



Kelly Clarkson credits weight loss to healthy diet

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BUSINESS

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Bahrain Chamber and Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Collaborate to Boost Bilateral Trade

United Arab call to 'maintain pressure' for Gaza ceasefire

AFP | Aqaba, Jordan

Jordan's King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas called yesterday for pressure to be maintained for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and to protect Palestinian civilians.

The three leaders had gathered for a summit in the city of Aqaba, on Jordan's Red Sea coast, to discuss the three-month-old war.

A royal palace statement issued after the meeting said they had "reiterated the need to maintain pressure to push for ending the Israeli aggression on Gaza, and protecting unarmed civilians".

They also "highlighted the need to ensure the sustainable delivery of sufficient relief and humanitarian aid to alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza", the statement said.

Western hesitation on Ukraine aid 'emboldens' Russia

AFP | Vilnius, Lithuania

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky appealed for badly needed air-defence systems at the start of a tour of Baltic states yesterday, warning that Western hesitation on aid for Ukraine was emboldening Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not stop at Ukraine, he said, during an unannounced visit to the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

Zelensky was on the first stage of a tour of staunch Baltic allies Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as he seeks to bolster wavering support among other Western backers.

All three nations are former Soviet republics that are now EU and NATO members.

HM King receives US Secretary of State



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Al-Safriya Palace yesterday the US Secretary of State, His Excellency Antony Blinken, who is on a visit to the kingdom, as part of his current regional tour that has covered many countries. Present were His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, and several officials. HM the King and the US Secretary of State reviewed ways to develop Bahrain-US relations, as well as discussed the latest regional and global developments, in addition to the situation in the Middle East region, including the Gaza Strip. (Full report on Page 2)

Unlock Your Next Billion-Dollar Idea

Investors from 148 countries to meet startups at WBAF World Congress in Bahrain

Global entrepreneurial blitz

Four-pillar powerhouse summits

Global fundraising stage

Global parliament of entrepreneurs

Regional collaboration and recognition

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama



From left, Baybars Altuntas, Feryal Abdulla Nass, Minister of Industry and Commerce H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Sameer Abdulla Nas at the WBAF event yesterday

ing with innovation. That's the backdrop for this global gathering, where investors, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders from 148 countries will connect, collaborate, and ignite change. The theme? "Mobilising Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems for Financial Inclusion." It's not just a catchy slogan, it's a mission statement.

Bahrain, a rising star in the global economy, is the perfect host. Their commitment to digital inclusion, gender equality, and streamlined access to finance is woven into the very fabric of the event. Get ready for four powerhouse summits - startups, wom-

en leaders, tech gurus, and even a spotlight on ethical governance - all under one roof.

But it's not just talk. The Global Fundraising Stage is where Bahraini and international startups pitch their dreams to a room full of potential investors, forging cross-border partnerships and igniting the fires of innovation. Need some insider tips? The WBAF Business School has your back with workshops, masterclasses, and short courses from the best in the business.

And before the main event, the WBAF Grand Assembly convenes like a global parliament of entrepreneurs, uniting leaders

from every corner of the earth. It's a chance to share ideas, tackle challenges, and build a brighter future for all.

"Bahrain, with its unique position in the Gulf region, stands as an ideal location for fostering connections between global leaders," says Baybars Altuntas, Executive Chairman of WBAF. And they're not stopping there. The WBAF Middle East Forum, hosted alongside the main event, puts a regional spotlight on critical economic issues, proving that collaboration is key to unlocking the full potential of the Middle East.

Feryal Abdulla Nass, Chair of the Bahrain Entrepreneurship

Organisation and WBAF High Commissioner to Bahrain, echoes this sentiment. "Hosting the WBAF Middle East Forum on Financial Inclusion will underscore the importance of regional collaboration in addressing common challenges."

VIP Gala Dinner

The VIP Gala Dinner is the cherry on top of this entrepreneurial sundae. Here, the World Excellence Awards shine a light on the superheroes of the early-stage investment world, celebrating founders, investors, and changemakers who are building a better tomorrow.

