourists receive a high-quality service within the framework of a distinguished tourism experience, Dr. Nasser Ali Qaedi, CEO of BTEA confirmed.

Jeffrey Goh, CEO of Gulf Air Group Holding, said: "The Kingdom of Bahrain is not only

an attractive tourist destination for business and leisure travellers, but also a strategic gateway between the East and the West, as a large number of visitors pass through Bahrain International Airport daily."

He, however, noted that although there are many visitors that pass through the airport, not enough of them are able to enjoy the Kingdom and experience the real beauty of the country.

New services as such encourage travellers and tourists to experience the country and indulge in the Kingdom's rich history and culture.

The free of charge tours last three hours, twice a day, from 9 am to 12 noon and 7 pm to 10 pm. Tourists must book reservations prior.



# Abandoned Manama building, nest for paranormal activities?

Rumour has it that at night you can see faces of little children peering through the windows and sometimes calling out to people

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

A few years after it was built, the infamous Manama structure also known as the "haunted building" began to generate rumours of terrifying tales and paranormal activities.

The structure was constructed by a Kuwaiti investor in the middle of the 1970s. After a few years, its tenants left in the 1980s, and it soon became popular among those looking for rental properties.

The Kuwaiti investor is said to have left Bahrain a long time ago and was affluent enough to leave it in what it is now in the middle of the capital, according to sources.

Furthermore, it is believed in Bahraini society that one should associate with or invest in structures that have a false history.

The Daily Tribune interviewed a few neighbourhood residents who were passing by the building about the rumours, and many said that it has been abandoned for years and claimed that it is haunted, while others thought that people were

**The kind of rumours we heard from others were doors and windows slamming and children crying from the fifth level**

RESIDENT

engaging in criminal activity there, making it unsafe to enter.

"The kind of rumours we heard from others were doors and windows slamming and children crying from the fifth level," a passing resident remarked.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a coldstore owner, Bilal, said: "Frankly, it's unbelievable that these rumours still exist, I have been working and living in this area for many years and not once have I seen or heard anything suspicious."

"There are some people who go inside maybe for taking videos or exploring but that's it, no one really goes."

He intends to dispel these rumours, and the building must be rebuilt, its amenities updated and painted, and then it will be a magnificent building, with



Manama's 'haunted building'

tenants coming to rent offices on its floors and re-let some of its vacant shops.

The Daily Tribune learned that there are many such abandoned buildings and houses all over the Kingdom.

Earlier, it was reported that the Bahrain Authority for Cultural and Antiquities (BACA) wants to preserve some of the

older 'heritage homes' in the areas as they are part of Bahrain's history, but those beyond repair need to be demolished for safety reasons.

"There are at least 350 abandoned dangerous buildings that pose a threat to the people in the area and the issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible," it said.

# 105 bids received for 12 endowment properties

TDT | Manama

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Jaffaria Waqf Directorate (JWD) organised a public session to open bids in endowment auctions for June 2023.

The session was broadcasted live on the administration's digital platforms for applicants and the public to see all the proceedings of the session, as the committee received 105 bids for 12 endowment properties.

Yusuf bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of JWD, hailed the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the government's follow-up led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al

Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for all houses of worship. He also praised the support of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments.

Al Saleh said that the Jaffariya Awqaf Directorate is moving forward in offering real estate for lease and endowment investment according to the bidding system in line with the best practices.

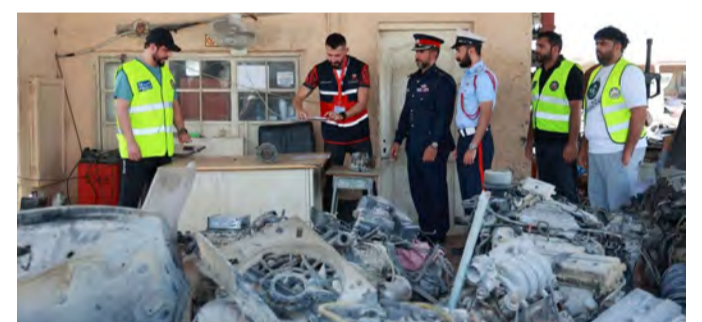
He added that all details of real estate offered for investment are made available, in line with the directorate's efforts to achieve the development of the endowment and the effective contribution to the economic and social development in the Kingdom.

## Labour inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) carried out four inspection campaigns in the Capital Governorate, Muharraq Governorate, and the Southern Governorate, which included a number of shops, work sites, and labour gathering places. The inspection campaigns resulted in monitoring a number of violations, especially the provisions of the LMRA Law and the Residence Law in the kingdom, and the arrest of a number of workers in violation of laws and regulations. Legal measures have been taken. The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to report any complaints related to violations of the labour market and irregular employment on its website, [www.lmra.gov.bh](http://www.lmra.gov.bh), or call the authority's call center 17506055.

## Security and inspection campaigns



In continuation of the periodic security and inspection campaigns to combat the irregular labour and monitor laws and regulations violators, the Southern Governorate Police Directorate, in cooperation and coordination with the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and a number of Ministry of Interior directorates, carried out an inspection campaign on shops selling and buying used spare parts. A number of workers who violated labour and residency regulations were arrested. Legal measures were taken against the violating shops. The violators are to be referred to the Public Prosecution.

# Stocks drop as Chinese, eurozone data disappoint

## ● Eurozone economic activity fell to 49.9 points in June

AFP | London

Stock markets retreated yesterday on disappointing eurozone and Chinese economic data and rising tensions between Beijing and Washington. European and Asian equities closed in the red while Wall Street indices were down near midday deals.

Eurozone economic activity fell to 49.9 points in June, just under the 50-point mark indicating zero growth, according to revised figures from the

### Key figures around 1540 GMT

New York - Dow: DOWN 0.2% at 34,364.08 points
London - FTSE 100: DOWN 1.0% at 7,442.10 (close)
Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 0.8% at 7,310.81 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX: DOWN 0.6% at 15,937.58 (close)
EURO STOXX 50: DOWN 0.9% at 4,350.71 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.3% at 33,338.70 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: DOWN 1.6% at 19,110.38 (close)
Shanghai - Composite: DOWN 0.7% at 3,222.95 (close)
Euro/dollar: DOWN at \$1.0873 from \$1.0900 on Tuesday
Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2717 from \$1.2726
Dollar/yen: UP at 144.53 yen from 144.44 yen
Euro/pound: DOWN at 85.50 pence from 85.66 pence
Brent North Sea crude: UP 0.5% at \$76.66 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate: UP 3.1% (from Monday) at \$71.93 per barrel

keenly-watched HCOB Eurozone Composite purchasing managers' index. In China, the Caixin private

survey of the services sector showed that activity slowed sharply in June and at a much faster pace than expected in the world's second biggest economy.

That came after an official reading also pointed to weakness in the sector and added to a run of soft data on trade and consumer activity.

Apart from the odd pledge of action and some small interest rate cuts, Chinese authorities have done little to address the problem as the economy has sputtered despite the end of Covid restrictions late last year.

