

Head, Abhishek star as 'unreal' Hyderabad crush Lucknow

Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma's blazing half-centuries secure 10-wicket win for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL | P16

WORLD 6 AstraZeneca withdraws Covid vaccine as demand dives

THE DAILY tribune



11 CELEBS Kristin Cavallari 'is happier than ever'

BUSINESS 6 Al Baraka Group reports Q1 profit

Bahrain greets Russian president on Victory Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency President Vladimir Putin of Russia, on Victory Day.

His Majesty wished the people of Russia further progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad praised the deep bilateral relations and cooperation in various domains. He affirmed the kingdom's constant keenness to strengthen these relations to achieve common interests.

Kingdom strongly condemns Israeli actions in Rafah



TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has strongly condemned the Israeli military actions in the city of Rafah, which serves as a crucial refuge for over a million Palestinians.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed grave concern over the Israeli forces' seizure of control over the Rafah land crossing in the southern Gaza Strip.

It emphasised the potential dire consequences on the lives of innocent civilians and exacerbation of the already catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

Bahrain reiterated its urgent appeal to the international community and relevant parties, urging prompt intervention, particularly through the Security Council, to implement an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and prevent further escalation of military operations.

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HM King hails workers' contributions to progress

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa affirmed his pride in the active role of Bahraini workers and their contributions to advancing national development and the economy, lauding their innovation, competence and dedicated efforts.

HM the King was speaking as he received yesterday heads and members of workers federations and unions in the kingdom, on the occasion of the celebration of Labour Day.

He congratulated the workers of Bahrain on the occasion of Labour Day, extending his appreciation to every Bahraini worker devoting time and effort to contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation for the role of unions and their contributions in defending the interests of Bahrain in Arab and international forums and showcasing national achievements.

HM King Hamad highlighted the importance of the cooperation and partnership between all production parties to serve the interests of Bahrain's workers



HM the King receives the heads and members of workers federations and unions

in the kingdom and contribute to the process of economic development.

His Majesty lauded the achievements of federations and unions for the benefit of all workers.

Support

HM the King underscored the kingdom's support for every effort that contributes to providing rights and guarantees to Bahraini workers, in appreciation of their vital role in supporting the national development process.

He also praised the efforts of the Ministry of Labour and its

efforts to train Bahraini youth and qualify them for various career paths, and implement programmes and plans to create more job opportunities.

Priorities

His Majesty affirmed that Bahraini citizens will always remain at the top of the kingdom's priorities and at the core of its goals, plans and development programmes.

HM the King expressed his pride in the people of Bahrain for their commitment and dedication in honouring their national responsibilities.

The heads and members of



the workers union federations extended their appreciation to His Majesty the King's support for the workers of Bahrain in all aspects, hailing the landmark achievements of His Majesty's comprehensive development process.

'Targeted raids'

Israel pounds Rafah as ceasefire negotiations resume in Cairo

Netanyahu, CIA chief discuss 'possibility' of halting Rafah assault

AFP | Rafah

Israel bombarded Rafah yesterday and the military said ground troops conducted "targeted raids" in the southern Gazan city, as negotiations to halt the seven-month war resumed in Cairo.

An Israeli official said visiting CIA Director Bill Burns and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed yesterday "the possibility" of suspending military operations in Gaza's Rafah in exchange for Hamas freeing hostages.

Netanyahu and the US spy

chief, who has been involved in mediation efforts in the Israel-Hamas war, met in Jerusalem as part of Washington's latest efforts to secure a truce in the Gaza Strip.

"The two discussed the possibility of Israel pausing the operation in Rafah in exchange for hostage release," the Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Israel has defied international objections and sent tanks into Rafah, which is crowded with Palestinian civilians sheltering near the Egyptian border, seizing on Tuesday a crossing that is the main conduit for aid into the besieged territory.

The White House condemned the interruption to humanitarian deliveries, with a senior US official later revealing Washington had paused a shipment



An Israeli mobile artillery unit fires a shell from a border position in southern Israel toward the Gaza Strip. (AFP)

of bombs last week after Israel failed to address concerns over its long-threatened Rafah op-

eration. The Israeli military yesterday said it was reopening another major aid crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, as well as the Erez crossing.

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Exceptional achievers

Bahrain Bourse honors top finalists for 2023-2024 TradeQuest Program

● **Trade Minister awarded the trophies along with Bahrain Bourse CEO**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB), a licensed exchange by the Central Bank of Bahrain, celebrated the culmination of the 2023-2024 TradeQuest program by recognizing the exceptional achievements of its top finalists at a prestigious awards ceremony.

The event was attended by the Minister of Industry & Commerce, H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, H.E. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, Mr. Abdulkarim Ahmed Bucheery, Chairman of Bahrain Bourse, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse, and various CEOs and representatives from sponsoring organizations, alongside Ministry of Education officials.

More than 190 students representing 26 educational institutions including 10 private schools, 10 government schools and six universities, alongside



H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Bourse



H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro and H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa with winners of the Trade Quest Program under private, public and university categories

On this occasion H.E. Fakhro affirmed that The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain recognizes the importance of supporting and encouraging Bahraini youth, as they are considered one of the key elements of economic growth.

"We believe that they should be involved in all economic sectors, ultimately taking leadership roles to play their national role in promoting economic development," he said.

Platform

The Minister praised the opportunity TradeQuest offers, as a platform for students to understand economic fundamentals,

analyze the factors influencing them, and engage with local and regional news.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse extended his heartfelt appreciation to HE Minister of Industry & Commerce Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro for his attendance to the TradeQuest Awards Ceremony which reflects the support that the program receives from senior Government officials which is an incentive for us to continue organizing and developing this program.

Shaikh Khalifa added, "We are proud that the TradeQuest program has completed its 25th edition this year, and the success of the program all those years underscores the invaluable partnership between Bahrain Bourse and various banks and financial institutions as well as the educational entities to enhance financial literacy and elevate students' skills that will help them in the future."

Sponsors

Shaikh Khalifa extended his thanks and support to all the sponsors of the program who had a vital role in the success of the program.

The top achievers from the Private schools category included Ibn Khuldoon National School, in first place, followed by Shaikha Hessa Girls' School in second place and the British School of Bahrain securing the third position.

In the Government schools category, Al Noaim Secondary Boys School achieved first

place, with Isa Town Secondary Girls School and Ahmed Al Omran Secondary Boys School securing the second and third places respectively.

The Universities category witnessed Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF) claiming the first place, followed by University of Bahrain in second place and Royal University for Women securing the third position.

School teams

This year's TradeQuest Program encompasses 20 school teams, including 10 private schools, 10 government schools, and six universities. Private schools are: Abdulrahman Kanoo International School, Bahrain Bayan School, British School of Bahrain, Al-Hekma International School, Ibn Khuldoon National School, New Millennium School, Al Noor International School, Al Raja School, St. Christopher's School Bahrain, and Shaikha Hessa Girl's School.

The government schools are: Ahmed Al Omran Secondary Boys School, Al Ahd Al-Zaher Secondary Girls School, Ghazi Al-Gosaibi Secondary Girls School, Istiqlal Secondary Girls School, Isa Town Secondary Girls School, Khawla Secondary Girls School, Al Noaim Secondary Boys School, Al-Shurooq Secondary Girls School, Sitra Secondary Girls School and West Riffa Secondary Girls School.

Additionally, the universities participating in this year's program are: American University

of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF), British University of Bahrain, Royal University for Women, and University of Bahrain.

Thanks

Bahrain Bourse extends its sincere thanks to the sponsors of the following institutions for their generous sponsorship of TradeQuest: The Program's Strategic Sponsor: The Labour Fund (Tamkeen), the Platinum Sponsors: Ahli United Bank, Bank ABC, Khaleeji Bank and National Bank of Bahrain, the Gold Sponsors: Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), Ithmaar Bank, and SICO BSC (c) and the Silver Sponsors: BBK, Gulf International Bank (GIB), Kuwait Finance House, and United Gulf Bank. Bahrain Bourse would also like to thank the program's Knowledge Partner, the Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF) for its hosting and delivering the Dealing Room Sessions to the participating teams.

TradeQuest, a simulation-based education program that provides participating students with a real-life experience of capital market investment by learning the systems and regulations implemented at both Bahrain Bourse and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

It offers students hands-on experience of capital market investment, enabling them to navigate the intricacies of financial systems and regulations while honing their analytical and managerial skills.

Focus on major IT projects and purchases

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Chaired by the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive, H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, the Information and Communication Technology Governance Committee's (ICTGC) 70th meeting convened virtually to review projects and purchase orders submitted by government entities.

The committee discussed a project to upgrade Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure (BSDI) Portal and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the iGA, which includes over 300 layers of infrastructure maps, serving 30+ government entities through a geographic browser.

The project provides the latest regularly updated geograph-



The committee meeting in session

ic data in a unified database, including maps of essential services and infrastructure information such as addresses, buildings, water networks, electricity networks, telecommunications networks, petroleum and gas installations, and other relevant data.

The system upgrade will contribute to the adoption of advanced technologies such as Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI) and Building

Information Modeling (BIM) in Bahrain. Integrating GeoAI will enhance data quality, improve processes, and expedite decision-making through geographic data predictive analysis. The utilization of BIM technology will facilitate advanced three-dimensional infrastructure plans.

It discussed the redesign of Bahrain's National Portal, bahrain.bh, and the unified government app for smart devices.

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MPs push to revise BCCI voting system

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives yesterday unanimously endorsed a proposal to revise the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) voting system predicated on capital.

This amendment, congruent with Decree Law No. 48 of 2021, endeavours to guarantee equitable representation for all merchants within the Chamber.

The proposal garnered significant support, with 28 votes in favor. MP Abdulla Alromaihi abstained from voting, while MP Hasan Ebrahim cast the sole dissenting vote. The draft legislation addresses the pressing necessity for a more inclusive and balanced system that equalises the playing field within the Chamber. Presently, the extant system disproportionately benefits major merchants, engendering an inequity. The suggested amendment aspires to redress this disparity and afford impartial representation for all merchants engaged.

MP Basma Mubarak said: "In the last chamber elections, only 1,500 members participated, and there is a reluctance to engage due to the current law, which fails to provide justice to small and medium enterprises."

Youth at the forefront

Ministry of Youth Affairs unveils progressive national strategy to empower 'future leaders'

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Minister of Youth Affairs, H.E. Rawan Tawfiqi, has unveiled the Ministry's progressive strategy to empower the youth of Bahrain.

It is under the guidance of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, in line with the vision of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

Corresponding with MPs Jalal Kadhem and Dr Mahdi Al Showaikh, she unveiled a national strategy for 2023-2028, designed to propel a cadre of motivated leaders poised to effect positive change within themselves, their society, and the nation as a whole.

This strategy highlights the importance of building confidence in our present time and nurturing aspirations for the future, thus creating an environment conducive for the youth to enhance the nation and craft a more promising tomorrow.

At present, the Ministry over-



H.E. Rawan Tawfiqi



MP Jalal Kadhem



MP Dr Mahdi Al Showaikh

sees 38 youth empowerment centres throughout the various governorates, focusing on improving the quality and effectiveness of the programmes rather than increasing their quantity.

However, the Ministry is attentive to the specific needs of different areas, considering the establishment of additional centres as required.

Extensive study

In 2021, the Ministry conducted an extensive national study to chart the talents of Bahraini youth, acknowledging the vast potential and vigour of our young citizens as a national

asset. This endeavour, which involved over 10,000 young Bahrainis aged 10 to 35, seeks to elevate, refine, and highlight these talents, with the ultimate aim of leveraging them to fortify the national economy.

The Ministry's dedication to boosting youth talent is evidenced by its annual budget of approximately BD133,000 for the 38 youth empowerment centres, allocated in two instalments per year.

Moreover, the Ministry's alliance with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) is instrumental in the nurturing and honing of Bahraini talents across the en-

tire spectrum of sectors.

Collaboration

This synergistic collaboration has given birth to the 'Methodology for Discovering Youth Talents' initiative, executed in tandem with a consultancy of specialised agencies, culminating in the composition of a booklet on the discovery, refinement, and celebration of talented individuals.

In addition, the Ministry has orchestrated the creation of a unified database for the gifted youth, in concert with the youth empowerment centres, to furnish the Ministry with continual updates



This strategy highlights the importance of building confidence in our present time and nurturing aspirations for the future, thus creating an environment conducive for the youth to enhance the nation and craft a more promising tomorrow.

Those registered in the database are given precedence, and the Ministry has launched an ambitious project named 'Youth City 2030.' This initiative offers 2,700 training opportunities for young individuals in a variety of fields.

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Hate crime verdict

Lower Court punishes Bahraini man for publicly inciting religious hatred

● **Jailed for three months, fined BD100**

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini man to three months in prison after he was found guilty of publicly inciting hatred and contempt against a religious group, thereby threatening societal peace.

He was also fined BD100 and faced confiscation of his mobile phone, which was used in the crime.

The incident came to light after the Public Prosecution received a report from the Cybercrime Unit of the General

Directorate for Combating Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security.

Video recording

The report detailed a video recording of a Bahraini man with tens of thousands of followers on his social media account.

In the video, he is seen walking through a residential area, addressing a religious group

in a manner that incites hatred and contempt towards them.

The Public Prosecution con-

ducted the video and identifying the accused. He was summoned for questioning and admitted to posting the video, claiming it was intended as a joke.

Justification

However, the prosecution rejected this justification, considering the video's potential to incite sectarian strife and disrupt societal harmony.

The court, after reviewing the evidence and hearing arguments from both sides, found the accused guilty of the charges against him.

He was sentenced to three months in prison, fined BD100, and had his mobile phone confiscated. The court also ordered the video to be removed from social media platforms.



ducte investigations, confirming the authenticity of

Strathclyde University's Bahrain branch license approved

TDT | Manama



The Higher Education Council, chaired by His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, has approved the establishment of Strathclyde University - Bahrain.