Mark your calendars for November 19th-20th, 2024. This isn't just a conference, it's a movement. Get ready to witness Bahrain take centre stage in the global economy, proving that financial inclusion and innovation are more than just buzzwords, they're the fuel that propels dreams into reality. The WBAF World Congress in Bahrain is where it all takes off.

So, buckle up, entrepreneurs, investors, and changemakers. The future is taking flight in Bahrain, and you're invited to soar along.

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Bahrain greets Oman's Sultan on accession to throne anniversary

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to His Majesty the Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al Said on his accession to the throne anniversary.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman wished the Sultan abundant health and the people of Oman further progress and prosperity under his leadership.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



HM Sultan of Oman

ed relations between the two countries and their progress in various domains.

They affirmed their keenness to further enhance bilateral ties.

MP Al Saleh: When will the 3% return to retirees?

TDT | Manama

3% annual increase for retirees this year," he stated.

He stressed that the annual increase for retirees is necessary to help them cope with inflation and taxes amid challenging living conditions they face. He added that citizens are awaiting a clear and explicit answer regarding the return of the 3% increase to retirees' pensions.

This came during a general discussion on the government's policy regarding the situation of retirees after the suspension of the annual increase and the presentation of optional retirement for employees, along with the recurring investment losses in the funds of contributors to the retirement fund and the projects under the GOSI.

"This presents a suitable opportunity for the return of the

3% annual increase for retirees this year," he stated.

He emphasised that the implementation of the new law in 2024, which imposes new contributions on private sector companies for the end of service of foreign workers, will provide a financial surplus to the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI).

During a parliamentary session on Tuesday, Al Saleh confirmed that the GOSI is expected to receive up to BD200 million by the end of 2024 from the new deductions from the private sector.

"This presents a suitable opportunity for the return of the

Bahrain-China relations



His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received HE Ni Ruchi, the Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla praised the strategic partnership between Bahrain and China, highlighting the steady growth of bilateral. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasised that enhancing bilateral relations and coordination would benefit the two countries, by stimulating growth and development of various cooperation fields, which would contribute to achieving common goals. The meeting covered topics of common interest, in addition to the latest regional and international developments.

Strengthening bonds

HM King affirms Bahrain's commitment to strengthening US strategic partnership



HM the King receives US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Ambassador to Bahrain, HE Steven C. Bondy

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's constant keenness to strengthen its strategic partnership with the US, adding that it is looking forward to further bolstering joint cooperation to achieve the interests of the two countries and their peoples.

HM the King expressed Bahrain's pride in its long-standing relations and robust partnership with the US, spanning a long history of mutual understanding, as well as joint cooperation and coordination, in a way that serves their shared interests at all levels.

His Majesty was speaking as he received at Al-Safriya Palace yesterday, in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Nass-



HM King Hamad emphasised the need to reach a ceasefire, protect civilians, release hostages and detainees, as well as ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the residents of the Gaza Strip, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, and prevent their displacement.



er bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), and several officials, the US Secretary of State, His Excellency Antony Blinken, who is on a visit to the kingdom, as part of his current regional tour that has covered many countries.

HM King Hamad welcomed Sec. Blinken and reviewed with him ways to develop Bahrain-US relations, as well as consolidate bilateral cooperation and joint action across various fields.

The meeting also focused on the latest regional and global developments, in addition to the situation in the Middle East region, including the Gaza Strip.

HM King Hamad emphasised the need to reach a ceasefire, protect civilians, release hostages and detainees, as well as ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the residents of the Gaza Strip, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, and prevent their displacement.

Concrete measures

Sec. Blinken affirmed his country's support for taking concrete measures to establish a Palestinian State, stressing his rejection of forced displacement of the Palestinians, whether in Gaza or the West Bank.

His Majesty and the US top diplomat also stressed the importance of creating comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region.