"There are fresh concerns about the global economy powering down as data from China's service sector underlines how tepid the post-pandemic recovery has become, just as trade

tensions between Beijing and Washington ramp up," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare pointed to the poor Chinese data plus indications that both Beijing and Washington are adopting new protectionist measures just as US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visits China this week to ease tensions.

"It sounds like she will have her work cut out for her, but in any case, there is an identifiable excuse for market participants to take some money off the table in stocks that have made big runs and it appears that is an aim ahead of today's open," O'Hare wrote shortly before trading began. President Xi Jinping's

government this week added to a tech standoff with the United States by imposing export controls on key metals used in making microchips.

Officials said Monday's measure placed on shipments of gallium and germanium was to protect national security.

Investors will also focus on the release later Wednesday of minutes from the US Federal Reserve's June policy meeting.

They should provide an insight into officials' thinking when they decided to pause interest rates for the first time after 10 straight hikes to combat elevated inflation. The minutes will be followed Friday by closely-watched US jobs data, a key guide to the state of the world's top economy.

## Moderna signs agreement for making mRNA medicine in China

AFP | Shanghai

US-based biotech giant Moderna yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding towards producing mRNA medicine in China for the domestic market, the company said, an investment reportedly worth \$1 billion.

The announcement is among the latest signs China is open for foreign business after years of pandemic-induced isolation, although memories of Beijing's disruptive zero-Covid measures and its increasing prioritisation of national security have hammered international firms' confidence in the country.

Local media outlet Yicai reported Wednesday that Moderna's Chief Executive Stéphane Bancel was in Shanghai for a signing ceremony, and that the company "is set to announce



Beijing had previously refused to greenlight Moderna's mRNA vaccine

investment in China of as much as USD one billion".

In an email, Moderna declined to comment on the specific value of the investment, but confirmed that agreements had been signed.

"We signed a memorandum of understanding and a related land collaboration agreement to work toward opportunities for Moderna to research, develop and manufacture mRNA medicines in China," a company

representative wrote in an email to AFP.

"Any medicines produced under this agreement will be exclusively for the Chinese people -- who face many of the same health challenges that affect other communities around the world -- and will not be exported," they added.

Beijing had previously refused to greenlight Moderna's mRNA vaccine for Covid-19, along with those from other foreign firms, for public use.

The representative did not respond to a question about whether Wednesday's announcement involved its Covid-19 vaccine.

The news comes ahead of a trip to China by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who is looking to stabilise fraught ties between the world's two biggest economies.

## German cabinet approves belt-tightening draft budget

AFP | Berlin

Germany's coalition government approved a draft of next year's budget yesterday after fractious negotiations, aiming to impose deep cuts after years of big spending while giving defence a boost.

Following months of feuding after Finance Minister Christian Lindner demanded severe cutbacks, Chancellor Olaf Scholz's cabinet finally signed off on the proposed 2024 budget.

Lindner, from the business-friendly FDP party, sees it as a turning point after several years of massive outlays to tackle first the coronavirus pandemic and then an energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The budget for 2024 was the start of a "return to fiscal normality", Lindner said at a press conference to present his plans.

"We are still faced with structural challenges but are not in an exceptional emergency situation," he said.

The draft did however tap funds to boost funding for Germany's armed forces on the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

"Above all else it is about the security of our country," Scholz said of the budget plans.

Other spending issues would have been "easier to deal with" were it not for the conflict, Scholz told parliament, which will debate the draft budget from September. Europe's top



German Finance Minister Christian Lindner

economy -- which slipped into recession at the turn of the year, as surging inflation and interest rate hikes took their toll -- forecasts spending of 445.7 billion euros

(\$485 bn) next year, down from 476.3 bn planned for 2023.

Despite the drop, spending will still be 25% higher than in 2019, according to the draft.

Accordingly, borrowing is also set to fall drastically. For 2024, 16.6 bn euros in new borrowing is forecast, down from 45.6 bn in 2023.

The draft plans meant Germany should comply with its constitutional "debt break" which limits new annual borrowing to 0.35 percent of gross domestic product a year.

After being suspended from 2020 as Germany spent huge sums to tackle the pandemic, the rule came back into force this year. But to ensure that the 2023 spending plan stuck to the debt break, the government has had to resort to creating several special funds that are outside the official budget.

## EU eyes crackdown on shark fin trade

AFP | Brussels

The EU said yesterday it would look to put forward a law banning the trade in loose shark fins to tackle fishing practices threatening to wipe out one third of the species.

The move comes after more than a million European citizens put their names to a petition calling on the bloc to help "stop finning" around the globe.

Finning -- the practice of cutting off a shark's fin on board a



Representative picture

boat and throwing it back live into the water -- is illegal in the European Union.

But the fins can still be har-

vested legally upon landing.

Activists say the European Union remains among the biggest exporters of fins and a major transit hub for the global fin trade.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said it will "now examine the opportunity of taking a legislative measure to end trade in loose shark fins".

Brussels says EU vessels reported that they caught some 83,000 tonnes of shark per year

between 2019 and 2021.

The bloc exports on average 2,300 tonnes of frozen shark fins a year, generating sales of 170 million euros, it said.

The principle buyers are in China and Singapore, where shark fin soup is believed to have medicinal and aphrodisiac properties, though studies have not confirmed the claims.

The animal parts can fetch up to \$1,000 a kilogram in Asia, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society.

## Saudi and Kuwait claim full rights over Dorra field

AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has said it enjoys "full rights" along with Kuwait to a disputed gas field in the Gulf, pushing back against claims by Iran, state media reported late Tuesday.

The field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, falls under "joint ownership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, and they alone have full rights", the official Saudi Press Agency reported, citing a foreign ministry source.

The Saudi statement appeared



Representative picture

one day after Kuwait re-invited their sea borders.

Iran to participate in talks on The dispute over the field

-- whose recoverable reserves are estimated at some 220 billion cubic metres (seven trillion cubic feet) -- dates back to the 1960s, when Iran and Kuwait awarded overlapping offshore concessions.

Mohsen Khojsteh Mehr, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company, said last week that "there is full preparation to start drilling in the joint Arash oil field".

"Considerable resources have been allocated to the board of directors of the National Iranian Oil Company for the implementation of the development plan

for this field," he said in remarks carried by Iranian state media.

Iran and Kuwait have held unsuccessful talks for many years over their disputed maritime border area, which is rich in natural gas.

Saudi Arabia is also a part of the dispute since it shares with Kuwait maritime gas and oil resources in the area.

Iranian drilling of the field in 2001 spurred Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to agree on a maritime border deal which stipulated that they jointly develop the offshore zone.



Last year, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to develop the field, despite objections from Iran which branded the deal as "illegal".



News in brief

◆ **Some 1,600 tremors** have been recorded in the area around Iceland's capital Reykjavik, signalling that a volcanic eruption could be imminent, the country's weather office said yesterday. The Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) noted that the earthquakes began around four pm (1600 GMT) on Tuesday beneath Mount Fagradalsfjall, which rests atop a volcanic system and where two eruptions took place in the last two years on the Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland's southwestern tip. "Roughly 1,600 earthquakes have been measured and the largest earthquakes have been felt in the capital area," the agency said in a statement, adding that continued seismic activity can be expected during the day. Four of the tremors had a magnitude over four, which is considered a light quake. The seismic activity also prompted the agency to raise its aviation alert from "green" to "orange".