The Council's decision grants a license for the creation of a private higher education institution under the name "Strathclyde University - Bahrain," which will operate as a licensed branch of the renowned British parent university in the United Kingdom.

According to the council's resolution, the new institution will comprise three colleges: the College of Business, the College of Engineering, and the College of Science, offering a total of 8 academic programmes.

The resolution also stipulates that the licensed institution must complete the institutional registration process on the National Qualifications Framework. Additionally, the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council will ensure that the institution fulfills all academic, financial, and infrastructure requirements before it can commence student enrollment in the offered programmes.

Commenting on the decision, Dr Juma emphasised in a statement that the approval of the licensing for the British Strathclyde University in Bahrain would pave the way for the introduction of a lineup of quality academic programmes, which would aid in the development of the higher education system.



This move also underscores the Council's commitment to supporting investment in the private education sector, in line with its strategy and policies aimed at ensuring the availability of high-quality higher education

H.E. DR MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

Investment

"This move also underscores the Council's commitment to supporting investment in the private education sector, in line with its strategy and policies aimed at ensuring the availability of high-quality higher education," he stated.

The establishment of Strathclyde University - Bahrain is a significant step forward in Bahrain's efforts to become a regional hub for education and research, providing students with access to world-class British education without having to leave the country.

BCICAI holds successful bowling tournament

TDT | Manama

As part of Bahrain Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India initiatives in keeping the members active and in promoting healthy and balanced lifestyle, the BCICAI had organised a Bowling Tournament last month for its members and their families.

It was a fun-filled event with impressive participation and spirited competition from more than 100 members and their families. The competition was thrilling, showcasing the top team contenders' skills.

"Team Maroon" led by CA Sandeep Shah, won the tournament. The tournament also fostered a strong sense of community, bringing participants together. We thank all the participants for another successful event.

The Bahrain Chapter of ICAI is the largest body of professionals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with over 450 members. It provides a forum for the members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to develop professionally and personally.



BCICAI members and their families at the event

Bahraini trader acquitted of selling counterfeit goods



TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court acquitted a Bahraini trader of charges related to the sale of counterfeit goods bearing a registered trademark.

The Public Prosecution had accused the defendant of possessing, with the intent to sell, goods that bore a registered trademark, in violation of Law No. (6) of 2014 regarding the Trademark System of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The trader's lawyer presented a defense arguing for his client's innocence and the lack of elements constituting a crime. He stated that the company owning the renowned Asian trademark has been engaged in the tea business since 1948 in various countries around the world, having obtained legal protection for its trademark under international laws and treaties regarding industrial property and trademarks.

The lawyer further explained

that the trademark-owning company had concluded a licensing agreement with the defendant's company in Bahrain, granting it an exclusive agency to use the renowned Asian tea trademark within the geographical boundaries of the country.

This agreement was in place despite another company having registered a similar trademark in Bahrain, allegedly with the intent to mislead consumers, and without the knowledge or consent of the true trademark owner.

The court, after reviewing the case details and the legal and factual arguments presented, ruled to acquit the defendant. The judgment emphasised that the trademark in question has been owned by the Asian company since 1948 and is widely used by them, as evidenced by a letter from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in the Asian country supporting the defendant's defense.

Legal action taken against stepfather for 'abusing' daughters

TDT | Manama

In a swift response to a disturbing case of alleged domestic violence, the Public Prosecution has taken immediate action against a stepfather accused of physically abusing his two young daughters. According to the Deputy Head of the Family and Child Prosecution Office, the Public Prosecution received a complaint from the Ministry of Education and the Southern Hamad Town Police Station regarding the incident that occurred at a government school. A primary school teacher had noticed bruises on one of the girls' hands, prompting the teacher to question the older sister, who said they had been beaten by their stepfather.

Syms Work of Mercy Award 2024



Syms officials have confirmed in a press conference that Sr. Lucy Kurien, an eminent social and philanthropist and the founding director of Maher Foundation, Pune, India, has been selected as the awardee for the prestigious SYMS Work of Mercy Award 2024. The award ceremony would be held on Saturday, 11th May, at Marmaris Hall, Tubli wherein the Ambassador of India to Bahrain, H.E. Vinod K Jacob, will be the chief guest. Social leaders, including Khalil Daylami (Baba Kahlil), will attend the award ceremony. Sr. Lucy Kurien was born on in 1956 at Kolayad in Kannur District of Kerala, India. After several years of formal education, she moved to Mumbai. Having carried a strong inner desire for justice since childhood, she felt a deep calling to make a difference to the life of the poor and famished around her. The press conference was attended by SYMS president Mr. Shajan Sebastine, General Secretary Mr. Sabin Kuriakose, Vice President Mr. Jeevan Chacko, core group chairman Mr. Paul Uruvath, Syms executive committee member Sijo Antony, Rathesh Sebastine, past president Charles Alukka and past executive committee members. Bahrain Finance Company (BFC) is the title sponsor for the award ceremony.

24 Alba employees make strides in top-up BEng in Mechanical Engineering Programme



TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) CEO Ali Al Baqali celebrated the first class of Alba's Top-Up BEng in Mechanical Engineering (Hons) Programme from the University of Huddersfield (UK) on 06 May 2024 in the presence of senior Alba officials and faculty members.

The 24 enrolled employees, representing various departments, showcased their final projects at an exhibition on the same day at Alba's Oasis Hall.

On this occasion, Al Baqali commended the employees for the exceptional caliber of their final projects and expressed his anticipation to see how the knowledge gained from this pro-



In pictures, participants during the celebration organised for the first class of Alba's Top-Up BEng in Mechanical Engineering (Hons) Programme

gramme will be implemented to propel Alba forward in line with its vision.

The Top-Up B.E. in Mechanical Engineering (Hons) Programme aligns with Alba's on-

going commitment to building and developing the capabilities of its national employees. The

first batch of the programme, launched last October at the Company's Training Workshops

Building, is held with the participation of 24 employees from various departments.

Cineco Bahrain Cinema Company B.S.C. Condensed consolidated interim financial information for the three months period ended 31 March 2024

Condensed consolidated interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the three months period ended 31 March 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)
	Three months period ended 31 March 2024	Three months period ended 31 March 2023
Operating income	866,886	1,111,089
Operating costs	(970,882)	(1,217,564)
Operating gross loss for the period	(83,996)	(106,475)
Income from investments, net	428,580	391,742
Other income	67,364	235,131
	486,044	626,873
General and administrative expenses	(319,829)	(360,824)
Finance costs	(25,124)	(57,317)
	(344,953)	(418,141)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	67,095	102,257
Basic earnings per share	1fills	1fills

Condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)
	31 March 2024	31 December 2023
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,228,392	2,367,563
Investment properties	23,056,200	23,055,000
Right-of-use assets	1,332,448	1,331,907
Investment in an associate	10,027,777	10,138,983
Financial assets at amortised cost	14,029,104	14,000,624
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	10,337,476	9,992,857
	60,997,397	60,886,934
Current assets		
Inventories	123,256	123,047
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9,273,779	9,328,532
Trade and other receivables	1,445,000	1,615,220
Cash and bank balances	180,423	308,980
	11,022,471	11,375,779
Total assets	72,020,868	72,227,713
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	8,262,345	8,262,345
Share premium	893,923	893,923
Revaluation reserve	4,557,442	4,557,442
Statutory reserve	4,131,173	4,131,173
Charity reserve	249,416	275,788
Retained earnings	37,598,502	36,803,677
Treasury shares	(380,666)	(380,666)
	55,402,435	56,543,680
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current portion of term loan	8,103,738	8,558,988
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	1,046,327	1,181,254
Employees' terminal and other benefits	444,253	425,252
	9,594,323	10,165,500
Current liabilities		
Murabahah facility	4,978,387	4,978,387
Current portion of term loan	341,700	339,573
Current portion of lease liabilities	562,327	615,409
Trade and other payables	7,436,015	7,784,962
Bank overdrafts	485,203	-
	13,703,632	13,708,331
Total equity and liabilities	72,020,868	72,227,713

Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows for the three months period ended 31 March 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)
	Three months period ended 31 March 2024	Three months period ended 31 March 2023
Operating activities		
Net profit for the period	67,095	102,257
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	144,571	206,364
Amortisation of cost to right-of-use assets	158,833	244,746
Profit on a sale of property, plant and equipment	(2,059)	-
Net share of loss from investment in an associate	35,206	57,548
Dividend income	(24,188)	(130,338)
Unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(289,886)	(113,659)
Interest income from sukuk and bonds	(202,372)	(197,478)
Interest income - discount amortisation	(8,480)	(7,917)
Interest income on long term receivables	-	(35,463)
Interest income on loan to a related party	(17,775)	(18,897)
Finance costs	25,124	57,317
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(10,219)	3,535
Trade and other receivables	170,217	(446,550)
Employees terminal and other benefits	19,634	24,494
Trade and other payables	(331,117)	(393,593)
Net cash used in operating activities	(204,416)	(645,532)
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(5,400)	(29,362)
Additions to investment properties	(1,200)	(2,527)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	2,099	-
Interest income on long term receivable	-	35,463
Interest income on loan to a related party	17,775	16,897
Interest income from bonds and sukuk	202,372	197,478
Dividend income received	24,188	130,338
Net cash provided by investing activities	239,814	348,285
Financing activities		
Amount repaid against Murabahah facility	-	(149,288)
Lease liabilities paid	(144,583)	(204,652)
Repayment of term loan during the period	(453,101)	(452,803)
Charity paid	(26,350)	(50,000)
Dividends paid	-	(1,183,823)
Finance costs paid	(25,124)	(57,317)
Net cash used in financing activities	(649,158)	(2,107,583)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(613,760)	(2,404,930)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	308,880	(883,133)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	(304,780)	(3,088,063)
Comprising:		
Cash and bank balances	180,423	165,674
Bank overdrafts	(485,203)	(3,253,737)
	(304,780)	(3,088,063)

Condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the three months period ended 31 March 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)						
	Share capital	Share premium	Revaluation reserve	Statutory reserve	Charity reserve	Retained earnings	Treasury shares	Total
At 31 December 2022 - Audited	8,262,345	911,442	4,557,442	4,131,173	312,007	41,902,340	(370,975)	59,705,774
Dividend paid for the year 2022	-	-	-	-	-	(1,183,623)	-	(1,183,623)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(60,000)	-	-	(60,000)
Net profit and other comprehensive profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	102,257	-	102,257
At 31 March 2023 - reviewed	8,262,345	911,442	4,557,442	4,131,173	252,007	40,820,974	(370,975)	58,564,408
At 31 December 2023 - Audited	8,262,345	893,923	4,557,442	4,131,173	275,788	38,803,877	(380,666)	56,543,880
Dividend paid for the year 2023	-	-	-	-	-	(1,182,170)	-	(1,182,170)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(26,350)	-	-	(26,350)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	67,095	-	67,095
At 31 March 2024 - reviewed	8,262,345	893,923	4,557,442	4,131,173	249,416	37,888,802	(380,666)	55,402,435

Al Baraka Group reports Q1 profit

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Group announced its financial results for the first quarter of 2024.

The Group announced a net income attributable to shareholders of the parent company at US\$39 million in the first quarter of 2024 compared to US\$41m for the same period of 2023, reflecting a 6% decline. Earnings per share stood at 3.23 US cents compared to 3.42 US cents in Q1 2023. This was mainly due to the low profitability in Units where the Group had higher stakes in comparison to other Units, owing to the significant rise in costs of funding in spite of higher profits from financing and investments; the negative foreign currency translation effect was another factor that contributed to the decline.

The Group also announced a decline in total comprehensive income attributable to the Group's shareholders, reporting a loss of US\$60m, which is higher by 137% compared to a loss of US\$25m in the same period last year, which is mainly due to



Housseem Ben Haj Amor, board member and Group CEO



Sheikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Chairman

the negative foreign currency translation reserve in Turkey and Egypt.

The Group recorded a 6% rise in its net income at US\$77m for the period ended March 31st 2024, compared to US\$73m for the same period in 2023. This was primarily driven by higher profits from financing and investments across most of the Group's Units, and lower pro-

visions, despite higher costs of funding and the negative foreign currency translation effect.

The equity attributable to the parent's shareholders and Sukuk holders reduced by 6% totalling US\$1.18 billion by the end of Q1 2024, compared to US\$1.25bn at the end of December 2023, due to the increase in foreign currency translation reserves. In terms of total equity, Al Baraka

reported US\$1.87bn at the end of Q1 2024, compared to US\$1.97bn at the end of December 2023, resulting in a 5% decrease.

The total assets of the Group also declined to US\$24.81bn at the end of the first quarter of 2024, compared to US\$25.26bn at the end of 2023, i.e. a 2% reduction, as a result of the depreciation of regional currencies against the US dollar in many of

the markets in which the Group operates, including Turkey and Egypt.

Sheikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Group, stated: "Despite the wave of inflation overtaking the global economy, the Group has achieved a resilient and stable financial performance in our balance sheet, reflecting the efficiency of both our investment approach and our operating expenses framework. Given the current geopolitical challenges, crises and economic setbacks across some of the financial markets in which we operate, we plan to strengthen our efforts aimed at seizing all potential avenues for growth by exploring various investment opportunities and expanding our operational capabilities using the latest digital and innovative management solutions. Moving forward, we will be focusing on strengthening our financial results and enhancing our profits to firm up our industry position."