Nesto Hypermarket opens 17th branch in Muharraq; Six more branches on the anvil

TDT | Manama

Nesto Group, a renowned name in the world of multinational retail chains, has unveiled its new branch in the heart of Muharraq.

Under the patronage of Muharraq Governor HE Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, the Hypermarket was inaugurated by Deputy Governor HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Jiran. Dr. Hesham Al Asheeri MP, Muharraq Municipal Council Head A Aziz Al Naar and Nesto officials attended the event.

This is Nesto's 17th outlet in the Kingdom and its 121st in the



Deputy Governor HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Jiran with Dr. Hesham Al Asheeri MP, Muharraq Municipal Council Head A Aziz Al Naar and Nesto officials at the inauguration



Middle East. The inauguration of the new branch was held yesterday at 10 am. Boasting ample car parking facilities, the hypermarket aims to offer a wide range of products at attractive

prices, complemented by special inaugural offers and deals.

As always Nesto Hypermarket provides the widest range of quality and value-for-money products all under one roof. The

outlet has also introduced inaugural offers and deals for a range of products at attractive prices.

Nesto Group Executive Director Arshad Hashim KP said: "We are pleased to launch our Nes-

rain as our partners in success and keeps our expansion in line with the march of urban developments in Bahrain."

The store encompasses the well-known Nesto shopping conveniences, featuring a supermarket with a modern and easily navigable grocery section. The hypermarket offers a wide variety of high-quality products, including fresh produce, meat, dairy, and pantry items.

It provides a clean and well-organized store layout, excellent customer service, competitive pricing, and convenient amenities such as ample parking and efficient checkout processes.

HH Shaikh Nasser launches 'Qadha2' TV programme

TDT | Manama

His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, has directed the launch of the 2nd edition of the TV Programme "Qadha" (You Can Do It).

All citizens of the GCC countries will have the opportunity to participate in the programme, due to its success in its first edition.

HH Shaikh Nasser affirmed

that the registration in (Qadha 2) is open to all citizens of the GCC countries, providing the opportunity for GCC youth to showcase their abilities and highlight their strengths.

He said that the programme had numerous views via the Shahid streaming app, and it received positive reviews on social media. HH Shaikh Nasser noted the programme's objectives, which include fostering a positive spirit of challenge, determination, and will.

From rivals to revolutionaries

Arab nations team up for jobs, green factories and electric cars

Zainab Zaman
TDT | Manama

Forget competition, Arab nations are teaming up!

Five power players – Bahrain, UAE, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco – just forged an unprecedented alliance in Bahrain, weaving their unique strengths into a tapestry of sustainable economic growth. Buckle up for electric cars, green factories, and a regional supply chain that rewrites the rules of the game!

United by a vision for sustainable economic growth, the Integrated Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development underway in Bahrain aims to weave together each country's unique strengths, from technology and raw materials to expertise, into a tapestry of shared prosperity.

The Four Seasons Hotel buzzed with excitement as investors, businesses, and ministry officials gathered for the 4th session of this crucial initiative. Under the esteemed chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the agenda pulsed with possibilities.

Electric cars, pharmaceuticals, aluminum – these were just



Investors, businesses, and ministry officials from Arab nations

a few sectors ripe for collaboration. Fuelled by the unwavering support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the discussions resonated with a spirit of unity and purpose.

"This is not just about competition," declared a representative from Jordan. "It's about leveraging our diverse resources to create a win-win for everyone." This groundbreaking approach, championed by Bahrain, holds the promise of a regional supply chain fuelled by collaboration, not competition.

The air crackled with anticipation as new agreements began to take shape. These alliances, poised to be finalized during the meeting, promised not just economic growth but also a stronger regional bond. Reducing costs, fostering new business



H.E. Ms. Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, speaks at the event

opportunities, and propelling job creation – the potential was undeniable.

Ammar Salman Awachi, CEO of Taha International Corporations, expressed optimism for

proudly showcased Taha's green initiatives, setting a standard for eco-conscious manufacturing.