Swarm of quakes rumble around Icelandic capital area

◆ **Two dead as strongest summer storm blasts Netherlands, Germany**



◆ **A record-breaking summer storm** hammered the Netherlands and Germany on Wednesday, killing two people and throwing international air and rail travel into chaos. Storm Poly packed howling winds of up to 146 km/h (90 mph), toppling trees and forcing the cancellation of 400 flights from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, one of Europe's busiest hubs. Meteorologists said the storm was the strongest on record to hit the Netherlands in the summer months and issued a rare "code red" warning for millions of people in the low-lying nation to stay indoors. With around a third of the country lying below sea level, the Netherlands is vulnerable to extreme weather and the effects of climate change, and has a huge system of water defences.

◆ **A Danish court** yesterday sentenced a 23-year-old man who opened fire in a busy Copenhagen mall last year, killing three and injuring dozens, to a secure psychiatric unit. The Copenhagen district court found the man guilty of three counts of manslaughter -- having killed a 46-year-old man, a 17-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy -- and 30 counts of attempted manslaughter. The court also found that the man was "mentally ill" and was therefore acquitted from serving a jail sentence and was instead sentenced to a placement in the closed ward of a forensic psychiatry department. "No maximum time" was defined for the stay. Arrested outside the Field's shopping centre just after the shooting in early July last year, the man, who has a history of mental illness, has been remanded in a closed psychia

◆ **Denmark sentences Copenhagen triple killer to psychiatric care**



Netherlands to ban mobile phones from classrooms

AFP | The Hague

The Netherlands said Tuesday it will ban mobile phones from classrooms in a bid to stop tech disrupting lessons.

Mobiles, tablets and smartwatches are getting in the way of students' learning and will not be allowed in class from next year, the Dutch government said.

"There is increasing evidence that mobile phones have a harmful effect during lessons", it said. "Pupils are less able to concentrate and their performance suffers." "For this reason, mobile phones, as well as tablets and smartwatches, will no longer be allowed in classrooms from January 1 2024."

The government is asking school authorities to agree internal rules with teachers, parents and pupils by October.

The country's centre-right coalition has not yet imposed a formal ban, but says it reserves the right to do so after measuring progress next year.

Education Minister Robert Dijkgraaf told parliament he hopes the move will usher in a "cultural transformation" and improve learning.

Global temperature breaks record for second day

The average daily air temperature on the Earth's surface reached 17.18 degrees Celsius (62.92 Fahrenheit)

◆ **Previous daily record of 16.92 Celsius** was on July 24, 2022

◆ **Monday had been the hottest day since 1940**

◆ **Temperatures are likely to rise even further with the onset of El Nino**

AFP | Paris

Tuesday was the hottest day ever recorded as the global average temperature leaped to a record high for the second day in a row, according to preliminary readings by US meteorologists published yesterday. The average daily air temperature on the Earth's surface reached 17.18 degrees Celsius

(62.92 Fahrenheit), according to data compiled by an organisation attached to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

That far outstripped even the previous day's record measurement, a fresh sign of the impact of climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels.

The global average temperature reached 17 degrees Celsius for the first time on Monday, according to data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, whose records go back to 1979.

That topped the previous daily record of 16.92 Celsius dating to July 24, 2022. For comparison, the world's average air temperature from 1979 to 2000.

This reported record has yet to be corroborated by other measurements, but could be broken again as the northern hemisphere's summer begins.

The EU climate monitoring unit Copernicus confirmed in a statement yesterday that Monday had been the hottest day in its dataset going back to 1940. It could not yet confirm the data for Tuesday.

The average global temperature typically continues to rise until the end of July or early August. Even last month, average global temperatures were the warmest Copernicus had ever recorded for the start of June.

Temperatures are likely to rise even further above historical averages over the next year with the onset of an El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, which the World Meteorological Organization confirmed is now underway.

In addition, human activity -- mainly the burning of fossil fuels -- is continuing to emit roughly 40 billion tonnes of planet-warming CO2 into the atmosphere every year.



Israel ends large-scale West Bank raid

AFP | Jenin

Israel's army yesterday declared the end of a large-scale military operation in the West Bank that killed 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier over the previous two days.

The raid, involving hundreds of forces, drone strikes and armoured bulldozers, targeted the northern West Bank city of Jenin, a centre for multiple armed Palestinian groups.

Thousands of Palestinian mourners joined a Jenin funeral procession for those killed, where they fired gunshots into the air.

Amid the days of violence, a Palestinian attacker in Tel Aviv on Tuesday wounded seven Israelis in a car ramming and stabbing attack before an armed civilian shot him dead.

And overnight, Israel carried out air strikes on targets inside the blockaded Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian coastal enclave, with no deaths reported.

As the army pulled out of Jenin, much of the city's crowded refugee camp was left charred and in rubble from the incursion which displaced at least 3,000 residents.



Israeli soldiers fire tear gas canisters from an armoured vehicle

The camp, a small urban area home to about 18,000 people, has long been a stronghold of groups including Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

During this week's raid, the army said it had uncovered hide-outs, arms depots and bomb-making facilities.

"Our troops operated at dozens of sites where terrorists produced ammunition, explosives and various types of weapons," Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said.

"Anyone who attempt to harm the children and the citizens of Israel will experience the full force" of the military, he warned.

The army said troops had also "confiscated" a large sum of "terrorist funds" from militants during its operation.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

US woman lost and stuck in mud for days found alive



Emma Tetewsk AFP | Washington

A woman missing for more than a week was found alive, having been stuck in the mud in a state park for at least several days, US police in Massachusetts said Tuesday.

Emma Tetewsk, 31, was found in a swamp-like area in Borderland State Park after hikers heard her cries for help, a joint statement from local authorities involved in the rescue said.

She had been last seen just outside the park, about 30 miles (50 km) south of Boston, on June 25.

The mucky conditions at first kept rescuers at bay, necessitating the use of all-terrain vehicles.

Upon their arrival to the heavily wooded park, officers from the nearby town of Easton "waded 50 feet from the shore, through thick brush and swamp, to reach Tetewsky," the statement said.

The officers "blindly jumped into the water and followed the woman's calls for help," Easton Police Chief Keith Boone said.

It is believed Tetewsky may have been trapped in the mud for at least three days, the joint statement added.

Tetewsky was transported to a hospital with serious injuries, although police said they did not appear to be life-threatening.

US woman killed by alligator that guarded body

Washington

A US woman was killed by an alligator while walking her dog near a lagoon bordering a golf course, police said, adding the animal guarded her body and kept rescuers back.

The 69-year-old resident of Hilton Head Island in South Carolina was found Tuesday at the edge of the lagoon, the Beaufort County sheriff's office said.

"Rescue efforts were made and an alligator appeared and was guarding the woman, interrupting emergency efforts," the office said in a statement.

Spacey grabbed man 'like a cobra', UK court hears

AFP | London

A man claiming to have been sexually assaulted by Kevin Spacey said the Hollywood actor grabbed him "like a cobra", a London court heard on Wednesday.

The alleged victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is the third of four men accusing Spacey of a string of sexual offences between 2001 and 2013.