Housseem Ben Haj Amor, board member and Group CEO said: "Despite the devaluation

of local currencies in some of the regional markets we operate in, particularly in Turkey and Egypt, as well as the impact of higher cost of funding, and the increasing risk of credit defaults, we are witnessing an overall improvement in the Group's financial performance compared to last year, particularly in the net income. In the midst of this volatile economic landscape, we were able in 2024 to distribute dividends for the 2023 year to our shareholders, which we have not been able to do since 2019. We are also closely monitoring the situation in the Group's Units in Lebanon and Sudan, given the difficult political and economic circumstances there. With the help of Allah Almighty, we stand ready to face any challenges resulting from these fluctuations and limit their repercussions, as we do not expect them to negatively affect our financial performance in the coming period. We look forward to seizing all investment and innovation opportunities that ensure growth across our Units and sustainably support the Group's profits."

Pandemic drove regional digital evolution amidst crisis, says Nass

TDT | Manama

Sameer Nass, the President of the Union of Arab Chambers and Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic crisis had significantly influenced the digital evolution of the region. This impact was observed across both private sector entities and governmental institutions, highlighting the necessity for accelerated digital transformation initiatives.

He also pointed out that these initiatives were focused on facilitating access to essential services and transactions for individuals and organisations.

The remarks came during his address at the Annual Investment Forum held in Abu Dhabi, themed "Adapting to the Transformation of the Investment Landscape: Harnessing New Potentials to Promote Economic Development Globally."

Representatives from various countries, prominent global investors, and leaders from both



Nass speaking during the Annual Investment Forum held in Abu Dhabi

public and private sectors were part of the event, where discussions revolved around recent developments and strategies

to foster sustainable growth and innovative solutions for the global economy.

Emphasising the collaborative

efforts between public and private sectors in the post-COVID era, Nass highlighted the importance of fostering innova-

tion and tackling challenges. He stressed the significance of amalgamating traditional and modern approaches in corporate management and marketing strategies.

Beyon 2024 Q1 Net Profit rises 4%

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Telecommunications Company BSC (Ticker: BEYON), announced net profit attributable to equity holders of the company for Q1 2024 of BD18.8M (US\$49.9M), a 4% increase from BD18.0M (US\$47.7M) for the corresponding quarter of 2023.

Earnings per share (EPS) are 11.4 fils for the first quarter of 2024 compared to 10.9 fils in Q1 2023.

Total comprehensive income attributable to equity holders in Q1 2024 was reported at BD39.7M (US\$105.3M), a 91% increase from BD20.8M (US\$55.2M) in the first quarter of 2023, mainly due to favourable investment fair value changes.

Operating profit increased by 6% to BD27.0M (US\$71.6M) from BD25.5M (US\$67.6M) in Q1 2023.

Revenues for the first quarter of 2024 increased by 7% to BD110.5M (US\$293.1M) compared to BD103.5M (US\$274.5M) in Q1 2023, mainly due to increases in mobile, datacoms and digital services.

”
The COVID crisis has accelerated plans for digital transformation initiatives among private sector and government institutions to provide access to the required services and transactions to individuals and institutions
”
SAMEER NASS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF ARAB CHAMBERS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BAHRAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

US revokes some licenses for exports to China's Huawei

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States has revoked certain licenses for exports to Chinese tech giant Huawei, the Commerce Department said, drawing opposition from Beijing yesterday.

The move came after criticism last month by Republican lawmakers, who urged President Joe Biden's administration to block all export licenses to the

company after it released a new laptop powered by a processor by US chip giant Intel.

"We continuously assess how our controls can best protect our national security and foreign policy interests, taking into consideration a constantly changing threat environment and technological landscape," said a Commerce Department spokesperson.

"We are not commenting on

any specific licenses, but we can confirm that we have revoked certain licenses for exports to Huawei," the spokesperson added in a statement to AFP.

Huawei has long been caught in an intense technological rivalry between Beijing and Washington, which has warned that the firm's equipment could be used for Chinese espionage operations.

The company denies these

claims. Asked about reports that the US government had revoked some companies' licenses, a Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said Beijing "firmly opposes this." "China will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese firms," the spokesperson added.

The announcement of a new Huawei computer recently, powered by Intel technology, drew

fire from Republican lawmakers in the United States.

A letter by policymakers Marco Rubio and Elise Stefanik charged that "licenses issued in

2020, at least some of which are active to this day, have allowed Huawei to collaborate with Intel and Qualcomm to keep its PC and smartphone segments alive."



Sanctions in 2019 restricting Huawei's access to US-made components dealt a major blow to its production of smartphones -- and meant that suppliers need a license before shipping to the company.

Samsung to buy French medical AI firm Sonio
Seoul, South Korea

South Korean tech giant Samsung said yesterday it will buy French artificial intelligence company Sonio to boost its cutting-edge medical diagnostic systems.

The use of AI has exploded in recent years in a wide range of disciplines and industries, including medical care, and firms around the world are investing heavily to incorporate it into their products.

The purchase of Sonio by medical equipment maker Samsung Medison, an affiliate of global chip and smartphone giant Samsung Electronics, would boost maternal care through AI-enhanced ultrasound systems, according to a company statement.

“Collaboration with Sonio will bring together best-in-class ultrasound AI technology and reporting capabilities to bring a paradigm shift in the prenatal ultrasound exam,” said Yong Kwan Kim, CEO of Samsung Medison.

Samsung will acquire all Sonio’s shares for 126 billion won (around \$92 million), according to public financial records.

Sonio’s AI tech uses machine learning to enhance the accuracy, quality and analysis of ultrasounds.

New iPad points to Apple’s AI future

● The iPad Pro and ultralight iPad Air are the company’s first iPad releases in two years

● The company founded by Steve Jobs has been criticized for going too slow on the AI revolution

AFP | San Francisco, United States



Representative picture

Apple on Tuesday announced a line of new iPad tablets revamped with a powerful AI chip that signaled the company is ready to introduce artificial intelligence across its devices.

The latest version of the iPad Pro uses a new chip called the M4, which is stronger than the one currently used for Apple’s laptops and ready to handle more power-hungry AI tasks, the company said.

The iPad Pro and ultralight iPad Air are the company’s first iPad releases in two years, ending Apple’s longest period without upgrades since it launched

the tablet in 2010. “Altogether, this new chip makes iPad Pro the most powerful device of its kind,” said Johnny Srouji, Apple’s senior vice president of hardware technologies.

Apple is expected to make a series of more ambitious AI announcements at its Worldwide Developers Conference on June 10 in which the M4 chip could play a role.

The company founded by Steve Jobs has been criticized for going too slow on the AI revolution as Microsoft pipped its spot as the world’s biggest com-

pany by market capitalization.

Microsoft has fully embraced the AI frenzy, rushing out AI-enhanced versions of its software and applications and pushing tools such as the Copilot chat functionality to its cloud computing clients.

Analysts expect the powers of the M4 chip to enhance other products, including iPhones and laptops.

“We see generative AI as a very key opportunity across our products,” chief executive Tim Cook said after Apple’s latest earnings last week.

Bahrain All Share Index closes higher

TDT | Manama

Bahrain All Share Index has closed at 2,026.96 points, marking an increase of 3.19 points above the previous closing.

This increase was due to the rise in the Communication Services Sector and the Financial Sector.

Bahrain Islamic Index has

closed at 767.47 points, marking a decrease of 3.89 points below the previous closing.

Results indicated that 61 equity transactions took place with a volume of 1,412,722, worth BD 585,555.

Investors traded mainly in the Financial Sector, representing 53.42% of the total value of securities traded.

Japanese auto giant Toyota posts record net profit

Tokyo, Japan

Toyota reported record annual net profit of more than \$30 billion yesterday but the world’s largest automaker by sales warned that the current year would be less spectacular.

Helped by a weak yen and strong hybrid vehicle sales, the Japanese giant’s bottom line doubled to 4.94 trillion yen (\$31.9 bn) in the year to March while revenues rose 21.4 percent to 45.1 trillion yen, also an all-time high.

“Under the banner of ‘carbon is the enemy’, Toyota has done what it can to achieve carbon neutrality and make hybrid cars more prevalent,”

said chief financial officer Yoichi Miyazaki.

“Since the debut of the Prius model, that effort has gradually paid off, creating the perception even in the American market that hybrids are the main player,” Miyazaki told reporters.

For this year it expects net profit of 3.57 trillion yen, down 27.8%, because of investments in “growth areas” such as electric and hydrogen cars, as well as in “human capital”.

Sales will rise 2.0 percent to 46 trillion yen.

Toyota last month said it sold 11.1 million vehicles across all brands in the 2023-24 fiscal year, up five percent and the first time they have exceeded 10 million.

Al Baraka Group B.S.C. INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As at 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)



INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)

	Reviewed 31 March 2024	Audited 31 December 2023
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks	5,131,452	5,130,669
Due from Banks	739,563	525,341
Receivables	9,650,479	9,788,328
Participatory investments	732,843	776,670
Investments	4,896,508	5,451,565
Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek	2,461,002	2,477,262
Property and equipment	448,799	464,711
Other assets	748,526	648,788
TOTAL ASSETS	24,809,172	25,263,334
LIABILITIES, QUASI-EQUITY AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Customer current and other accounts	6,369,210	6,403,831
Due to banks	1,718,964	1,129,155
Long term financing	806,836	777,006
Other liabilities	1,207,742	1,187,211
Total liabilities	10,102,752	9,497,203
QUASI-EQUITY		
Financial institutions	339,724	417,206
Non-financial institutions and individuals	12,494,795	13,380,345
Total quasi-equity	12,834,519	13,797,551
EQUITY		
Share capital	1,242,879	1,242,879
Treasury shares	(15,658)	(15,658)
Share premium	16,861	16,873
Reserves	222,714	222,714
Cumulative changes in fair value	60,633	62,161
Foreign currency translations reserve	(1,344,323)	(1,246,905)
Retained earnings	593,972	558,527
Proposed appropriations	-	12,357
Equity attributable to parent's shareholders (Tier 1 Capital) holders	777,078	852,948
Sukuk (Tier 1 Capital)	400,000	400,000
Equity attributable to parent's shareholders and Sukuk (Tier 1 Capital) holders	1,177,078	1,252,948
Non-controlling interest	694,823	715,632
TOTAL EQUITY	1,871,901	1,968,580
TOTAL LIABILITIES, QUASI-EQUITY AND EQUITY	24,809,172	25,263,334

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended	
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
INCOME		
Income from financing contracts	422,493	317,152
Income from investments	176,713	152,277
Mudarabah share for managing off-balance sheet equity of investment accountholders	463	443
Fees and commission income	58,804	38,531
Other income	5,506	19,594
	663,979	527,997
Profit paid on financing	(105,005)	(17,466)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME BEFORE NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO QUASI-EQUITY	558,974	510,531
Net income attributable to quasi-equity	(299,488)	(207,682)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	259,486	302,849
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	78,388	84,634
Depreciation and amortisation	11,738	9,573
Other operating expenses	54,475	52,234
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	144,601	146,441
NET INCOME BEFORE NET ALLOWANCE FOR EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES / IMPAIRMENT AND TAXATION	114,885	156,408
Net allowance for expected credit losses / impairment	(5,750)	(56,043)
NET INCOME BEFORE TAXATION	109,135	100,365
Taxation	(32,464)	(27,710)
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	76,671	72,655
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	39,143	41,434
Non-controlling interest	37,528	31,221
	76,671	72,655
Basic and diluted earnings per share - US cents		
	3.23	3.42

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended	
	Reviewed 31 March 2024	Unreviewed 31 March 2023
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
Net income for the period	76,671	72,655
Other comprehensive (loss) / income		
Items that may not be subsequently classified to consolidated statement of income		
Net change in fair value of equity investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	(1,575)	(816)
Net change in fair value of property and equipment	-	(345)
Related income tax	14	(13)
Items that may subsequently classified to consolidated statement of income		
Foreign currency translations	(142,536)	(93,726)
Net change in fair value of debt instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	(1,163)	-
Net change in fair value of investment in real estate	13	5,432
Related income tax	262	-
Share in the reserve attributable to quasi-equity	772	(5,432)
Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	(144,212)	(94,900)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	(67,542)	(22,245)
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	(59,803)	(25,274)
Non-controlling interest	(7,739)	3,029
	(67,542)	(22,245)

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the three months ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended	
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
Net cash used in operating activities	(557,650)	(498,746)
Net cash generated from investing activities	596,684	167,839
Net cash generated from financing activities	1,118	158,888
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(142,536)	(93,726)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(102,384)	(265,745)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	2,601,444	2,212,263
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	2,499,060	1,946,518

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the three months period ended 31 March 2024 (Reviewed)

	Equity attributable to parent's shareholders and Sukuk holders	Non-controlling interest	Total equity
	US\$ '000	US\$ '000	US\$ '000
At 1 January 2024	1,252,948	715,632	1,968,580
Net movement in treasury shares	(12)	-	(12)
comprehensive income for the period:			
Net income for the period	39,143	37,528	76,671
Other comprehensive loss	(98,946)	(45,267)	(144,213)
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the period	(59,803)	(7,739)	(67,542)
Dividends distributed	(12,357)	-	(12,357)
Dividends of subsidiaries	-	(6,598)	(6,598)
Allocation of Zakah	(576)	-	(576)
Movement related to subsidiaries' tier 1 capital	(3,122)	(6,498)	(9,620)
Net movement in non-controlling interests	-	26	26
At 31 March 2024	1,177,078	694,823	1,871,901
At 1 January 2023	1,263,227	703,544	1,966,771
Net movement in treasury shares	(164)	-	(164)
comprehensive income for the period:			
Net income for the period	41,434	31,221	72,655
Other comprehensive loss	(66,708)	(28,192)	(94,900)
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the period	(25,274)	3,029	(22,245)
Dividends of subsidiaries	-	(6,512)	(6,512)
Allocation of Zakah	(610)	-	(610)
Movement related to subsidiaries' tier 1 capital	(2,746)	(5,697)	(8,443)
Effect of change in ownership	(1,521)	-	(1,521)
Net movement in non-controlling interests	-	2,094	2,094
At 31 March 2023	1,232,912	696,458	1,929,370