Bahrain's burgeoning economic landscape

Eman Al Doseri, the Undersecretary, painted a vibrant picture of Bahrain's burgeoning economic landscape. From metals and pharmaceuticals to food and petrochemicals, the future brimmed with opportunities. With a fifth partnership on the horizon in Morocco, the momentum was undeniable.

Nezar Adwan, CEO of Alpha Biotech, echoed the excitement. His company's collaborations with regional giants promised to revolutionize the pharmaceutical sector, paving the way for local content and self-sufficiency. The creation of over sixty jobs was just the beginning.



The alliances, poised to be finalized during the meeting, promised not just economic growth but also a stronger regional bond. Reducing costs, fostering new business opportunities, and propelling job creation – the potential was undeniable.

As the days unfold, these historic meetings hold the potential to rewrite the economic narrative of the Arab world. The unified front presented by Bahrain, UAE, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco is a testament to the power of collaboration. Together, they stand poised to usher in an era of sustainable growth, not just for individual nations but for the entire region.

Residents make an 'urgent call' for better bus stop infrastructure in Um Al Hassam!

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The lack of a designated bus stand in Um Al Hassam has been causing significant traffic congestion during peak hours, leaving commuters frustrated.

Local resident Mr. Shamil Mohammed has raised concerns about the situation, particularly during the evening rush from 5 to 8, when traffic is at its peak.

The bus stop in question, located on a busy road, lacks a dedicated space for buses to stop, forcing them to halt directly on the road.

This results in a bottleneck as cars behind the bus are compelled



The bus stop that lacks a dedicated space for buses to stop

to wait until it moves, leading to traffic snarls and delays.

To mitigate the issue, the authorities have marked the area

on the road with yellow and white paint, clearly indicating it as a bus stop.

Additionally, warning boards cautioning drivers to slow down have been installed ahead of the stop. However, these measures have proven insufficient, especially during the evening hours when the traffic volume is high.

Residents are now demanding improved infrastructure, including a designated bus stand, to alleviate the traffic congestion at this crucial spot. They argue that a proper bus stand would allow buses to pull over safely, ensuring a smoother flow of traffic while passengers board and disembark.

Man held for attempting to leave Bahrain using another person's passport



Image used for illustrative purposes only

TDT | Manama

An Asian man was apprehended at Bahrain International Airport while attempting to exit the country using another person's passport.

His confusion raised suspicion, leading to his arrest and subsequent sentencing to three years in prison. The details of the incident reveal that the 38-year-old suspect presented a forged passport to the immigration officer at Bahrain International Airport.

The officer became skeptical due to the suspect's suspicious behavior during the passport handover, prompting a thorough examination of the information and data. It was discovered that the passport belonged to someone else. The suspect admitted to attempting to leave Bahrain with the forged passport, claiming ignorance of the criminal nature of his actions. He clarified that he had intended to use it only in emergency situations.

During the investigation, a customs officer stated that when the suspect approached him to complete the travel procedures at Bahrain Inter-

national Airport, he appeared nervous and looked around in all directions while handing over the passport. It was evident that the presented passport contained data and photos of another individual, raising suspicions of its authenticity.

Discrepancies

The passport was then entered into the Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs system (NPRA), revealing discrepancies between the passport photo and the one recorded in the system. Additionally, the photo did not match the suspect's appearance.

The public prosecution accused the suspect of colluding with a public employee, with good intentions, to manipulate information in a government entity's IT system related to a department in the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs.

This manipulation aimed to display false data as genuine, intending to use the passport he presented to the immigration officer at Bahrain International Airport, attributing the information to another person, in order to enter the country.

Judge upholds six-month prison term for doctor in fatal traffic accident case

TDT | Manama

A judge in the execution court has refused to suspend the sentence or replace the punishment imposed on a doctor convicted of causing the death of an individual in a traffic accident in the Nuwaiderat area.