The accuser said he met the US actor, who won Oscars for "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty", at an event in a West End theatre in 2005.

In a recording of a police interview played at Southwark Crown Court in south London, the man said Spacey "smelled of booze"



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians killed in clashes

and "looked dishevelled" when he arrived.

"My first impression is that he seemed very arrogant," he added. "I remember he looked me up and down and looked at my c\*\*\*\*h region," the accuser said, adding that the actor made crude remarks towards him.

"It was very aggressive. I have never had anyone talk to me in that way. It was all getting hardcore," he said about the alleged comments.

The complainant said Spacey allegedly grabbed him "with such force it was really painful", describing it as "like a cobra coming out and getting hold".

"I remember freezing and pushing his arm away and feeling

shellshocked and frustrated that anybody would be that sleazy," he added. The accuser said he had initially put the incident "in a box" but it had "a detrimental effect" on his life.

The alleged victim criticised Spacey for coming out as g\*\*\* several years ago when other allegations against him became public. "He took no responsibility for it, he just said 'I'm g\*\*\*'."

Another accuser alleged Spacey kissed his neck and grabbed his c\*\*\*\*h.



The 63-year-old star of "American Beauty" and drama series "House of Cards" is facing a four-week trial at Southwark Crown Court in south London

Man's home demolished after urinating on tribal member



A video of Pravesh Shukla peeing on a labourer emerged on Tuesday and sparked outrage. AFP | Bhopal

A man accused of publicly urinating on a member of a tribal community in central India had his home demolished by authorities yesterday after footage of the assault sparked public condemnation. A video shared widely on social media appeared to show Praveesh Shukla urinating on his young victim in a dark street while nonchalantly smoking a cigarette.

The attack took place last year in the central Sidhi district, but only came to public attention this week. Local police said Shukla had been arrested and charged in connection with the assault, which could see him fined and jailed for a year.

Authorities also demolished his home after it was "found to be illegally constructed", police officer Ravinder Verma told AFP.

Local media showed a bulldozer clawing apart the roof and walls of Shukla's home in Madhya Pradesh state.

Kaleidoscope

Independence Day



US President Joe Biden kisses First Lady Jill Biden as they watch the Independence Day fireworks display from the Truman Balcony of the White House in Washington, DC

Rainfall in Lahore



People ride on a horsecart through a flooded street after heavy rainfall in Lahore



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Raisat Akipova, an 8-year-old girl from Dagestan, who failed to see the head of state during his working trip to the Republic of Dagestan where he also talked with local residents, at the Kremlin in Moscow



(L-R) Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales, Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Queen Camilla attend a National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication inside St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh on July 5, 2023. Scotland on Wednesday marked the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla during a National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication where the King was presented with the Honours of Scotland.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



Holocaust denial & distortion run rampant amid growing anti-semitism & bigotry. We must never forget -- nor allow others to ever forget, distort or deny the Holocaust.

@antoniogetterres

02



There's no better place to invest than India! Powered by our youngsters, India is emerging as world-leading hub for tech manufacturing and innovation. @HPE

@narendramodi

03



God Bless America @elonmusk

04



Every American willing to work hard should be able to get a job no matter where they are and keep their roots where they grew up. That's Bidenomics.

@POTUS

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

# Charles III presented with Scottish Crown Jewels

● The 74-year-old head of state received the Honours of Scotland - a crown, sceptre and sword of state

AFP | Edinburgh

King Charles III was yesterday presented with symbols of his authority in Scotland, two months after he was officially crowned as monarch.

The 74-year-old head of state received the Honours of Scotland -- a crown, sceptre and sword of state -- at a service in Edinburgh's St Giles' Cathedral.

Crowds watched as they made their way by car to the cathedral but the couple were also met by groups of anti-monarchy protesters, shouting "Not my king."

Republican demonstrators have trailed Charles since his accession in September last year, as part of their campaign for an elected head of state.

There was controversy at his coronation, when police used pre-emptive powers to arrest a number of demonstrators, causing a row about free speech.

The service of thanksgiving and dedication was attended by Charles's eldest son and heir Prince William and his wife Kate, and other senior royals.



Britain's King Charles III is presented with the Crown of Scotland during a National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication inside St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh

Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf was in the congregation, despite the Scottish National Party (SNP) leader being an avowed republican.

But several Green lawmakers in Yousaf's governing coalition in the devolved Scottish Parliament stayed away, as they oppose hereditary monarchy.

One of them, Patrick Harvie, said the monarchy was "funda-

mentally at odds with the kind of modern and democratic society we are trying to build here".

The SNP and Greens are pushing for Scottish independence but their bid to break away from the United Kingdom has received a setback in the courts.

The service came after a "people's procession" of prominent figures in the world of Scottish arts, politics, education, civil society and business.

Soldiers in regimental tartan kilts marched on foot up the cobbled Royal Mile to the skirl of bagpipes.

They were led by Shetland pony Corporal Cruachan IV, the regimental mascot of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

A fly-past by the Royal Air Force aerobatic team the Red Arrows ended the celebrations.

Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, died at the royal fami-



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales and Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales leave St Giles' Cathedral after attending a National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, in Edinburgh



Charles and his wife Queen Camilla are in Scotland as part of a week of official engagements, staying at their official residence the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

ly's private Scottish Highland retreat, Balmoral, in September last year aged 96.

Her body was brought to Edinburgh and lay in state at St Giles' Cathedral, before being flown south to London for a state funeral.

## US Navy says prevented Iran from seizing tankers in Gulf of Oman



Screen shot of a video shows Guard boats, center, near a US warship, left, amid the seizure of an oil tanker, right, in the Gulf of Oman. (file)

Reuters | Dubai

The US Navy said it had intervened to prevent Iran from seizing two commercial tankers in the Gulf of Oman yesterday in the latest in a series of seizures or attacks on ships in the area since 2019. Chevron (CVX.N) said one incident involved the Richmond Voyager, a very large crude carrier managed by the U.S. oil major, and that crew onboard were safe. An Iranian navy vessel fired shots during the second seizure attempt, Navy Fifth Fleet spokesperson Timothy Hawkins said.

Both incidents took place in waters between Iran and

Oman. British maritime security company Ambrey said a warship with a multinational navy task group was in the area at the time and had requested the Iranian navy to "cease harassing" one of the merchant ships. Refinitiv ship-tracking data shows the Richmond Voyager previously docked in Ras Tannoura in eastern Saudi Arabia before Wednesday's incident in the Gulf of Oman.

A Chevron spokesperson said: "There is no loss of life, injury, or loss of containment" aboard the Richmond Voyager.

"The vessel is operating normally. The safety of our crew is our top priority," the spokesperson said.

## IAEA seeks access to confirm no explosives at Zaporizhzhia plant

AFP | Vienna

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) yesterday called for additional access to the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine to "confirm the absence of mines or explosives at the site".

Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of planning a provocation at the site, raising alarm over risks of a radioactive disaster at Europe's largest nuclear plant.

"With military tension and activities increasing in the region where this major nuclear power plant is located, our experts

must be able to verify the facts on the ground," IAEA head Rafael Grossi said in a statement.