Abdullah Saleh Kamel
Chairman

Houssein Ben Haj Amor
Board member and Group Chief Executive Officer

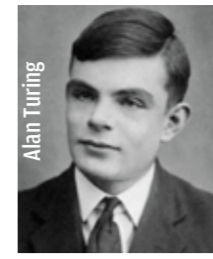
Your Partner Bank

QUOTE OF THE DAY
TALENT IS CHEAPER THAN TABLE SALT. WHAT SEPARATES THE TALENTED INDIVIDUAL FROM THE SUCCESSFUL ONE IS A LOT OF HARD WORK
 STEPHEN KING

TODAY IN HISTORY

1901

The first Australian Parliament opens in Melbourne, though the first working session will not be until 21 May



British intelligence at Bletchley Park breaks German spy codes after capturing Enigma machines aboard the weather ship Muenchen

1941

1945

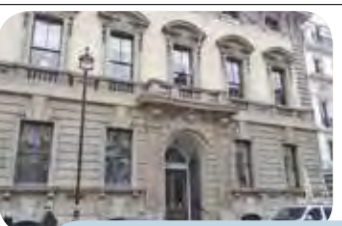
World War II: The Soviet Union marks Victory Day

1960

US becomes the first country to legalize the birth control pill

News in brief

◆ **Members of one of London's oldest gentlemen's clubs, the Garrick Club, voted on Tuesday to allow women to join for the first time following a row that has bitterly divided its male-only membership. The club's membership is a closely guarded secret but is known to include leading figures from the civil service, the law, journalism, publicly funded institutions and the arts. The Guardian and Telegraph newspapers reported that a motion to allow women to join passed with around 60 percent of votes in favour. The Guardian said the vote occurred at the end of a private meeting where several hundred members spent two hours debating the issue. The Telegraph reported that 40 percent of the club's 1,500 members voted against. Several high-profile members had reportedly threatened to quit the club if the proposal was rejected. BBC world affairs editor John Simpson last week tweeted: "Various Garrick Club members including (musicians) Sting, Mark Knopfler and leading actors and producers have reportedly written to the club chairman saying they'll resign if the membership doesn't vote to accept women next Tuesday."**



London men-only Garrick club votes to admit women: UK media

◆ **The death toll from devastating floods that have ravaged southern Brazil for days reached 100 yesterday, authorities said, as the search continued for dozens of people still missing. Nearly 400 municipalities have been affected by the worst natural calamity ever to hit the state of Rio Grande do Sul, with hundreds of people injured and 160,000 forced from their homes. On Tuesday, state governor Eduardo Leite had warned the human toll was likely to rise as "the emergency is continuing to develop" in the state capital of Porto Alegre and other cities and towns. Many have no access to drinking water or electricity -- or even the means to call for help with telephone and internet services down in many places.**

Brazil flooding death toll reaches 100



The death toll from devastating floods that have ravaged southern Brazil for days reached 100 yesterday, authorities said, as the search continued for dozens of people still missing. Nearly 400 municipalities have been affected by the worst natural calamity ever to hit the state of Rio Grande do Sul, with hundreds of people injured and 160,000 forced from their homes. On Tuesday, state governor Eduardo Leite had warned the human toll was likely to rise as "the emergency is continuing to develop" in the state capital of Porto Alegre and other cities and towns. Many have no access to drinking water or electricity -- or even the means to call for help with telephone and internet services down in many places.

◆ **The wife of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was moved yesterday from house arrest to the same jail as her husband, lawyers said, where the pair will serve matching prison terms for illegal marriage. Khan's party has been targeted with a sweeping crackdown since nationwide protests erupted over his arrest on May 9 last year, which saw unprecedented anger directed at the military. Bushra Bibi, 49, and Khan, 71, were both convicted of corruption and breaking Islamic marriage laws in the lead up to February's general election, which saw military-backed parties come to power. Khan, who was also jailed for leaking state secrets, says the cases were designed to keep him from contesting.**



Wife of former Pakistan PM Imran Khan moved to jail

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Malaysia plans to introduce 'orangutan diplomacy': minister



Representative picture

◆ **Malaysia intends to gift orangutans to palm oil-purchasing countries as part of an initiative similar to China's panda diplomacy, the commodities minister said yesterday. Johari Abdul Ghani said the "orangutan diplomacy" strategy would gift the endangered great apes to palm oil trading nations, especially major importing territories like the EU and India. Orangutans are critically endangered, according to the WWF, with habitat loss "due to logging, agricultural expansion, particularly palm oil plantations, and infrastruc-**

Second UK lawmaker defects to Labour in new blow for PM



Rishi Sunak

AFP | London, United Kingdom

◆ **Britain's ruling Conservatives yesterday suffered their second defection to the main opposition Labour party in as many weeks, piling pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Natalie Elphicke crossed the floor in the House of Commons just moments before Sunak's weekly grilling by lawmakers, adding to his woes after heavy losses for the Tories in English local elections last week. Elphicke is MP for Dover, on the south coast of England, which is heavily affected by the small boat crossings from northern Europe which Sunak has vowed to stop. But she criticised the Tories' "dramatic" lurch from the centre to the right since she was elected in Boris Johnson's landslide election win in 2019, and cited concerns over "housing and the safety and security of our borders" as prompting her move. MP Dan Poulter -- a qualified medical doctor -- announced last month that he had defected to Labour, saying only they could be trusted to reform the state-run National Health Service (NHS).**

◆ **The latest defection comes after Sunak's Tories lost 1,500 councillors in the local elections and as they languish in the polls before a general election expected later this year.**

AstraZeneca withdraws Covid vaccine as demand dives

● **Rare blood-clot problems with Astra's jab increased public hesitancy about taking it**

● **Taking it off the market in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMA) region**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

◆ **Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca yesterday said it was withdrawing Covid vaccine Vaxzevria, one of the first produced in the deadly pandemic, citing "commercial reasons" following a slump in demand. "As multiple, variant Covid-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines. This has led to a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied," an AstraZeneca spokesperson added in a statement. "We will now work with regulators and our partners to align on a clear path forward to conclude this chapter and significant contribution to the Covid-19 pandemic,"**



A Syrian health worker prepares a dose of the Vaxzevria AstraZeneca vaccine against the coronavirus, before inoculating a patient in the capital Damascus

◆ **The AstraZeneca spokesperson said the group had begun the process from taking it off the market in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMA) region. The company will work with other regulators globally to start market authorisation withdrawals for the Vaxzevria "where no future commercial demand for the vaccine is expected". The spokesperson said that, according to independent estimates, "over 6.5 million lives were saved in the first year of use alone" and more than three billion doses were supplied globally. "We are incredibly proud of the role Vaxzevria played in ending the global pandemic," the spokesperson said. "Our efforts have been recognised by governments around the world and are widely regarded as being a critical component of ending the global pandemic."**

Ukraine to allow prisoners join army

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

◆ **Ukraine's parliament yesterday passed a bill that would enable some prisoners to fight in the armed forces, as the nation faces a critical shortage of manpower on the front lines. Elphicke is MP for Dover, on the south coast of England, which is heavily affected by the small boat crossings from northern Europe which Sunak has vowed to stop. But she criticised the Tories' "dramatic" lurch from the centre to the right since she was elected in Boris Johnson's landslide election win in 2019, and cited concerns over "housing and the safety and security of our borders" as prompting her move. MP Dan Poulter -- a qualified medical doctor -- announced last month that he had defected to Labour, saying only they could be trusted to reform the state-run National Health Service (NHS).**

◆ **The legislation would need to be signed by the chairperson of parliament -- the Verkhovna Rada -- and President Volodymyr Zelensky before coming into force. "The parliament has voted yes," MP Olena Shuliak, head of Zelensky's party, said in a Facebook post. "The draft law opens the possibility for certain categories of prisoners who expressed a desire to defend their country to join the Defence Forces," she said. Mobilisation would be voluntary and only open to certain categories of prisoners. Among those not eligible to serve include those found guilty of sexual violence, killing two or more people, serious corruption and former high-ranking officials, Shuliak said.**

◆ **Only prisoners with under three years left on their sentence can apply, she added. Those prisoners who are mobilised are granted parole rather than a pardon. "Redemption by blood" The organisation Protection for**



Ukrainian servicemen prepare to fire a rifle salute during a ceremony at the site of the former Stalag 328 camp in Lviv on May 8, 2024, to mark the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation, and the 79th anniversary of the victory over Nazism and the end of the World War II in Europe. Stalag 328 was a Nazi camp for Soviet prisoners of war which existed in Lviv in 1941-1944. Approximately 284,000 persons went through these camps during its existence. 142,000 of them died here due to sickness, hunger or executions

◆ **Prisoners of Ukraine, which had lobbied for a measure allowing prisoners to fight, was disappointed with the adopted text. "We support the idea behind the law... but the text that was passed is discriminatory," said NGO head Oleg Tsvily. "They got rid of leave for (fighting) prisoners and we don't know if they're meant to fight until the war ends -- which could mean longer than their sentence," he explained. Tsvily also feared the creation of "special units" for mobilised soldiers would lead to abuse against prisoners. "It's like in Russia, redemption by blood... Anyone willing to fight will be put in one unit and commanded like meat," he said. He was referring to reported practices from the Wagner mercenary group of sending waves of convicts into assaults likened to "meat grinders". Russia has recruited prisoners to serve on the front lines since the first days of its invasion, initially offering presidential pardons for six months' service.**

South Gaza hospitals have only three days' fuel left: WHO

Geneva, Switzerland

◆ **Hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip have only three days of fuel left due to closed border crossings, the head of the World Health Organization said yesterday. Despite international objections, Israel sent tanks into the overcrowded southern city of Rafah on Tuesday and seized the nearby crossing into Egypt that is the main conduit for aid into the besieged Palestinian territory. SWHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said fuel that the UN health agency had expected to be allowed in on Wednesday had been blocked.**

Indonesia April temperatures hottest in four decades: weather agency

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

◆ **Indonesia experienced its hottest April for more than four decades, two senior weather agency officials said Wednesday, as the region endures a suffocating heatwave and global temperatures continue to break records. Extreme heat has blasted Asia from India to the Philippines in recent weeks, triggering heatstroke deaths, school closures and desperate prayers for cooling rain. "The average**

◆ **air temperature in April 2024 was the highest compared to April from 1981-2023," Achmad Fachri Radjab, head of the meteorology, climatology and geophysics agency's (BMKG) climate change information centre, told AFP. Indonesia recorded an average air temperature in April of 27.7 degrees Celsius, the highest for the month since 1981 and beating the last highest average April temperature set in 2016 by 0.1 degrees.**

Lebanon body puts Israeli bombardment damage at \$1.5 bln Beirut, Lebanon

◆ **Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon in seven months of cross-border hostilities with Hezbollah has caused more than \$1.5 billion in damage, a Lebanese official said yesterday. Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement began attacking Israel in support of ally Hamas a day after the Palestinian group's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel that sparked war in the Gaza Strip. Hezbollah has stepped up its attacks in recent weeks, while Israel's military has struck deeper into Lebanese territory, saying it has targeted fighters and "infrastructure" used by the Iran-backed group.**

X
TOP 4 TWEETS
01

 After more than 1,100 Israelis were killed in the Hamas terror attacks of 7 October, after more than 34,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, haven't we seen enough? Haven't civilians suffered enough death & destruction?
 @antonloguterres

◆ **One of the three hospitals in Rafah, Al-Najjar, is no longer functioning due to the ongoing hostilities in its vicinity and the military operation in Rafah.**

02

 The decisions the U.S. and our partners make now will determine the course of our future for decades to come. This week, I welcomed His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and Romanian President Iohannis to the White House to write a future of closer coordination and stability.
 @POTUS

◆ **But the reality falls short. Our health records are scattered fragments, leading to redundant tests and crucial information slipping through the cracks. Vital data, from allergies to past medications, often eludes us when we need it most, jeopardising efficient healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. But hope gleams on the horizon. Innovative solutions beckon us forward. Imagine enhancing existing healthcare applications, like Bahrain's Beware app, to aggregate patient data seamlessly from diverse sources. Such innovation promises a future of streamlined care, where test results and vaccination records from different facilities converge at our fingertips. The success of "Malaffi" in Abu Dhabi, a groundbreaking Health Information Exchange platform, illuminates this path further. Uniting public and private healthcare providers fosters collaboration and empowers comprehensive patient care. Yet, the impact transcends individual treatment. A centralised repository of health information equips governments to tackle the rising tide of lifestyle diseases, from asthma to cancer. This data reservoir becomes a cornerstone for research and development, driving advances in public health. Crucially, these advancements safeguard patient privacy and empower individuals to take charge of their health journey. With robust security measures, patients can securely store and access their medical records, transcending geographical boundaries. Bahrain should have a unified, accessible, and secure health record system that emerges as a beacon of progress. It's a future where patients and providers navigate the complexities of modern medicine with clarity and confidence.**

03

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04

 Our emphasis on infrastructure and that too next-generation infrastructure will continue. There is much to be done on improving the roads network, railway network and air connectivity. We also want to build strong digital infrastructure.
 @narendramodi

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

U-TURN WITH UK
A one-stop solution for Unified health records



P. LUNNIKRISHNAN

◆ **As expected, the waiting room experience was all too familiar -- 30 minutes of idle anticipation. Finally, my turn came, and the doctor launched into the routine barrage of questions. "Do you have any allergies to food or medications?" I racked my brain but came up empty. "Do you have any family history of allergies?" Again, I drew a blank. "What medications have you taken previously?" Not a single pill name surfaced in my memory. And so, the doctor prescribed more tests -- an allergy and a blood test.**

◆ **I mentioned that I had recently undergone tests at another clinic in Bahrain, but when he requested the results, I couldn't find them in my email. So, it was another round of tests, costing me an additional BD 50. As he prescribed antibiotics for my allergy, the questions persisted: "Do you have any allergies to antibiotics?" Once more, I shook my head. Can you recall the name of the antibiotic you took last time?" My answer remained the same -- a frustrating "No."**

◆ **This scenario is all too common. In today's complex healthcare landscape, patients like me navigate a labyrinth of appointments and treatments, hampered by maintaining accurate and accessible health records. Yet, in the era of advancing medical science, the significance of a comprehensive patient history cannot be overstated. It's the guiding light for physicians, leading them to the heart of our ailments and shaping personalised treatments.**

◆ **But the reality falls short. Our health records are scattered fragments, leading to redundant tests and crucial information slipping through the cracks. Vital data, from allergies to past medications, often eludes us when we need it most, jeopardising efficient healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. But hope gleams on the horizon. Innovative solutions beckon us forward. Imagine enhancing existing healthcare applications, like Bahrain's Beware app, to aggregate patient data seamlessly from diverse sources. Such innovation promises a future of streamlined care, where test results and vaccination records from different facilities converge at our fingertips. The success of "Malaffi" in Abu Dhabi, a groundbreaking Health Information Exchange platform, illuminates this path further. Uniting public and private healthcare providers fosters collaboration and empowers comprehensive patient care. Yet, the impact transcends individual treatment. A centralised repository of health information equips governments to tackle the rising tide of lifestyle diseases, from asthma to cancer. This data reservoir becomes a cornerstone for research and development, driving advances in public health. Crucially, these advancements safeguard patient privacy and empower individuals to take charge of their health journey. With robust security measures, patients can securely store and access their medical records, transcending geographical boundaries. Bahrain should have a unified, accessible, and secure health record system that emerges as a beacon of progress. It's a future where patients and providers navigate the complexities of modern medicine with clarity and confidence.**

The success of "Malaffi" in Abu Dhabi, a groundbreaking Health Information Exchange platform, illuminates this path further. Uniting public and private healthcare providers fosters collaboration and empowers comprehensive patient care.