The doctor had previously been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, a ruling that was upheld by the court of appeals.

The incident took place when the accused, while driving his vehicle on a road in the Nuwaiderat area, failed to exercise the necessary care and attention. He posed a danger to pedestrians walking on the roadside as he was distracted by his mobile phone while approaching an intersection.

This resulted in a collision with the victim, who was crossing the road, causing him to fall to the ground. The victim was subsequently taken to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries three days later.

The public prosecution charged the doctor with causing the death of the victim due to his negligent driving, failing to exercise the utmost care, not adhering to safety precautions, using his mobile phone while driving, and causing damage to others' property.

The court of first instance sentenced him to six months' imprisonment and set bail at BD200 to suspend the execution. It also ordered the suspension of his driving license for three months after serving the prison term.

Asian fraudster's three-year jail term upheld

TDT | Manama

The Court of Appeals upheld a three-year prison sentence for an Asian fraudster who managed to seize BD2,000 from a citizen's account.

The fraudster contacted the victim, posing as an employee of a financial company, and requested him to update his personal information in order to enhance the security of his bank accounts.

Through deception, the perpetrator led the victim to the point of surrendering the amount. The first-degree court sentenced him to three years in prison, a fine of BD3,000, and deportation from the country upon completion of the sentence. The Court of Appeals affirmed the ruling.

Based on the complaint filed by the victim regarding the

fraud he suffered, security investigations were initiated, revealing that the money transfer and withdrawal operations were carried out using an ATM, and the accused was the one who made the cash withdrawals in installments using his own bank card.

The investigations further indicated that he operated as part of a criminal gang, responsible for creating bank accounts and receiving illicit funds from fraudulent activities.

He would then send the funds to an accomplice outside of the Asian country in exchange for a financial share.

During the prosecution's interrogations, the accused admitted to withdrawing several amounts from multiple cards belonging to different individuals.

Family Day at Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia

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The Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia Feast and Family Day Celebration will be held tomorrow at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia, Awali.

The festivities commence at 8 am to 9 pm. The Feast Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Aldo Berardi at 9.30am.

This special event will be a day filled with laughter, delicious food, and a vibrant atmosphere that fosters a sense of belonging. The Family Day celebration during the feast promises to bring joy to everyone.

Highway junction set for closure

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works has announced that the improvement works on Janabiyah Highway at its junction with Avenue 57 necessitate closure of the junction and divert the traffic to the nearest junctions.

The closure will be effective from tomorrow for a period of two months.

All road users are requested to observe and obey the traffic rules for the safety of all.

Foundation stone laid for Khalifa Military Sports Centre at UK Naval Support Facility



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman with UK Ambassador, HE Alastair Long at the event

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His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), yesterday laid the foundation stone for the Al-Khalifa Military Sports Centre at the United Kingdom Naval Support Fa-

'Set cap and regulate work'

MPs call for urgent measures to address soaring costs of recruiting domestic workers in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Several members of parliament have called for serious measures to be taken to halt the rising costs of recruiting domestic workers from various countries, which in some cases have exceeded BD2,000.

They emphasised the need for a new decision to be made to set a cap and regulate work in this sector, which is facing numerous problems. They stated that there is an urgent need to set a reasonable and defined price for recruiting domestic workers.

They stressed the necessity for relevant authorities to take action by establishing organised frameworks and communicating with embassies and representatives of these countries to issue regulatory decisions that determine the cost of recruiting domestic workers, similar to what happened in the sister country of Kuwait.

In Kuwait, the costs of recruiting workers from various countries were set between a minimum of BD350 and a maximum of BD750, including travel expenses.

They pointed out that the prices of recruiting domestic workers in Bahrain are very high and burdensome for Bahraini families. The costs range from BD2,000 to BD2,200 to recruit



Indonesian workers, BD1,300 for Filipino workers, BD1,200 for Indian and Sri Lankan workers, and BD1,400 for Ethiopian workers.