The IAEA experts' "independent and objective reporting would help clarify the current situation... which is crucial at a time like this with unconfirmed allegations and counter allegations", he said. In recent weeks,

IAEA staff on site have inspected various locations, but so far have not observed "any visible indications of mines or explosives".

But the UN nuclear watchdog says it has been unable to access the rooftops of reactor units 3 and 4, as well as parts of the turbine halls and cooling system at the plant.

## Western allies drag Iran to UN court over downed jet

AFP | The Hague

Canada, Britain, Sweden and Ukraine have taken Iran to the UN's top court to seek damages for families of passengers on a jetliner downed by Tehran in 2020, they said yesterday.

The case lodged by the four countries, which had a number of citizens on board, asks the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to order Iran to apologise for shooting down Ukraine International Airlines flight 752 after take-off from Tehran.

All 176 people on the plane were killed. Three days after



Rescue teams work amidst debris after a Ukrainian plane carrying 176 passengers crashed near Imam Khomeini airport in the Iranian capital Tehran

the January 8, 2020 crash, Iran admitted that its military had targeted the Kyiv-bound Boeing

737-800 plane by mistake. The Hague-based ICJ said in a statement that the four coun-

tries "claim that Iran has violated a series of obligations" under a convention on civil aviation by shooting down the plane.

Their joint filing to the court alleges that Iran breached a 1971 multilateral treaty on threats to civil aviation, and that attempts to seek binding arbitration with Iran had failed.

They asked the court to "order full reparation for all injury caused" and to make Iran pay "full compensation to the applicants for the material and moral damages suffered by the victims and their families".

## Greta Thunberg charged over Swedish climate protest: report

AFP | Stockholm

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has been charged with disobeying police during a June climate protest in southern Sweden, media reported Wednesday, most likely risking a fine.

The charge of "disobeying police order" has been levied against the 20-year-old activist after she refused police instructions to leave the scene of a protest in the southern city of Malmo in mid-June, according to the Sydsvenskan newspaper.



Greta Thunberg

Thunberg had joined the protest organised by environmental activist group "Ta tillbaka framtiden" (Reclaim the Future) as they attempted to block the entrance and exit to the Malmo harbour to protest the use of fossil fuel.

"We choose to not be bystanders, and instead physically stop the fossil fuel infrastructure. We are reclaiming the future," Thunberg said in an Instagram post at the time.

The charge can at most lead

to a six-month jail sentence, but prosecutor Charlotte Ottesen told Sydsvenskan it normally results in a fine. A hearing at the Malmo district court has been scheduled for the end of July, the newspaper said.

Greta Thunberg was only 15 when she began her "School Strike for the Climate" in front of Sweden's parliament in Stockholm.

She and a small group of youths founded the Fridays for Future movement, which quick-



Greta Thunberg was only 15 when she began her "School Strike for the Climate" in front of Sweden's parliament in Stockholm.

ly became a global phenomenon. In addition to her climate strikes, the young activist regularly lambasts governments and politicians for not properly addressing climate issues.

At the end of March, she condemned what she called an "unprecedented betrayal" from leaders after the publication of the latest report by the IPCC, the UN's climate advisory panel.

# Classifieds



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# autobuzz

## From Black Gold to Green Future

### Norway's Battery recycling plant leads the way in Sustainable Energy Transition

AFP | Oslo

Wearing a white lab coat and with a gas mask within reach, Ole Jorgen Gronvold measures the humidity of an intriguing dark powder touted as the planet's next "black gold".

But this "black gold" -- a term that usually refers to oil -- is actually good for the Earth.

In southeastern Norway lies Europe's biggest plant for recycling used or defective electric car batteries, turning them into a powder, or "black mass", made up of nickel, manganese, cobalt, lithium and graphite.

These so-called critical minerals -- essential components in many clean energy technologies -- will be reused to make new batteries, key cogs in the transition to a decarbonised economy.

"The higher the quality of the components, the easier it is to use them for recycling," said

Gronvold, a laboratory technician at Hydrovolt, a joint venture between Norwegian aluminium giant Norsk Hydro and Swedish electric battery maker Northvolt. The Hydrovolt plant opened last year in the port city of Fredrikstad. Within the next few months, the site is expected to be able to process 12,000 tonnes of lithium-ion battery packs per year, the equivalent of 25,000 electric car batteries.

Industry leader Norway, where electricity is almost exclusively generated by renewable energies, is the uncontested world champion of zero-emission electric cars, with the latter accounting for more than 80 percent of new car registrations.

#### 'Mine above ground'

Emptied of electricity, the imposing battery packs -- they weigh half a tonne each -- are methodically taken apart to recover up to 95 percent of the materials.

The aluminium is recycled by Norsk Hydro, while the "black mass" powder is sold to battery makers. The recycling also helps boost Europe's independence when it comes to critical minerals, with the Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine highlighting the continent's problematic dependence on imported raw materials.

In Europe, "we have big markets for products but we don't actually have so much of our own resources", Julia Poliscanova, head of electric mobility at the non-governmental organisation Transport & Environment.

#### European independence

According to Transport & Environment, a European clean transport campaign group, recycling old batteries could cover between at least eight and 12 percent of Europe's critical mineral needs in 2030, and between 12 and 14% in 2035.

The European parliament

recently adopted regulations aimed at making batteries more sustainable and more easily recyclable.

But, insisted Poliscanova, Europe also needs to stop exporting its precious "black mass" to third countries, primarily China and South Korea, and develop its own hydrometallurgic processing plants.

This other crucial link in the recycling chain, which makes it possible to extract the metals contained in the powder, is still low-scale in Europe, handled only by a few companies such as Revolt in Sweden and Eramet in France.

Government subsidies are also needed so that the many planned battery plants can see the light of day, creating an ecosystem favourable to recyclers, Poliscanova said. The Fredrikstad plant is a pilot project and the blueprint is expected to be exported, with Hydrovolt planning a second

site "in a year or two".

"The most important thing for us is the degree of adoption of electric cars, so that there is a reservoir of end-of-life batteries," said Frydensvang.

"We're therefore looking at countries like Germany, France and a little in the United States."



Ole Jorgen Gronvold, lab operator at battery recycling company Hydrovolt, tests samples at their plant in Fredrikstad, southeastern Norway on June 20, 2023. In Fredrikstad, southeastern Norway, lies Europe's biggest



# HH Shaikh Khalid receives champion clubs



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials with Al Najma team members



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials with Manama team members

**TDT | Manama**

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al

Khalifa hailed yesterday Bahrain's sports achievements and praised the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Khalid also commended the pivotal role of HH

Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and SCYS Chairman, in developing sports in the Kingdom.

HH Shaikh Khalid praised Bahrain's sports strides as he received, at Al Wadi Palace in Riffa, Al Najma, champions of the

25th Asian Men's Club League Championship; and Manama, which clinched the first-ever title in the FIBA West Asia Super League.

Present were GSA Deputy Chairman HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa; Cabinet Affairs Ministry Undersecretary and BOC Deputy President HH

Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa; GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar; Al Najma Chairman Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mubarak Al Khalifa; and Manama Chairman Yusuf Zaman along with other senior officials and invitees.