BETTER YOU KNOW
The White House said earlier that Israel had promised the military thrust into Rafah earlier Tuesday was a "limited operation" and not the feared full-scale invasion.

Greta Thunberg fined over Swedish parliament climate protests

AFP | Stockholm, Sweden

A Stockholm court fined climate activist Greta Thunberg yesterday for disobeying police orders after blocking access to Sweden's parliament during a protest.

Police removed Thunberg on March 12 and 14 after she refused to leave the main entrance, where she was protesting with a small group of



Greta Thunberg

activists for several days. MPs could still access the building via secondary entrances. The court said it fined the

activist 6,000 Swedish kronor (\$551) and ordered her to pay 1,000 kronor in damages and interest. Thunberg denied the charges of two counts of civil disobedience, according to an AFP journalist at the hearing.

Asked by the judge why she had not obeyed police orders, she replied: "Because there was a (climate) emergency and there still is. And in an emergency, we all have a duty to act."

China's Xi welcomed with 'respect and love' in Serbia

AFP | Belgrade, Serbia

Serbia yesterday rolled out the red carpet for Chinese President Xi Jinping on the second stage of a European tour aimed at deepening political and economic ties despite tensions over the war in Ukraine.

Xi arrived in the Serbian capital Tuesday evening following a state visit to France that saw sometimes robust exchanges with President Emmanuel Macron on trade and China's close ties to Russia despite the Ukraine war.

But the other two countries chosen for Xi's first trip to Europe since 2019 -- with Hungary as the final stop after Serbia -- are among the most sympathetic to Moscow in Europe.

China has poured billions into Serbia and neighbouring Balkan countries, particularly into mining and manufacturing, and last year Beijing and Belgrade signed a free trade agreement.

Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic greeted Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan on a red carpet outside the main government offices in Belgrade on Wednesday.

The Chinese leader was met by a gun salute before shaking hands with officials, including the prime minister and the National Bank of Serbia governor.

The two leaders waved from a balcony to several thousand people, some waving Chinese flags, as Vucic called Xi a "friend of Serbia".



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping during the welcome ceremony for the Belt and Road Forum, at the International Conference Center in Yanqi Lake, north of Beijing

"Such respect and love as he will find here in our Serbia, he will not find anywhere else," Vucic added.

He told the crowd as Xi applauded: "We have a clear and simple position regarding Chinese territorial integrity. Yes, Taiwan is China".

Beijing claims the self-ruled island as its own, and has not ruled out using force to bring it under Chinese control.

Xi told Vucic in opening comments that there was a "strong feeling of friendship between our two countries".

"I hope that this visit will meet your expectations and show the contribution that China can make to Serbia," he said.

They later appeared together to sign a joint declaration, with commercial promises including the purchase of new Chinese trains, new air links, and increased Serbian imports.

Gaza officials say 49 bodies found at Al-Shifa hospital

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza health workers uncovered yesterday at least 49 bodies at Al-Shifa hospital, a medical official and Hamas authorities said, the latest such discovery at the facility previously raided by Israeli forces.

The Israeli military has repeatedly targeted Al-Shifa, the Palestinian territory's largest hospital, and other medical facilities in its war against Hamas, triggered by the Palestinian group's unprecedented October 7 attack.

Israel accuses Palestinian of using hospitals as command centres and to hold hostages abducted on October 7. Hamas denies the accusation.



People search with flashlights by an impact crater at the site of a building that was hit by Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

Motassem Salah, head of the emergency department at Al-Shifa, told journalists that "a third mass grave was found inside this hospital." The Hamas-run government media office said in a separate statement that at least 49 bodies

had been recovered from the site on the premises of Al-Shifa.

The statement accused Israel of "killings... inside and outside hospitals", without offering further information concerning the bodies found yesterday.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

AFP footage from Al-Shifa hospital showed at least a dozen bodies wrapped in black plastic body bags.

Standing in front of the ruins of the hospital, which was devastated by two weeks of fighting in March, Salah said several of the bodies had decomposed.

Last month, around 30 bodies were reported found buried in two other graves in the hospital courtyard.

US restorationist solves 60-million-year-old dinosaur fossil 'puzzles'

AFP | Kingwood, United States

Before a T. rex can tower over museum visitors or a Triceratops can show off its huge horns, dinosaur fossils must first be painstakingly reconstructed -- cleaned, fit together and even painted.

For US restorationist Lauren McClain, the process is like putting together a giant 3D puzzle.

McClain's job begins at her home workshop near Houston, Texas, where she carefully clears away dirt stuck to the more than 60-million-year-old remains using a tiny drill with an air compressor, similar to a dentist's tool. Then, she must assemble this ancient puzzle -- even though pieces are almost always missing.

She molds fillings for the lost parts, plugging the holes and repairing the nicks that have appeared in Edmontosaurus



Fossil preparation and restorationist Lauren McClain dusts off a Hadrosauridae femur in Houston, Texas



A woolly rhinoceros jaw



David Temple, curator of paleontology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, looks at an exhibit

femurs or Megalodon teeth over millions of years. She has even worked on a fossil from a 200-million-year-old Eurypterida, or sea scorpion.

McClain doesn't actually like puzzles very much, she says.

But when it "turns into a dinosaur... I can get down with those kinds of puzzles," the 33-year-old says.

"When you've got something

that's in a hundred pieces, you really have to study all of those edges and how they align, and really, really hone in on those details to rebuild it into what it was," McClain explains.

Many of the giants McClain reconstructs once roamed the land which is now the United States, ranging from Florida in the southeast all the way to Montana and the Dakotas in the



McClain holds a Hadrosauridae egg in Houston, Texas

north and California in the west.

Prehistoric femur

McClain has been a dinosaur buff since she was a child fan of "Jurassic Park." She even held her wedding at the Houston

Museum of Natural Science, home to several dino skeleton recreations. While working as a graphic designer, McClain began joining fossil excavations a few years ago, and with the help of a few professional paleontologist mentors, set up her own restoration venture, called Big Sky Fossils.

She quit her desk job to focus on her company full time seven months ago.

Recently, McClain has been working on the cranial dome of a Pachycephalosaur belonging to a Texas museum, and, while looking for more space to expand her workshop, has been working in her garage to restore a Hadrosaurid femur almost as big her.

First, she inserts a metal rod into the giant thigh bone, for stability. Next, she gives it a good clean and uses a powerful glue to bind all the pieces together. Then, an epoxy putty fills in all the gaps where pieces of the fossil have fallen away. Finally, McClain paints all the new parts the same color as the original.

"Restoring missing pieces from fossils, it's oftentimes the hardest part," McClain says.

"Because not only do you

need to have an understanding of the anatomy of that specific dinosaur, but you need a good reference."

"I talk to a lot of paleontologists in order to get it right," she adds.

Patience and observation

Movies make audiences believe that dinosaur fossils are dug up from the ground intact, says David Temple, a paleontology curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

"But in reality, it's not like that at all," he explains.

"Every fossil ever found needs some degree of curation, some degree of restoration, some degree of consolidation, because even the act of getting it out of the ground -- it's destructive," says Temple, speaking in the museum's Cretaceous period section.

Once restored, the original fossils are also used to make life-like replicas, so that several versions of the same model can be displayed in multiple places at once.

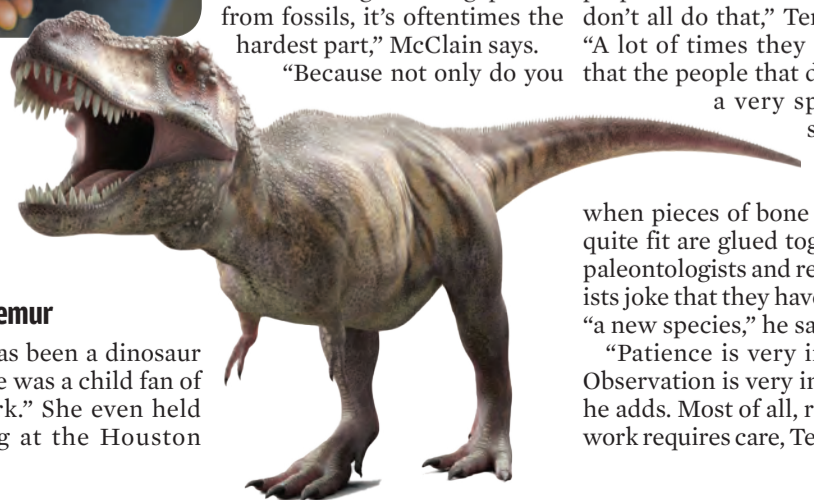
"A lot of paleontologists will prep their own fossils, but they don't all do that," Temple says. "A lot of times they recognize that the people that do this, it's a very specialized skill."

Some times, when pieces of bone that don't quite fit are glued together, the paleontologists and restorationists joke that they have invented "a new species," he says.

"Patience is very important. Observation is very important," he adds. Most of all, restoration work requires care, Temple says.



Movies make audiences believe that dinosaur fossils are dug up from the ground intact, says David Temple, a paleontology curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "But in reality, it's not like that at all," he explains.



CELEBS

Kristin Cavallari 'is happier than ever'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kristin Cavallari is "the happiest she's ever been".

The 37-year-old TV star is having a great time with her new boyfriend, Mark Estes, while her three children - Camden, 11, Jaxon, nine, and Saylor, eight - are also doing great.

A source told PEOPLE: "Everything is so good with Mark and he's great with her kids. They have a lot of fun together. It's honestly the happiest her friends have seen her in the past ten years."

The blonde beauty divorced Jay Cutler, the father of her children, in 2022, and now, she isn't

"putting any pressure" on her new romance.

Kristin is also determined to make her children her number one priority in life.

The insider explained: "They are also doing great."

number one, no matter what. She will pass on projects because she wants to be with

Kristin Cavallari



them and she doesn't have nannies 24/7."

Kristin recently revealed that she wasn't "searching" for a younger man when she met her 24-year-old boyfriend.

The TV star made her romance Instagram official in February, and Kristin subsequently defended their age gap.

She said on her 'Let's Be Honest with Kristin Cavallari' podcast: "I want you guys to know that me dating a 24-year-old is not something that I was, like, searching

out.

"If you guys listen to the podcast, you know, I thought 30-year-olds were too young for me. I understand what it looks like to the outside world, I really do. I get that."

Kristin subsequently insisted that Mark isn't a "typical 24-year-old" man.

She added: "When I met him, I was like, obviously I thought he was the hottest guy I've ever seen. There was ... that attraction was always there. But when I met him I was like, he's actually a really nice, good guy. He's very sweet - from the jump, he was so sweet to me."

Ryan Reynolds claims Hugh Jackman is 'jealous' of Rob McElhenney friendship

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds has joked Hugh Jackman is "very jealous" of his bromance with Rob McElhenney.

The 47-year-old actor and his 55-year-old friend have a long history of making fun of each other in interviews, and that has continued as Ryan discussed his close bond with Wrexham AFC co-owner Rob.

Asked about his 'Deadpool and Wolverine' co-star Hugh, he told Entertainment Tonight: "Oh, he's a very jealous person."

"It's a real proprietary sense of meaning in everything I do... [I'm] just Hugh's little meat puppet."

In reality, the trio have become good friends as 'It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia' star Rob became a big part of Ryan's inner circle of pals.

He said: "[Hugh] was actually a big 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia' fan. So this is kind of his match made in heaven for him."

And Hugh has supported their soccer ambitions,

which are documented in documentary series 'Welcome To Wrexham', which is returning for its third season, just weeks after the team managed back to back promotions to find themselves in EFL League One.

Ryan said: "[Hugh] loves Wrexham. He follows along from home. Yeah, it's kind of a family affair."

Rob added: "Hugh actually came to our first game of the season this year, which was our first game in the EFL (English Football League). We just plain old got our a**** smacked, and he was there to watch every second of it."

Hugh and Ryan were recently left devastated after the death of 'Deadpool and Wolverine' production designer Ray Chan at the age of 56.