Law proposal

On his part, MP Jalal Kadhem stated that he is currently working on preparing a law proposal to regulate the process of recruiting domestic workers and those in similar positions.

He affirmed that the law, which will be presented to the parliament in the near future, comes in response to demands from various segments of Bahraini society to intervene and stop the financial bleeding.

"Some offices have even requested more than BD2,000 for recruiting workers from certain Asian countries," he said.

"The current situation is no longer acceptable. The countries that recruit this workforce benefit the most from all aspects of the recruitment process, especially economically. We need to protect Bahraini families from financial losses and price hikes."

- MP JALAL KADHEM

He emphasised that the current situation is no longer acceptable and stressed that the countries that recruit this workforce benefit the most from all aspects of the recruitment process, especially economically. He called for the protection of Bahraini families from financial losses and price hikes.

MP Kadhem also pointed out that the current situation is experiencing clear negligence in this file, as labour supply offices request varying amounts without proper consideration.

"There is a significant dispar-



ity in the prices of recruiting workers, indicating a lack of control and an urgent need for parliamentary intervention to address this issue," he explained.

He pointed out the necessity of issuing a comprehensive law that addresses the rights and duties of all relevant parties, as well as setting reasonable salary ceilings, other expenses, recruitment fees, and office commissions in a transparent and acceptable manner for everyone.

Challenging matter

From her side, MP Jalila Al Sayyed confirmed that recruiting a domestic worker has become a challenging matter due to the exorbitant costs.

Furthermore, she stated some offices ask for significant

"Some offices ask for significant amounts of money and delay fulfilling their commitments, including the delay in bringing the worker and not meeting their obligations related to the guarantee period or training the worker."

- MP JALILA AL SAYYED

amounts of money and delay fulfilling their commitments, including the delay in bringing the worker and not meeting their obligations related to the guarantee period or training the worker.

She mentioned the existence of brokers who recruit workers and then smuggle them out after the three-month guarantee period, resulting in the loss of money without any benefit, and the only loser is the family who will have to spend a large amount again to recruit a new worker, hoping that they will stay and not escape.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman with UK Ambassador, HE Alastair Long at the event

TDT | Manama

highlighted the strength of the longstanding Bahrain-UK strategic partnership, which spans over 200 years. HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman noted that relations continue to advance thanks to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister.

Upon his arrival, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman was received by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Alastair Long, Royal Navy Commodore, Philip Dennis, and the United Kingdom Naval Support Facility Commander, Commander Alex Savage, along with other senior Bahrain Defence Force officers.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman

Sustainability Forum Middle East unites leaders in Bahrain to drive climate action

TDT | Manama

Bahrain played host to the second edition of the Sustainability Forum Middle East, a dynamic gathering that brought together over 350 business and sustainability leaders on January 8-9, 2024.

Under the patronage of the Minister of Oil and Environment, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Daina, the forum focused on "Achieving Net Zero - Pathways to Accelerating Implementation."

The event kicked off with a day of expert-led workshops on January 8, featuring insights from more than 40 international speakers and hands-on learning sessions facilitated by industry giants like Deloitte, KPMG, Sustainability Group, and CFA Society, Bahrain.

The main forum on January 9 was inaugurated with opening remarks from H.E. Dr. Bin Daina emphasizing the need for greater collaboration and decisive action on the energy and economic transition.

In his opening remarks, H.E.



H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Daina

Dr. Daina reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to implementing national projects and environmental programs, aligning with international best practices and standards. Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, a Strategic Partner of the Forum, delivered a keynote highlighting the transformative era driven by green technology and innovation.

Mr. Thomas stated, "Sustainability Forum Middle East serves as a regional platform for promoting dialogue, collaboration, and driving climate action towards a more sustain-



Mark Thomas

able future." He emphasized the region's commitment to achieving net-zero targets through sovereign ambition, robust engagement from the private and public sectors, and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies.