HH Shaikh Khalid congratulated Al Najma and Manama and

conveyed to them greetings from HM the King, hailing their landmark performance which reflected Bahrain's sports strides.

He also commended the role of the boards of directors of both clubs in supporting the two teams which enabled them to bag the prestigious trophies, wishing them further successes.

# Kingdom claim 10 more medals

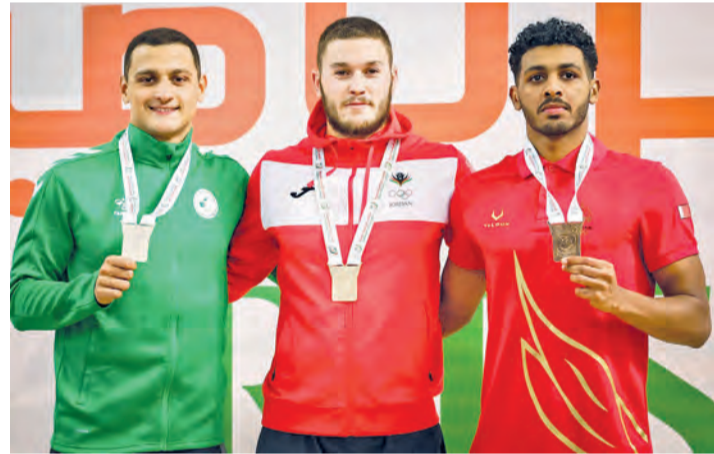
● In the men's 100m final, Alkhalidi claimed gold

● Aouad took bronze in the men's 1,500m final

(Continued from page 12)

In the women's 100m hurdles final, Aminat struck gold with a 13.56s performance. Rahil Hamel of Algeria won silver, also in 13.56s, while Noura Ennadi of Morocco took bronze in 13.67s. Bahrain's Saleha Lahan came seventh in 15.59s.

In the men's 100m final, Alkhalidi claimed his gold medal after powering to a finishing time of 10.22s. He narrowly beat out Chakir Machmour of Morocco by two hundredths of a sec-



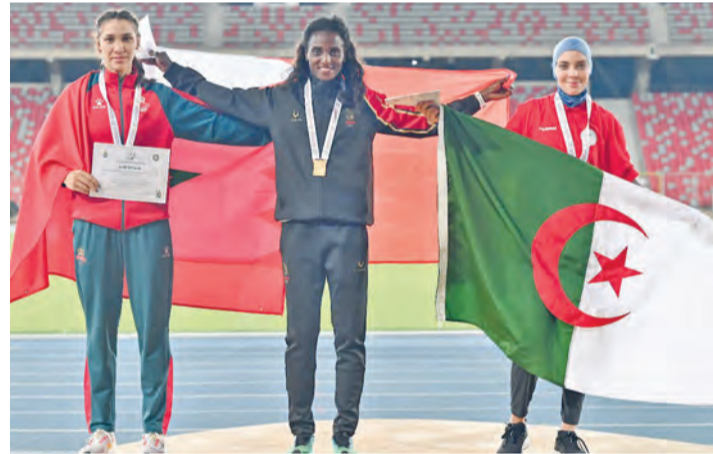
Swimmer Saud Ebrahim, right, on the podium with his bronze medal

ond, while Barakat Al Harthi of Oman took the bronze in 10.37s.

In the men's 1,500m final, Aouad claimed his bronze medal after completing the race in three minutes 38.17 seconds. Abdellatif Sadiki and Fouad

Messaoudi made it a Moroccan one-two in 3:37.61 and 3:37.99, respectively. Bahrain's Mohammed Tiouali was also in the fray, but he did not finish the race.

The men's 400m final wrapped up last night's programme on



Bahrain's Marta Yota celebrates with her women's 1,500m gold medal on the first day of competition in Algeria

track, and Isah managed to claim the bronze in 45.85s. Ashraf Osman of Qatar won gold in 45.26s while Hamza Dair of Morocco clinched the silver medal in 45.81s. Bahrain's Abbas Ali was right behind the top three, fin-

ishing fourth in 45.92s.

In other athletics events yesterday, Noora Jasim came up short in her medal bid in the women's discus throw final, finishing with a best throw of 40.98m. Marwan Madani was

also close to winning another medal for Bahrain, but he finished fourth in the men's discus throw final with a best effort of 55.37m.

In athletics for people of determination, Alyassi finished his 100m race in a winning time of 11.87s. In swimming, Amani clinched the silver medal in the women's 100m backstroke. She was the runner-up after finishing her race in 1:05.06. Valerie Tarazi of Palestine won gold in 1:04.22, while Kawthar Zitouni of Algeria clinched the bronze in 1:06.35. Bahrain's Noor Taha also competed in the race, taking sixth in 1:10.87.

Ebrahim claimed Bahrain's swimming bronze in the men's 100m breaststroke, finishing in 1:05.69. Amro Basil Alwir of Jordan won in 1:01.56, while Moncef Aymen of Algeria bagged the silver in 1:03.03.

## Pandya to lead India in West Indies T20s

**New Delhi**

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been named captain for five T20 internationals in the West Indies, with top stars including Virat Kohli and regular skipper Rohit Sharma absent from the squad.

Suryakumar Yadav will be Pandya's deputy in the 15-member squad, announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Wednesday.

The matches starting August 3 in Trinidad will be played after two Tests and three one-day internationals, the squads for which were announced last month.

Rohit remains the captain in the five-day and 50-over formats but Pandya seems to be

emerging as a regular choice in the shortest form of the international game.

Pandya has led the team in recent T20 matches with Rohit and Kohli not playing T20s since India's semi-final exit at the 2022 World Cup.

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tilak Varma have earned maiden T20 call-ups after impressive Indian Premier League campaigns, while batsman Sanju Samson returns.

India squad: Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya (capt), Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar

## Hindley takes Tour de France lead

**Laruns**

Australian Jai Hindley crossed the line alone to win stage five of the Tour de France on Wednesday to take the overall leader's yellow jersey as defending champion Jonas Vingegaard won a tactical battle with key rival Tadej Pogacar.

Hindley leads Vingegaard with the Dane pulling off a major coup on the final mountain and now has a 53-second advantage on Pogacar in the overall standings, which took a major shake up.

Bora-Hansgrohe rider Hindley, the 2022 Giro d'Italia winner, shook off his rivals on the Col de Marie-Blanc to break clear in the yellow jersey standings.

The 27-year-old finished 32 seconds ahead of Italy's Giulio Ciccone and Austrian Felix Gall with Vingegaard fifth at 34sec.

Ciccone climbed to third in the overall with his second place.

"I'm here for the overall win and the aim was to put as much



Hindley cycles to the finish line to win the 5th stage of the 110th edition of the Tour de France cycling race

time as possible into the others," said Hindley.

"It has been a dream since I was six years old but I never thought I'd find myself in the yellow jersey," he said.

**Jumbo tactical lesson**

Vingegaard's Jumbo-Visma stunned the UAE Team when

Wout Van Aert dropped back from an early break and led Vingegaard uphill with an impressive 500m pull.

Jumbo climber Sepp Kuss then took the relay until he too peeled away before Vingegaard broke free and put the hammer down over the remaining 15km to the finish line.