Ryan wrote on Instagram: "Words are pretty inadequate in comparison to this loss. There's an incomparable reservoir of skill, tender grit and talent no longer with us."

He continued: "One of (the) last things I said to him was that he makes magic and there's nobody on earth like him."

Ryan Reynolds



Ryan Gosling won't direct movies until his kids grow up

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Gosling won't direct another film until his kids are older.

The 43-year-old actor is dad to two daughters - Esmeralda, nine, and seven-year-old Amada - with his partner Eva Mendes and Ryan has revealed he is making career choices with his family in mind while his girls are "so little" but he does hope to get back in the director's chair eventually once they grow up.

He told The Sunday Times newspaper: "I'm up for it ... But directing takes so much time. And, right now, my kids are so little - it's really 24 hours for us at home right now. So, yes, in the future, but right now, my choices are more about what's great for my family in terms of my experience of making this movie."

Ryan - who made his directorial debut on 2014's 'Lost River' - went on to admit

he also can't commit to hectic shooting schedules and couldn't make another film like 2011's 'Drive' due to his family commitments.

He added: "Oh I couldn't do 'Drive' now, with my kids at the age they are. I just couldn't. So these current films [I've been making] work perfectly, for where we are at as a family right now."

Ryan's most recent projects include 'Barbie' and 'The Fall Guy'.

His admission comes after his partner Eva revealed the couple had a

"non-verbal agreement" she'd be a stay-at-home mum when they became parents while he went out and earned money in Hollywood.

During an appearance on the 'Today' show, she explained: "It was almost just like a non-verbal agreement, that it was like, 'Ok, he's going to work and I'm going to work, I'm just going to work here.'"

Eva stressed she felt it was a "no-brainer" to put her successful Hollywood career on hold to spend time nurturing their kids, adding: "I'm so lucky."

Ryan Gosling



Zendaya hints at making a return to music scene

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Zendaya is open to the idea of making new music.

The 27-year-old star has focused on her acting career in recent years, but Zendaya loves the process of making music and has even hinted that she could release a new record at some stage.

During an appearance on 'The Jennifer Hudson Show', Zendaya shared: "You know, I think if the right timing and it



came ... again, I like creating it for myself. But if there was a moment maybe I would put out a little something. Don't be crazy, we'll see. But maybe ... one day."

Zendaya loves the creative process of making music. However, she hates the business element of the industry.

The Hollywood star - who released her eponymous debut album in 2013 - explained: "I

Zendaya

love music and it's something that's been special to me and being in the music industry ... it didn't kill the joy of music, but when you put music and business together it cannot feel so good."

Zendaya actually performed alongside Labrinth at Coachella in 2023.

But the 'Replay' hitmaker admitted that she was initially reluctant to join him on stage.

She shared: "He asked me if I wanted to come out and perform and immediately I was like 'oh, absolutely not.' I was like 'I can't do that.'"

Zendaya confessed to having "bad memories" of performing as a child.

Anne Hathaway celebrates sobriety milestone

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Anne Hathaway has celebrated five years sobriety.

The 'Idea of You' actress admitted she doesn't often discuss that aspect of her personal life, but she is much more proud to have hit a significant "milestone" than she is about being in her 40s.

Anne, who turned 41 in November, told the New York Times newspaper: "I don't take it that seriously. There are so many other things I identify as milestones. "I don't normally talk about it, but I am over five years sober. That feels like a milestone

to me. Forty feels like a gift."

Anne Hathaway

She also shrugged off the notion of "middle age" as a label, and insisted it's an inaccurate statement to make.

She explained: "The fact of the matter is I hesitate at calling things 'middle age' simply because I can be a semantic stickler and I could get hit by a car later today. "We don't know if this is middle age. We don't know anything."

The 'Princess Diaries' star has recently opened up about her decision cut out alcohol from her life, which she admitted "felt so extreme".

She told Vanity Fair magazine last month: "I knew deep down it wasn't for me. And it just felt so extreme to have to say, 'But none?' But none."

"If you're allergic to something or have an anaphylactic reaction to something, you don't argue with it. So I stopped arguing with it."

SUDOKU

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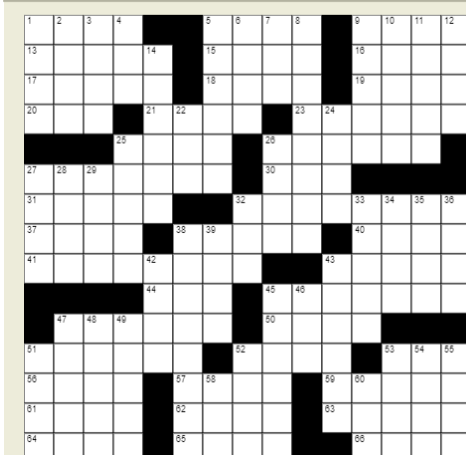
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Gutter location; 5- Exclamation to express sorrow; 9- Ed and Mel of baseball; 13- Recreation; 15- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 16- Sneaker or loafer; 17- MetLife competitor; 18- Rope material; 19- Gull's cousin; 20- Suffix with fail; 21- Not mint; 23- Tips off; 25- Son of _; 26- Sweeping implements; 27- Squirrels away; 30- Dorm overseers, for short; 31- Set up; 32- Ragged; 37- Architect Saarinen; 38- Part of an ice skate; 40- Poet Angelou; 41- Modern; 43- Located; 44- Siesta; 45- Correspondences; 47- Morals; 50- Small batteries; 51- Mock; 52- Contented cat sound; 53- Basic cable channel; 56- Hanging to one side; 57- Hideaway; 59- Little laugh; 61- Quick sharp bark; 62- Kitchen addition; 63- Shuteye; 64- French airport; 65- Greenish blue; 66- Pre-Easter period;

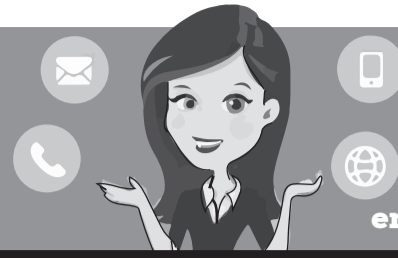
Down

1- Isaac's eldest; 2- Copycat; 3- Cast a ballot; 4- West end?; 5- Capital of Greece; 6- Fibbed; 7- Human limb; 8- Divide; 9- Bony prefix; 10- Unit of heat; 11- Legal wrongs; 12- Chamber workers; 14- Instructed; 22- Litigate against; 24- In need of directions; 25- Cravat; 26- Actor Pitt; 27- Witnessed; 28- Woody plant; 29- Dynamic opening; 32- Tic _ Dough; 33- Gives off; 34- Charge per unit; 35- Watchful one; 36- Pops; 38- Wrist band; 39- Kissers; 42- Oklahoma city; 43- Begins; 45- Hardy's partner; 46- Musical gift; 47- Sniggler; 48- Cave-dwelling dwarf; 49- Having big haunch; 51- Belafonte bellow; 52- Pocket bread; 53- Of _ Sing; 54- "It's _ real"; 55- Equinox mo.; 58- Didi lunch; 60- Building annex;

Yesterday's solution

A	P	S	E	T	A	T	U	M	O	P	A	L
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A	C	E	R		M	E	T	E	R	S	A	N

Classifieds



Call us on +973 36458394
email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(BUS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roomlasc@batelco.com.bh

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

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

MOHD ALI YOUSIF ALMEZAL CONSTRUCTION&SER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730437 or office@almezeal.com

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

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

SIGNATURE HOTEL (FOUR SEASONS BAHRAIN BAY) COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17115000 or EHAB.ZAINUDDIN@KEYPOINT.ME

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

Visma construction Est. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3600440 or MSAKHEER@LIVE.COM

CAPITAL school wll has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR ACCOUNTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008880 or pro@ALSAFARGROUP.COM

Govind Construction W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36664302 or GKSINGH46@YAHOO.COM

SARDAR ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36653831 or MUHAMMADMU9822@GMAIL.COM

ABU USAMA BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38702337 or ABUUSAMASUPPORTBH@GMAIL.COM

AL SHAM TOWER TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36555561 or BU.CASH.CASH@GMAIL.COM

HAMDI ALTIGANI BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37434348 or BHHAMD190@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ADNAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34585636 or RIMONMIAH728@GMAIL.COM

FAROOQ AHMED SAIN Contracting Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36404055 or F33165228@GMAIL.COM

Alrabie poultry and butchery has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66699606 or HIACEBH@GMAIL.COM

BAB AL JAWAD SUPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33230102 or LATHEEFABDULLATHEEKUNI@GMAIL.COM

K.P FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING STRUCTURES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36545401 or Mohamednyz@gmail.com

FILIPINO FOODSTUFF CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33910288 or IBNCLARANCE@GMAIL.COM

WADI SHAWWAL ALKABEER CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33357296 or RIAZ7029@GMAIL.COM

SHAHZAD INTERIOR DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37170879 or MUZ371708@GMAIL.COM

111 IRONING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34005455 or NAEEM.BAJNA1@GMAIL.COM

GULF SENSES PERFUMES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33483028 or ESSATOWERS@GMAIL.COM

AL SAFWA ONE FURNISHED FLATS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33338077 or CORNERELITE@YAHOO.COM

ELEGANT SILVERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39190926 or YOUSEF994@GMAIL.COM

D C C CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887610 or ABDULLA@MICOSABH.COM

TASHYEED HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or mannat.hr@mannaitrading.com

FAIZAN QUALITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34441170 or BASIT.IGMT@GMAIL.COM

RIFFA ALEZZ KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39457868 or mr-adnan999@hotmail.com

DAIDO PRINTING PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34375566 or RANAMUBEEN119@GMAIL.COM

CLEAR PATH EPC MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36642511 or atif.rauf@clearpatheng.com.pk

DK IQRA GRAMEEN MOBILE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33342434 or IQRABH9393@GMAIL.COM

MASTER BRIGHT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36611258 or info@wiserbh.com

HIGH RIDER MOTORCYCLE SPARE PARTS & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33309492 or MAHBOOBTABASSUM786@GMAIL.COM

FLOKI GENTS BARBER has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33700076 or AMANIKHAMDAN87@GMAIL.COM

DAS GREEN ENERGY CONTRACTING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33388846 or SHAKEELTELECOM@GMAIL.COM

ALANDALUS BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335561 or AM9009MA@GMAIL.COM

ROSE WOOD CARPENTRY & TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33040401 or SANTHOSHKM76@GMAIL.COM

BOTANICA RESTAURANT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39956088 or HAMAD@BOTANICA-BH.COM

HOPESTAR BUSINESS SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33209258 or HOPESTARBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

MAAQ OPTICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37733357 or SADIQUEIT@GMAIL.COM

BROTHERS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33131412 or BROTHERSCONTRACTING111@GMAIL.COM

SUNLIGHT SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33523132 or Bahrainbusiness92@gmail.com

OASIS RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING DIRECTORATE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35361898 or ABUDJ224@HOTMAIL.COM

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

FIX RIDE GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33522100 or MTAHIRNAWAZ786@GMAIL.COM

CITY SPACES CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725566 or SPACESWLL@GMAIL.COM

WHITE SKY OFFICE MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34035522 or AHAMED19915@GMAIL.COM

KVMA PLASTIC PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39899257 or

VARGHESE_5@HOTMAIL.COM
KHANDAKER LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35434910 or ALI.BH8712@GMAIL.COM

SHER ALI KHAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34592505 or ASFANDIYARK4@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ASIM CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33128786 or SYEDSH.BH@GMAIL.COM

NETMED PHARMACY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PHARMACIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33779747 or LCEA1973@GMAIL.COM

MOHD ALI YOUSIF ALMEZAL CONSTRUCTION&SER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730437 or office@almezeal.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

REDTAG W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17644110 or LAYLA.GULOOM@REDTAG.AE

Le soir beauty salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34108673 or NAWALALTAITON@YAHOO.COM

ALRAMIS TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39169342 or KHALIL_ASFOOR@OUTLOOK.SA

DURDLE DOOR CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441637 or AQEEL.RAWALIA@GMAIL.COM

R R F COMPUTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33384774 or GHAZA.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

ZIMAL CONTRACTING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39050620 or SHANBUTT12345@GMAIL.COM

MASUM PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38266388 or MM38266388@GMAIL.COM

PLANET CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37988775 or KANNAN.SHEEJA@ICLOUD.COM

SALMAN SUNITHA NAFIH SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36234139 or ELEGANTSKY76@GMAIL.COM

JAMNAGAR COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35639011 or SAMULLAH5896@GMAIL.COM

FADHEL ALI ABDULWAHAB ALTAWHEEL (KHOKHA - 2060) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36300065 or AYSY1976@HOTMAIL.COM

ESMAHAN ALI EBRAHIM MOHAMED ALMAJED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440122 or adhimahgali@GMAIL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FACTORY FOR PRESERVING FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33660370 or hr@jaradahfish.com

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

ALMOAYYED HEAVY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SR TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211211 or AQEEL@ALMOAYYED.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@americana-food.com

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRAD.MENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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

Golden Divar construction has a vacancy

for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33390007 or HWBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMED JALAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536956 or RASHID_BUALI@JALAL.COM

SIXPENCE HR SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13600014 or hasan@6-pence.com

ALJALBOOT FISH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36363936 or daytona@daytonabh.com

MEGAS KITCHEN has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36888624 or CONFIDENCEBH91@GMAIL.COM

JARADAH FISH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

Almufeed Electrical Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17677784 or almufeedelectricalwll@gmail.com

THE ART HOTEL & RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16033100 or ABEER@AMWAJ.BH

FSK Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17216355 or samy@fskstores.com

JUFFAIR BOULEVARD HOTEL & SUITES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475656 or HR@JUFFAIRBOULEVARD.COM

SKY VIEW SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39923170 or ASHQADAARBA@GMAIL.COM

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FACTORY FOR PRESERVING FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33660370 or hr@jaradahfish.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