The forum featured engaging panel discussions with expert speakers from around the world, covering critical topics related to MENA's net-zero journey.

Discussions included collaborations between government and the private sector, outcomes of COP 28, funding and capital requirements, energy transition, future cities, and sustainable supply chains.

New tougher measures underway to improve road safety and combat traffic violations

TDT | Manama

Director General of Traffic Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa has announced the implementation of new measures to improve road safety and combat traffic violations.

In a statement, he revealed that several initiatives have

been introduced to ensure the well-being of road users.

The latest development involves an amendment to the vehicle impoundment regulations stated in Decision No. 68 of 2016. Decision No. 165 of 2023 extends the minimum impoundment period for violator vehicles from

30 to 60 days. This stricter pen-

alty aims to deter repeat offenders and emphasises the seriousness with which traffic violations are viewed.

In addition to the extended im-



Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab

have been introduced. The first violation prohibits any modifications to vehicles that produce disruptive noises. This measure aims to create a quieter and more

peaceful driving environment for everyone. The second violation targets reckless driving, highlighting the importance of responsible behavior and ensuring the safety of all road users.

These new regulations are part of ongoing efforts by Bahrain's General Directorate of

Traffic to enhance road safety. By addressing improper traffic behaviors and enforcing stricter penalties, the authorities aim to protect lives and safeguard public and private property.

The General Directorate of Traffic recognises the importance of these measures in creating a safer road for all.



During a group photo opportunity following the meeting held at the Chamber's premises yesterday

Bahrain Chamber and Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Collaborate to Boost Bilateral Trade

TDT| Manama

In a significant step towards strengthening economic ties between Bahrain and Egypt, Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held a crucial meeting with the Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade, H.E. Ahmed Sameer, at the Chamber's premises yesterday.

During the meeting, Chairman Sameer Nass emphasized the longstanding and robust relationship between Bahrain and Egypt, extending across various levels. He expressed pride in the presence of Bahraini businesses in Egypt, particularly in the banking and real estate sectors, and highlighted the reciprocal presence of Egyptian businesses in Bahrain. Nass urged the exploration of opportunities in



Bahrain Chamber's Nass with Egyptian Minister Sameer during talks yesterday

vital sectors such as food security and medicine security. The Egyptian delegation, led by H.E. Minister Ahmed Sameer and accompanied by Egyptian



Ambassador to Bahrain Reham Mohammed Khalil, engaged in discussions with several board members of the Bahrain Chamber. The meeting focused on the

importance of the Integrated Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development and its potential impact on member states within the

enhance economic development, and foster self-sufficiency. Recognizing the role of the private sector as pivotal in driving economic growth, the meeting also highlighted the importance of fostering collaboration between the Bahraini and Egyptian business communities. This collaboration will involve the exchange of visits and the organization of joint business functions.

The discussions concluded with a commitment to furthering economic development and self-sufficiency through collaborative efforts, promoting industrial competitiveness, and exploring new avenues for growth between Bahrain and Egypt. The private sector's role in driving economic prosperity was emphasized, setting the stage for continued collaboration and mutual benefit.

Boeing CEO: Alaska Airlines incident 'our mistake'

New York, United States

Boeing Chief Executive Dave Calhoun took responsibility on Tuesday for a near-catastrophic Alaska Airlines incident last week, vowing "complete transparency" as the aviation giant tries to pivot from its latest crisis. "We're going to approach this (by) number one acknowledging our mistake," Calhoun told employees at a safety meeting called after Friday's emergency landing, which came after one of the plane's panels blew out mid-flight.