"This puts pressure on them (Team UAE)," he said. "Hindley and Ciccone got away from us, but I was holding back to help Jonas," he explained.

Meanwhile UAE Team rider Pogacar, the 2020 and 2021 champion, was left isolated as overnight leader Adam Yates appeared unable to help in the chase.

The AG2R rider Felix Gall took the king of the mountains polka dot jersey after coming third behind Hindley.

On Thursday, trademark Tour climbs Col d'Aspin and Col du Tourmalet will mark out stage six as the toughest test so far with further tremors expected on the second mountain day over 145km from Tarbes to Caunterets-Cambasque.

But those two ascents make only 30km and are only part of the story with a 16km slog to a summit finish coming after an epic descent from the 2150 metres altitude Tourmalet.

# Bahrain all set for junior volleyball worlds

Tournament's executive and control committees hold meeting to finalise all arrangements for Championship



Executive and control committee members at their meeting



Bahrain officials present the national team uniforms at the technical meeting

● **Matches to begin from 11am tomorrow and continue until after 8pm each evening**

● **All fans welcome to attend with entrance free of charge at Isa Sports City Arenas**

## PRELIMINARY ROUND SCHEDULE

### TOMORROW, JULY 7

Court A: 11am India vs Poland; 2pm Canada vs Bulgaria; 5pm Thailand vs Iran; 8pm Tunisia vs Bahrain  
Court B: 11am Mexico vs Italy; 2pm Egypt vs Brazil; 5pm USA vs Argentina; 8pm Czech Republic vs Belgium

### SATURDAY, JULY 8

Court A: 11am Canada vs Poland; 2pm Bulgaria vs India; 5pm Iran vs Tunisia; 8pm Bahrain vs Thailand  
Court B: 11am Egypt vs Italy; 2pm Brazil vs Mexico; 5pm Czech Republic vs Argentina; 8pm Belgium vs USA

### SUNDAY, JULY 9

Court A: 11am Bulgaria vs Poland; 2pm India vs Canada; 5pm Tunisia vs Thailand; 8pm Iran vs Bahrain  
Court B: 11am Brazil vs Italy; 2pm Mexico vs Egypt; 5pm Belgium vs Argentina; 8pm USA vs Czech Republic

TDT | Manama

All systems are go for the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship 2023, which gets underway tomorrow at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

As part of the final lead-up to the start of the tournament, joint-meetings have been held over the past two days between the tournament's control committee, comprising officials from the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), and the executive committee, from the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA).

Among those in attendance were the championship's administrative and operations director Habib Mohammed, who conveyed to the control

committee the greetings of the tournament's supreme organising committee chairman and BVA president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, and executive committee chairman and BVA secretary general Feras Al Helwachi.

He wished all those participating in the event a pleasant stay in the Kingdom and stressed that Bahrain is always ready to host the highest-level championship. Mohammed added that prepara-

tions have been non-stop since the staging of the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship held in Bahrain last May, and that the BVA is delighted to be organising this world championship for the second time in four years, after previously hosting the event in July of 2019.

Also on hand was control committee head Hugh Graham, who is also an FIVB executive vice-president. Graham praised the warm hospitality the mem-

bers of the committee have received since their arrival in Bahrain on Tuesday morning.

He expressed his delight in being in Bahrain and made note of the high level of organisation of previous major FIVB and Asian Volleyball Confederation championships held in the Kingdom.

Following their meeting, members of the control committee made inspection visits to the playing venues at Isa Sports City, the four training halls at various local clubs, as well as the

facilities available to the teams at their hotel.

The participating national teams and officials continued to arrive on the island yesterday, ahead of tomorrow's start of play.

Also taking place yesterday was the official technical meeting. There, the participating national teams presented the uniforms that they will be using in the games.

Hosts Bahrain have stepped up their final days of training

under head coach Saber Abdulwahed and have also joined the other delegations at their official hotel residence.

Bahrain's squad includes 12 players, namely Hassan Al Warqa, Ali Abdulwahab, Hussain Ehsan, Sayed Hashem Isa, Hassan Alaiwi, Sadeq Marhoon, Ali Al Arab, Hussain Abdulredha, Ali Al Bosta, Sayed Ahmed Murtadha, Abbas Ehsan and Mohammed Hassan.

The Bahrainis are in Pool A along with Iran, Thailand and Tunisia. Pool B features defending champions Italy, Brazil, Egypt and Mexico. Pool C consists of Poland, Bulgaria, Canada and India; while Pool D comprises Argentina, Belgium, the Czech Republic and the US.

On each day, the first fixtures are scheduled for 11am starts, with the last games set to begin no earlier than 8pm. All are welcome to attend and entrance is free of charge.

Bahrain kick off their campaign against Tunisia on opening night tomorrow, and then face off with Thailand the next evening. The nationals then complete their preliminary round campaign against Iran on Sunday.



This year's FIVB Men's U21 World Championship will be the fourth time the prestigious junior competition is being held in Bahrain. It also took place here in 2019, 1997 and 1987.

## Djokovic celebrates 350th Grand Slam win at Wimbledon

London

Novak Djokovic became only the third player in history to win 350 Grand Slam singles matches after seeing off the challenge of Jordan

Thompson at Wimbledon on



Wednesday.

The defending champion beat his unseeded Australian opponent 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 to reach the third round, where he will meet Tomas Martin Etcheverry or Stan Wawrinka.

Roger Federer (369) and Serena Williams (365), both of whom retired last year, are the only players with more Grand Slam singles wins than Djokovic.

A single break secured the first set for the Serbian second seed and he edged the second-set tie-break to establish an iron grip on the match on Centre Court.

Thompson, ranked 70th in the world, remained steady on his serve in the third set but eventually cracked in the 12th game when trailing 6-5.

The 36-year-old Djokovic is targeting an eighth Wimbledon title, which would draw him level with Federer's men's record.

He is also chasing a 24th career Grand Slam title, which would equal Margaret Court's all-time record.

## Senior squad spikers set for Asian challenge

● **Final 14-player squad named on senior men's national team**

● **Fourth AVC Challenger Cup begins Saturday in Chinese-Taipei**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's 14-player senior men's national volleyball team has been named for the fourth AVC Men Challenger.

The tournament is set to be held from Saturday to July 15 in Chinese-Taipei.

The Bahrainis have been training for the event over the past few weeks under newly signed head coach Ruben Adrian Wolochin from Argentina.

The final roster for the competition includes top local stars Mohammed Yaqoob, Mahmood Al Afia, Ali Habib, Nasser Anan, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Mahmoud Abdulwahed, Ali Ebrahim, Ebrahim Mohammed,

Abbas Al Khabbaz, Mohammed Jassim, Mohammed Omar, Hani Ali, Ayman Haroona and Abbas Sultan.

That will be the first tournament for Wolochin in charge of the senior men's national team. He will hope to guide Bahrain to a repeat performance or an even better finish than their bronze-medal triumph in the 2022 AVC Cup for Men, which was held in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

The Bahrainis are among a record 17 national teams taking part in this year's event. Aside from a place on the podium, the contenders will also be vying for the lone berth up for grabs in the FIVB Men's Challenger Cup—a pathway to the FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League.