NORTWOOD MARKETING & PROMOTION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32005746 or NASEERMANZOR16@GMAIL.COM

Best Location Properties W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WATCHMAN / GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17626797 or muna@BESTLOCATIONNBH.COM

EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOO COMPANY B.S.C.CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

ABDULLA AHMED NASS & SONS CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of BOATMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

MOHAMED SALAHUDDIN CONSULTING ENGINEERING BUREAU W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17216777 or aizeil@MSCEB.COM

S Hotel has a vacancy for the occupation of DISH WASHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17380380 or RADHI.ALMISHAL@GMAIL.COM

S PLAZA SUITES HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39992285 or SAEEDRADHI52@GMAIL.COM

SHUTDOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742961 or SMSWLL@BATELCO.COM.BH

AFAAQ ALKALIJ EXCAVATION & BUILDING EQUIPMENTS RENNTAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13644244 or afaaalkhalij@gmail.com

SHAMS AL MALIKIYA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of SHAWARMA WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696466 or S.ALAWI100@GMAIL.COM

ALMOATAZ JEWELLERS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39400048 or

RASHAATYA75@GMAIL.COM
ALBOAINAIN AUTO SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17342454 or alisbu2214@gmail.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FACTORY FOR PRESERVING FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33660370 or hr@jaradahfish.com

HOOR ALEAIN LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17697909 or ABUREDAHA78@HOTMAIL.COM

ELAF TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39609454 or INFO@OLYMPIC.BH

D OCEAN FISHERIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES SUPERVISOR (WHOLESALE TRADE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39622694 or ZAFARALIISMAIL@GMAIL.COM

YASEEN PRINTING AND SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36799974 or YASEEN.SERVICES.BH@GMAIL.COM

A.AHMED NASS CONTRACTING CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

AHMED MOHAMMED JASSIM CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784584 or HR@AMJASSIM.COM

Cardef gents slon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36671230 or sami.alhajiri.sa@gmail.com

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

THE ARABIAN HORSE FOR EQUESTRIAN AND VETERINARY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of VETERINARIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17594549 or HORSE@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

Kentaky has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

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

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

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB FACTORY FOR PRESERVING FISH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33660370 or hr@jaradahfish.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

SMART GAGES ELECTRONCS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39982010 or ABUZAIN@YAHOO.COM

I PLAY Computer Repair has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39982010 or ABUZAIN@YAHOO.COM

AWAIS MAQBOOL GRAPHIC DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33058216 or AWAISMAQBOOL550@GMAIL.COM

MINWAH BUILDING CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291331 or AREAPLUSTECH@GMAIL.COM

AL MUSSAWIR CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33556920 or naziamalik692@gmail.com

AVOLA CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39108161 or RAJEEESHKK4@GMAIL.COM

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

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

suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

JARADAH FISH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

ALMANARATAIN FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36055333 or ALSHAAB@BATELCO.COMM.BH

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FORKLIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or NASSERAB@BATELCO.COM.BH

SUNLIGHT INTERIORS & EXHIBITIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785961 or ACCOUNTS@SUNLIGHTINTX.COM

Ever Fine Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272206 or GEEPASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

CALLA CAFE AND FLOWERS has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36666625 or NOURA.ALJOWDER@HOTMAIL.COM

LULYA WORKSHOP BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17738333 or NOOR22NAN@GMAIL.COM

AZZA ARABIAN FOODS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36678949 or HAMOOD_1314@HOTMAIL.COM

SALMANIYA DISCOUNT CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35942988 or JAFERMU544@GMAIL.COM

REVVISE BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33964143 or SHAFIQTAHIR867@GMAIL.COM

SULAIMANI CLUB W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39601504 or WESAM.BIZ@HOTMAIL.COM

MC 6 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402050 or operation@mcscx.me

DAAEM has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1330

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

HIGHWAY MART W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or UMZAAL1975@GMAIL.COM

FIVE STAR GENTS SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or BUZAAL1970@GMAIL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. l. has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

ROSHAN DIN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34344537 or spearalliancebh@gmail.com

Feng Mao Logistics W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39006622 or 191410105@QQ.COM

PLATINUM GATE ELECTRICAL & AC WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT SERVICES TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500616 or AADIL_NADEEM@HOTMAIL.COM

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

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

ABDULHADI ALAFOO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TRENCH-DIGGING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alafoo@batelco.com.bh

ALSILSAH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735050 or SILSILAH57@GMAIL.COM

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

BATSCO CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33644886 or hr@batSCO.net

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

ALKABSI DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33376070 or MUABALK@HOTMAIL.COM

DAR AL KARAM RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34449226 or ALADRAJ40@GMAIL.COM

SUNLIGHT INTERIORS & EXHIBITIONS w.l.l. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785961 or ACCOUNTS@SUNLIGHTINTEX.COM

WESTPOINT HOME BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17838129 or ADEL.JABBER@WPHOME.COM

BAPCO UPSTREAM W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (DEPARTMENT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17148003 or RECRUITMENT_DONOTREPLY@TATWEERPETROLEUM.COM

GREEN CITY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36022682 or info@gcs.bh

Commissioning specialist services co.s.p.c Owned by RUAIRI THO has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663995 or OFFICE@CSSMIDDLEEAST.COM

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211800 or jobs@asb.bh

D C C CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887610 or ABDULLA@MICOSABH.COM

VELLATO TEXTILE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382277 or INFO@VELLATO.COM

TELDOR SERVICES CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33048775 or TELDOR.BH@GMAIL.COM

GOEL EDU CARE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33248553 or GOELEDUCARE@GMAIL.COM

HASAN ALI MOHAMMED ASHOOR has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

39086555 or aliashoor2020@gmail.com
ABDULLA M.ALI E.EDHRABOOH(AMIR ALDHALAM-10954) has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39403141 or ABDULLA.101@HOTMAIL.COM

FUTURE GENERATION TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35191501 or FUTURESTATIONERY@GMAIL.COM

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Rudy Gobert named 2024 NBA Defensive Player of the Year



Minnesota's Rudy Gobert (left) blocks Denver's Michael Porter Jr during a game (file photo)

AFP | Los Angeles

Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert won the 2024 NBA Defensive Player of the Year award on Tuesday, matching a league record by taking the honor for the fourth time.

The 31-year-old Frenchman previously captured the award in 2018, 2019 and 2021 while with the Utah Jazz and this season was a key player on a T-Wolves squad that was the NBA's top-ranked defensive club.

Gobert matched the all-time record four Defensive Player of the Year awards won by Detroit's Ben Wallace (2002, 2003, 2005, 2006) and Dikembe Mutombo in 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001 with Denver, Atlanta and Philadelphia.

The 7-foot-1 (2.16m) star missed Minnesota's playoff victory at Denver on Monday so he could be with girlfriend Julia Bonilla, who gave birth

to their son earlier in the day.

"Romeo is the name and he's doing great," Gobert told US NBA telecaster TNT. "A lot of blessings. Just really grateful."

Gobert received 72 first-place votes from a media panel with fellow Frenchman Victor Wembanyama, the 20-year-old San Antonio Spurs prodigy named Monday as the NBA Rookie of the Year, second with 19 first-place votes and Miami's Bam Adebayo third with three.

Gobert averaged 14.0 points, 12.9 rebounds, 2.1 blocked shots and 1.3 assists a game this season for the Timberwolves.

"Rudy has driven the defensive culture here," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. "It's a testament to his impact, his presence and what he has infused into the team of how important defense is and how great it can be when we play it."

Top-seeded Celtics, Thunder win playoff openers



Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown in action

AFP | Los Angeles

The top-seeded Boston Celtics and Oklahoma City Thunder rolled to convincing victories in their opening NBA playoff series on Tuesday.

Eastern Conference top seeds Boston laid down a marker with a 120-95 rout of the fourth-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers at the TD Garden.

Oklahoma City meanwhile were made to work harder by Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks before finally pulling clear to seal a 117-95 victory in their Western Conference semi-final series opener.

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 32 points while Derrick White added 25, including seven three-pointers, in an emphatic win for the Celtics, who are chasing a record 18th NBA championship.

Boston were in complete control for most of the game, holding a double-digit lead through the second half to

close out an emphatic win at the TD Garden.

Boston star Jayson Tatum added 18 points but had an off-night shooting-wise, making just 7-of-19 from the field.

Donovan Mitchell led the scoring for Cleveland with 33 points, with Evan Mobley adding 17 and Darius Garland 14.

Brown said the Celtics' defense had laid the foundation for the win.

"It starts with defense, we wanted to set the tone on defense and we kept them under 100 (points)," Brown told TNT television.

"But we feel like we've got an answer for everything so we just play the game the right way, and see what they want to take away and then we play after that."

Boston got off to a flying start, jumping out to an early 12-2 first quarter lead before a Cleveland rally saw them edge into a 23-21 lead after Mitchell's running three-pointer.

Nadal welcomes unusual role of underdog

10-time Italian Open winner Rafael Nadal ready for Italian Open despite injury struggles and low ranking

● **Nadal enters Italian Open unseeded and ranked 305**

● **Nadal confident in current match preparation**

AFP | Rome

Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal said yesterday he was “excited to be playing in Rome” despite entering the Italian Open unseeded and ranked 305.

“All the matches are tough for me today, difficult and more unpredictable than what they used to be for me, especially on clay,” the 37-year-old, 10-time Italian Open winner said.

“I accept that role. I accept that challenge. I’m excited about the way that I can be able to play if I keep working the proper way



Rafael Nadal in action (file photo)

and my body allows me.”

The 22-time Grand Slam singles champion has recently returned to the circuit after a long absence due to injury.

He will open his campaign against Belgian qualifier Zizou

Bergs with the Spanish icon taking nothing for granted but confident of his current match preparation.

“I’m excited to be playing in Rome. It’s a tournament that brings back a lot of unforgetta-

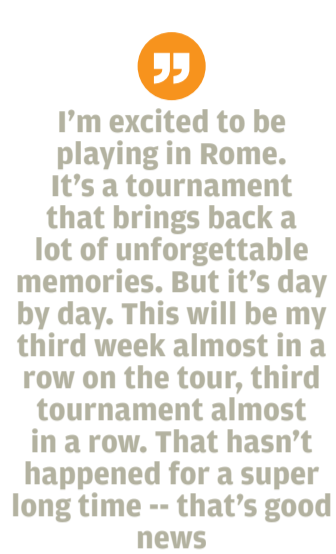


ble memories,” said Nadal, who turns 38 on June 3.

“But it’s day by day. This will be my third week almost in a row on the tour, third tournament almost in a row.

“That hasn’t happened for a super long time -- that’s good news.

“I need to keep going. I need to keep exploring how I will be able to manage to play every day.



RAFAEL NADAL

“But I’m happy the way that I feel today.”

Nadal is not the only top player with injury issues. Young stars Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz are missing Rome.

“When you push your body to

the limit, you get injured,” said Nadal.

“When the game is faster and faster and faster, you get injured. “When you play most of the year on hard courts and the surfaces are tougher for the body, you get injured. That’s the simple answer.”

But he said that such issues were inevitable.

“It is also about the tournaments, about the business, about the sport.”

“At the end the players want to make money. The tournaments want to make money. The cycles come together.

“We accept that role. Things happen.”

“You cannot complain about that. You accept what’s going on. You keep going. You get injured, you have to recover well.

“They are young (Alcaraz and Sinner), they are going to have plenty of time to play in Rome and have a lot of success here. No drama.”

Sangakkara backs Samson as India keeper for T20 World Cup

AFP | New Delhi

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has made his case to be India’s first-choice wicketkeeper at the T20 World Cup, the team’s director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara has said.

Samson has been named in India’s 15-member squad as wicketkeeper-batsman alongside Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant, who has also impressed in the Indian Premier League after his return to cricket following a horror car crash.

He smashed 86 off 46 balls on Tuesday but the knock went in vain, with the Capitals winning by 20 runs at home.

Samson has been in prime form with 471 runs in 11 matches and Tuesday’s match was his fifth half-century of the season.

Sangakkara played down the Pant versus Samson debate in the post-match press conference but made his choice clear.

“It’s really up to Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma and how they see the combination,” Sangakkara told reporters.

“But he has made his case, so hopefully he’ll have a good run



Rajasthan Royals’ wicketkeeper and captain Sanju Samson (L) watches as Sunrisers Hyderabad’s Nitish Kumar Reddy plays a shot



in the World Cup.”

Samson has been an understated leader of his team, who are all but through to the play-offs with eight wins in 11 matches, and is third in the batting list behind Virat Kohli (542) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (541).

Pant, who has been lauded for his glove work and batting after recovering from his crash in December 2022, is also among the top 10 batsmen with 413 runs from 12 matches.

“With Sanju, the biggest thing about this season for him is hav-



KUMAR SANGAKKARA

ing a lot of clarity about the way he should bat,” former Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batsman Sangakkara said.

“There are certain stages of the game that he seems to lose a bit of concentration, which we’ve addressed from past seasons,” he added.

“He’s changed his mindset about the importance of rest and recovery, rather than just training all the time and being tired mentally and physically.”

This year is Samson’s first in a World Cup squad and Sangakkara said he is a team man.

“He’s a special player and when he’s fresh and focused there’s nothing he can’t do,” said Sangakkara.

Djokovic says he is ready to peak at French Open



Novak Djokovic in action (file photo)

AFP | Rome

World number one Novak Djokovic said he believes he will be in top form for the French Open and hopes to prove that at the Italian Open which started yesterday.

The Serbian told a press conference in Rome yesterday that his focus is on Paris, Wimbledon and the Olympic Games and he had strategic reasons for skipping the recent Madrid event.

“It was not part of the schedule. The plan was to come here. That’s basically it,” said Djokovic at a press conference at the Italian Open.