The nationals are in Pool F for the tournament's preliminary round alongside Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Pool A features two teams in hosts Chinese Taipei and Kazakhstan; Pool B comprises Saudi Arabia, Thailand and

South Korea; while Uzbekistan, India and Hong Kong are in Pool C. Pool D consists of Mongolia, the Philippines and Macau, with Australia, Pakistan and Vietnam in Pool E.

Bahrain open their campaign on Sunday against Sri Lanka and then play

Indonesia on Monday. The top two in their pool will advance to the final 12.

Aside from the AVC Men Challenger, Bahrain's senior men will also take part in the 22nd Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship from August 18 to 26 in Tehran.



Bahrain stars Mohammed Yaqoob, left, and Ali Ebrahim during a local training session

# Bahrain to open **2024** F1 season

## 2024 FIA Formula 1 calendar

2 March:	Bahrain, Sakhir
9 March:	Saudi Arabia, Jeddah
24 March:	Australia, Melbourne
7 April:	Japan, Suzuka
21 April:	China, Shanghai
5 May:	Miami, Miami
19 May:	Emilia Romagna, Imola
26 May:	Monaco, Monte Carlo
9 June:	Canada, Montreal
23 June:	Spain, Barcelona
30 June:	Austria, Spielberg
7 July:	Great Britain, Silverstone
21 July:	Hungary, Budapest
28 July:	Belgium, Spa
25 August:	Netherlands, Zandvoort
1 September:	Italy, Monza
15 September:	Azerbaijan, Baku
22 September:	Singapore, Marina Bay
20 October:	USA, Austin
27 October:	Mexico, Mexico City
3 November:	Sao Paulo, Interlagos
23 November:	Las Vegas, Las Vegas
1 December:	Qatar, Lusail
8 December:	Abu Dhabi, Yas Island



Next year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix to be first-ever Saturday night race at Bahrain International Circuit

● **2024 F1 calendar announced, with F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix to open season on 29 February to 2 March**

● **Summer Early Bird ticket window open from today, with 10-day only 20% discount on tickets to 2024 race**

● **Next year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix to mark the 20th anniversary celebrations of F1 in the Kingdom**

TDT | Manama

**To have our 20th anniversary race to start the 2024 season is a huge honour for us and we plan to ensure this landmark event will offer a lifetime of memories for fans**

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

Formula 1 announced yesterday the 2024 world championship calendar, with Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", set to celebrate its 20th anniversary as the opening round of the season and its first-ever Saturday night race.

The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be opening the new campaign in a race weekend taking place from 29 February until 2 March.

The race will be held on Saturday evening at the request of F1, in order to allow for necessary logistics for the second race of the season in Saudi Arabia,

which is also scheduled as a Saturday event.

To coincide with the calendar announcement, BIC has launched its first-ever Summer Early Bird, a chance for fans to pick up their F1 2024 tickets with discounts of up to 20 per cent for its landmark celebration of 20 years in F1.

The Summer Early Bird sale, which will only be open for 10 days, offers ticket prices that BIC guarantees will not be beaten and offers fans the best value for money. With the limited period to snap up tickets at these prices, fans are urged to book now at [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or by calling +973-17450000.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa said: "To have our 20th anniversary race to start the 2024 season is a huge honour for us and we plan to ensure this landmark event will offer a lifetime of memories for fans."

"We offer our particular thanks to Formula 1 for yet again placing their trust in us to kick off the new season in style."

"We are also delighted to launch our Summer Early Bird ticket offer, offering fans the chance to snap up their tickets with amazing discounts available. With our 2023 race selling out faster than ever before, I would urge fans not to delay to ensure they can join us for what will be a special celebration of our 20 years in Formula 1."

"Saturday night in Sakhir promises to be something special and we can't wait to welcome fans to Bahrain next year for a weekend of spectacular racing and entertainment."

The 2024 calendar will com-

prise 24 races, with the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix taking place the week after Bahrain, with the season concluding in Abu Dhabi on 8 December.

### Balanced

"I believe this calendar strikes the right balance between traditional races and new and existing venues," said F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali.

The Bahrain and Saudi races will make three Saturday races on the calendar along with Las Vegas. This season's inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix, scheduled at 10pm local time on 18 November, will be the first full F1 race on a Saturday since 1985.

For the Saturday races, the opening two free practice sessions will be on Thursday, with the third practice and qualifying on Friday.

This season was the fourth straight year the Shanghai race was scheduled but then cancelled because of the pandemic. The Emilia Romagna Grand

Prix in Italy was to be hosted in Imola but had to be called off days before the race after severe flooding hit the region. Both are on the calendar for next year.

Several races have been shuffled as F1 moves "towards greater calendar regionalisation, reducing logistical burdens and making the season more sustainable". Japan has been brought forward to April, "in the heart of the country's beautiful cherry blossom season", said an F1 statement.

Azerbaijan shifted back to September, with Qatar moved to just before the season-ending race in Abu Dhabi.

The calendar will contain three bursts of three races in three weeks, including the last three in Las Vegas, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

There are also two three-week breaks—the traditional summer break and a pause between Singapore on September 22 and the United States Grand Prix on October 20.

# Gold rush for Bahrainis at Arab Games

● **Seven medals won in track and field on day two, including four gold**

● **Elias Alyassi wins gold medal in athletics for people of determination**

● **Amani Alobaidli wins silver, Saud Ebrahim bronze in swimming**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's fantastic start to the 15th Arab Games continued yesterday, winning another 10 medals, including five gold, on

the second day of action in Algeria.

The medal haul included seven in athletics, four of which were gold, another silver and two bronze medals.

Another gold was won in athletics for people of determination, while a silver and bronze medal were captured in swimming.

Yesterday's 10 medals brought Bahrain's tally to 16 over two days of competition so far. These include eight gold, three silver and five bronze medals.

In athletics last night, the four gold medals were bagged by Edidiong Odiong in the women's 100 metres, Oluwakemi Adekoya in the women's 400m, Aminat Jamal in the women's 100m hurdles and Saeed Alkhalidi in the men's 100m.

Hajar Alkhalidi claimed the sil-



**Kingdom's sports stars claim 10 more medals, including five gold, on second day of competition at 15th Arab Games in Algeria**

ver in the women's 100m, while Zouhair Aouad won bronze in the men's 1,500m as well as Musa Isah in the men's 400m.

Bahrain's gold yesterday in athletics for people of determination was claimed by Elias Alyassi in the 100m; while Amani Alobaidli and Saud Ebrahim captured the silver and bronze medals, respectively, in swimming.

In the women's 100m final, Edidiong led a fantastic one-two for Bahrain after finishing in 11.27 seconds. Hajar followed

right behind her in 11.35s, while Mudhaw Alshammari of Kuwait took bronze in 11.56s.

Oluwakemi claimed her 400m gold medal after finishing her race in 51.02s. Salma Lehlali of Morocco was her closest challenger in 52.98s, while Sara El Hachimi, also of Morocco, took the bronze in 53.38s. Zenab Mahamat came close to making it two Bahrainis on the podium, but she had to settle for fourth place in 53.99s.

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Elias Alyassi races to his gold medal yesterday in athletics for people of determination



Amani Alobaidli