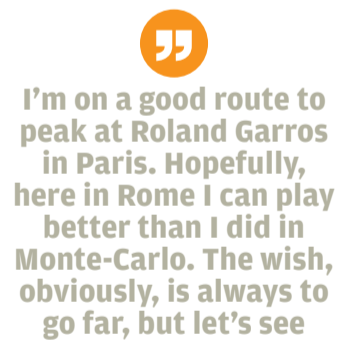
Djokovic, who turns 37 on May 22, just before the French Open gets underway on May 26, said he hoped to perform better than he did in his last tournament, the Monte Carlo Masters, where he lost to Casper Ruud in the semi-finals.

“I’m on a good route to peak at Roland Garros in Paris,” he said.

“Hopefully, here in Rome I can play better than I did in Monte-Carlo.”

“The wish, obviously, is always to go far, but let’s see.”

As top seed Djokovic, who has won the Italian Open six times, has a bye in the first round. He said the expansion of the event to nearly two weeks influenced scheduling choices.



NOVAK DJOKOVIC

“It’s a different concept now, the first time that Rome and Madrid are almost two-week events, like Indian Wells, Miami.”

“It gives you more time to recover between matches if you keep going in the tournament, which I think is useful for me.”

As Djokovic continues to overhaul his team, he has rehired former physio Miljan Amanovic for “certain weeks” this season.

Amanovic worked for Djokovic from 2007 to 2017 and again from 2018 to 2022.

Djokovic has sacked several staff in recent months, including coach Goran Ivanisevic and the publicity team.

“I’m a proponent of having a quality team and entourage around you, having people who are experts in their field, who have experience, who have knowledge, who also understand psychology as well,” he said.

Track cycling star Benjamin Thomas escapes to win Giro 5th stage

AFP | Turin

Frenchman Benjamin Thomas outfoxed the three other members of a late breakaway to take stage five of the Giro d’Italia in Lucca yesterday.

Thomas, a five-time world champion on the track, was part of a powerful quartet that escaped with 80km to go and eked out a narrow lead to the line.

Slovenian Tadej Pogacar finished safely in the peloton and retained the overall lead of the Giro.

Thomas of Cofidis escaped with Dane Michael Valgren of EF Education-EasyPost, Frenchman Enzo Paleni of Groupama-FDJ and Italian Andrea Pietrobon of Polti-Kometa after an intermediate sprint with less



Benjamin Thomas celebrates out-sprinting the other members of the breakaway to win the Giro stage into Lucca

than 80 km to go.

The quartet never led by more than 90 seconds but were able to

turn that small margin into victory by working hard together while the sprint teams in the pe-

loton were unable, or unwilling, to organise a coherent chase.

“It was like a long, long team pursuit,” said Thomas.

“It was really hard in the finale. Every pull was full gas. With 10km it was still 45 seconds with a tail wind so we knew we could have played with the bunch. We were going over 60 kilometres an hour. That’s when we knew we could do it.

“Nobody bet on the breakaway today.”

Pietrobon then attacked with almost a kilometre to go and built a lead.

“I risked losing it to win it,” said Thomas. “I didn’t close the gap. It worked out perfectly.”

As the Italian faded, Valgren overtook but was in turn caught on the line by Thomas.

Hummels stuns Mbappe and PSG to take Dortmund to Champions League final

Mats Hummels' header sends Borussia Dortmund to Champions League final at Wembley

● **Mbappe denied dream PSG farewell after Champions League exit**

● **PSG hits the woodwork four times but fails to find the net**

AFP | Paris

Mats Hummels headed in the only goal as Borussia Dortmund stunned Kylian Mbappe and Paris Saint-Germain in their Champions League semi-final second leg on Tuesday, winning 1-0 on the night and advancing 2-0 on aggregate to next month's final at Wembley.

Hummels struck five minutes into the second half at the Parc des Princes and PSG were unable to muster a response, the home side all out of luck as they hit the woodwork four times in total.

Dortmund, who sit fifth in the German Bundesliga, were never expected to go so far and will be underdogs in the June 1 showpiece regardless of whether they face their old rivals Bayern Munich or Real Madrid, who met

“It'll take us a bit of time to realise that, but we're looking forward to it extremely. We did it somehow, making it to London

DORTMUND COACH EDIN TERZIC

yesterday.

It will be their first final since 2013 when, remarkably, the match was also played at Wembley and Jurgen Klopp's Dortmund lost to Bayern.

Hummels played in that final and here, 11 years later, he was the hero as Dortmund built on the advantage given to them by Niclas Füllkrug's goal in the first leg.

“We did it somehow, making it to London.”

The story of this semi-final, however, is as much about PSG's failure in another crunch knock-



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #07 Kylian Mbappe (R) and Dortmund's German defender #15 Mats Hummels (L) fight for the ball

out tie in the competition.

They have still never won the trophy despite all the money invested by their Qatari owners since the 2011 takeover, and there will be no dream send-off for Mbappe.

He will leave when his contract expires after this season and had been hoping to play his last game for the club in the June 1 final.

Instead PSG will be left to reflect on how they failed to get their hands on the biggest tro-

phy of all during Mbappe's seven years at his hometown team.

“We were not clinical enough. They scored two goals, one from a corner and one from a long ball. We created lots more chances, many more than them, but we didn't take them,” PSG captain Marquinhos told Canal Plus.

“We got so close and we wanted to get to the final. But we had to win tonight and be more clinical, and we were not.”

PSG's last two semi-final appearances both came during

BETTER YOU KNOW

PSG has never won the Champions League despite significant investments, and Mbappe will leave without achieving this feat

the pandemic, meaning this was the first time they had hosted a match at this stage of a European competition with fans in 29 years, since losing to AC Milan in 1995.

Woodwork to rescue

Luis Enrique's team had won 2-0 at home against Dortmund in the group stage and were safe in the knowledge that a repeat of that performance would be enough.

The PSG coach made one major selection decision, dropping

Bradley Barcola and bringing in Portuguese striker Goncalo Ramos. That meant moving Mbappe from the middle onto the left wing.

Dortmund would have been bracing themselves for an onslaught from kick-off, but that did not transpire.

Mbappe took only seven minutes to produce his first attempt, yet his volley was easily saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel.

The hosts had most of the possession but struggled to get Mbappe into the game, the France captain often looking isolated on the wing.

In fact it was Dortmund who had the best chance of the first half, when Karim Adeyemi led a counterattack before seeing his shot saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma.

It felt as though the hosts needed to change something or risk going out with a whimper.

They should have been ahead two minutes after the restart, when Ramos touched on a ball driven into the box by Mbappe, but Warren Zaire-Emery contrived to hit the post from close range.

PSG coach Luis Enrique proud despite 'unfair' Champions League exit

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique insisted he was “proud” of his side despite what he called an “unfair” defeat at the hands of Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League semi-final.

“My feeling is of sadness. It can't be anything else. We didn't manage to fulfil our objective,” Luis Enrique, who led Barcelona to Champions League glory in 2015, told reporters.

He pointed out that PSG hit the frame of the goal four times in the second half of Tuesday's game, having also struck the post in last week's 1-0 defeat in the first leg in Germany.

“I don't think we were inferior over the tie. We hit the woodwork six times. The curious thing about football is that sometimes it's not fair -- we had 31 shots and did not score a single goal.

“Football was not fair with us in this tie. We have to accept it, congratulate the team that



PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma (L), Marco Asensio (2L), Paris Keylor Navas (C), Ousmane Dembele (2R) and Achraf Hakimi (R) look dejected as they face their fans at the end of the match

reached the final, mourn this and get over the disappointment.”

He added: “I am very proud of my team, without any doubt. I am the first one responsible for the defeat as coach but I am happy with the attitude and behaviour of all the players.”

PSG must now console them-

selves with the prospect of a potential clean sweep of the domestic honours in France.

The Qatar-owned club have already wrapped up the Ligue 1 title and will play in the French Cup final against Lyon on May 25 in what will be Kylian Mbappe's last game for the club -- he will depart when his con-

tract expires at the campaign's end.

“The objective I set out when I arrived was to compete as well as we could for every trophy,” said Luis Enrique, who was appointed as coach ahead of this season.

“When the season ends, after the Cup final, we will see what we have achieved.”

The Spaniard said he had tried to offer words of comfort to his players in the dressing room after the game.

“I don't think we were inferior over the tie. We hit the woodwork six times. The curious thing about football is that sometimes it's not fair -- we had 31 shots and did not score a single goal

LUIS ENRIQUE

Osaka wins in Rome after three-year absence

AFP | Rome

Naomi Osaka marked her return to the Rome Open for the first time since 2021 with a straight sets victory over Clara Burel in the first round yesterday.

Former world number one Osaka came through against her 45th-ranked French opponent 7-6 (7/2), 6-1.

It was the 26-year-old's first win against a top-50 opponent on clay since beating Victoria Azarenka at the French Open in 2019.

Osaka, now ranked at 173 in the world after taking a break from the tour to have her first child, will face 19th seed Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine for a place in the third round.

Kostyuk, the runner-up on clay in Stuttgart last month, lost to Osaka in their only other previous meeting, in three sets at the 2020 US Open.

Yesterday, the Japanese star sealed victory in 84 minutes, finishing with 27 winners, in-



Naomi Osaka

cluding eight aces, and broke serve four times.

“I thought the first set was really tough. I'm really glad I was able to close it in two,” said Osaka after just her second win on European clay this spring.

“Overall I think mentally I tried to stay as strong as I can, so I'm really happy about that.”

She added: “I was up 5-3, serving for the set and I lost (the game). But just being able to hang in there and eventually close it on my terms is something that I'm very proud of myself for.

Dortmund, Bayern runs put Leverkusen title in perspective: Alonso

AFP | Berlin

The success of Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich in Europe this season highlights how impressive unbeaten Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen have been, coach Xabi Alonso said yesterday.

Alonso, speaking with Leverkusen on the brink of the Europa League final, congratulated Dortmund for making the Champions League final after beating Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 on aggregate on Tuesday.

Bayern Munich can make it



Xabi Alonso

an all-German final by defeating Real Madrid in their finely-balanced second leg yesterday.

Then Leverkusen can book their place in the Europa League showdown on Thursday if they can hold onto their 2-0 lead from the first leg against Roma.

Alonso's side were crowned German champions for the first time in their history in mid-April and are on a season-long unbeaten run of 48 games in all competitions this season.

“This high level in the Bundesliga means what we've been able to do is not easy,” Alonso

told reporters.

“It's very positive for the Bundesliga. I should congratulate Dortmund and congratulate Edin (Terzic, their coach), it's not easy to make it to the Champions League final.

“Yesterday they played as a team so congrats to them.”

Leverkusen can break the record for successive unbeaten games set by Benfica in 1965 by avoiding defeat against Roma and are two league matches away from being the first side to go through a Bundesliga season unbeaten.

“This high level in the Bundesliga means what we've been able to do is not easy. It's very positive for the Bundesliga. I should congratulate Dortmund and congratulate Edin (Terzic, their coach), it's not easy to make it to the Champions League final

XABI ALONSO

Alonso played in the Bundesliga for Bayern as well as with Liverpool in the Premier League and for Real Madrid in La Liga before becoming a manager.

He was linked with Jurgen Klopp's soon-to-be-vacant manager's job at Liverpool and the hotseat at Bayern Munich but has said he will remain at Leverkusen next season.

Alonso was asked whether the English league's claims of being the best were warranted with no teams in the final four of either the Champions League or Europa League this season.

Head, Abhishek star as 'unreal' Hyderabad crush Lucknow

Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma's blazing half-centuries secure 10-wicket win for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL

● Hyderabad chase down 166 in just 9.2 overs

● Bhuvneshwar Kumar's economical spell restricts Lucknow to 165-4

AFP | Hyderabad

Opens Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma smoked half-centuries as Sunrisers Hyderabad crushed Lucknow Super Giants by 10 wickets yesterday to boost their play-off hopes in the IPL.

Chasing a modest 166 for victory, Head, who smashed 89, and fellow left-hander Abhishek, who hit 75, tore into the opposition attack to romp home with



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head plays a shot

10.2 overs to spare at their home in Uppal.

"I'm lost for words. We've watched that batting on TV but that was unreal," Lucknow

skipper KL Rahul said of the bludgeoning by the Hyderabad openers.

"Everything was hitting the middle of the bat, kudos to their

Scorecard

Sunrisers Hyderabad 167 for 0 (Head 89*, Abhishek 75*) beat Lucknow Super Giants 165 for 4 (Badoni 55*, Pooran 48*, Bhuvneshwar 2-12) by ten wickets

skill, they've worked very hard on their six-hitting."

Australia's Head attacked with a flurry of fours and sixes as he reached his fifty in 16 balls and went past 500 runs this season.

Head is now third in the batting chart behind Virat Kohli (542) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (541) with his fourth half-century -- he also has a ton -- in this edition.

Abhishek joined the charge as he got to his fifty in 19 balls after the pair took Hyderabad to 107 in the first six overs of pow-

BETTER YOU KNOW

Travis Head now ranks third in the IPL batting chart with over 500 runs this season

erplay, when only two fielders are allowed outside the inner circle.

Hyderabad, who won the IPL in 2016 under David Warner, registered their seventh win in 12 matches to hand a perfect gift to birthday boy and captain Pat Cummins, who turned 31 yesterday.

Abhishek hit the winning six as Hyderabad moved to third in the 10-team table with 14 points. Lucknow stay sixth after the bruising loss.

Top four teams will make the play-offs with the final on May 26 in Chennai.

Seam bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar set up victory with impressive bowling figures of 2-12 in his four overs to restrict Lucknow to 165-4 after they elected to bat first.

Lucknow lost regular wickets until Nicholas Pooran, who hit 48, and Ayush Badoni, who smashed 55, put on an unbeaten stand of 99 in 52 balls to boost the team total.

But the score proved too little against a team which posted record totals of 277 and 287 in this high-scoring edition of the T20 tournament.

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