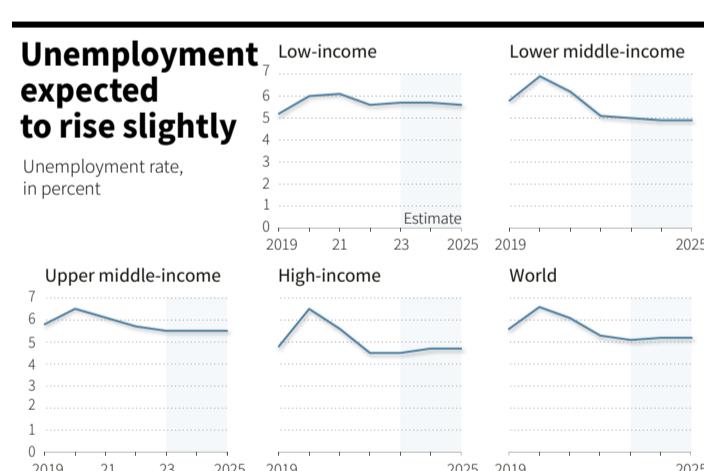
Global unemployment set to worsen in 2024: UN

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The global unemployment rate will increase slightly in 2024, the United Nations said yesterday as it raised concerns about stagnant productivity, worsening inequalities and inflation biting into disposable income.

The UN's labour agency said the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down, with ongoing geopolitical tensions and persistent inflation triggering aggressive moves by central banks.

That said, global growth in 2023 was modestly higher than



anticipated, and labour markets showed surprising resilience, the International Labour Organization said.

However, real wages declined in most of the G20 countries as wage increases failed to keep pace with inflation, said the ILO.

The 2022 global unemployment rate stood at 5.3% and made a modest improvement last year to 5.1%.

However, in 2024 an extra two million workers are expected to be looking for jobs, raising the global unemployment rate to 5.2%.

Disposable incomes have declined in the majority of G20 nations and, generally, the erosion of living standards resulting from inflation is "unlikely to be

compensated quickly", the ILO said. The report found that only China, Russia and Mexico "enjoyed positive real wage growth in 2023".

Real wages fell in other G20 countries, with Brazil (6.9%), Italy (5.6%) and Indonesia (3.5%) experiencing the sharpest declines.

"Falling living standards and weak productivity combined with persistent inflation create the conditions for greater inequality and undermine efforts to achieve social justice," said Houngbo.

"And without greater social justice we will never have a sustainable recovery."

Saudi Arabia says value of mineral resources has nearly doubled

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that the estimated value of its mineral resources had nearly doubled to \$2.5 trillion, highlighting a sector it hopes will help diversify its oil-reliant economy.

"I am delighted to announce that our estimation for the kingdom's untapped mineral potential has increased from \$1.3 trillion to \$2.5 trillion, an increase of 90 percent," Industry and Mineral Resources Minister Bandar Alkhayr said at a conference in Riyadh.

"This is based on new discoveries in the form of rare earth elements, and a combination of the increase of volumes of phosphate, gold, zinc and copper, as well as the revaluation of these minerals."



Participants attend the Future Mineral Forum in Riyadh on January 10, 2024.

The earlier valuation of \$1.3 trillion had been cited by officials including Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, since

at least 2017. Risk intelligence firm Verisk Maplecroft wrote last year that the focus on mining was "among the more feasible parts"

of Prince Mohammed's Vision 2030 reform agenda, aided by existing mines, plants and infrastructure including railways.

Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told the conference that rather than being called an oil-producing country, "what we are working on is that we would like to be an energy-producing country for all sources of energy".

Last year, the kingdom's deep-pocketed sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund, and state mining firm Ma'aden established Manara Minerals to snatch up global mining assets.

Manara announced its first high-profile acquisition, a 10-percent stake in Brazil's Vale, in July.

Germany resumes arms sales to Saudi Arabia with missile deal

AFP | Berlin, Germany

added.

Germany yesterday said it had approved the sale of missiles, manufactured by German group Diehl Defence, was granted towards the end of last year, Spiegel reported.

Government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit confirmed a report by German weekly Spiegel, which said Berlin had given the green light for the delivery of 150 Iris-T air-to-air missiles to Riyadh.

"The details of this report are accurate," said Hebestreit, speaking at a regular government news conference.

The Iris-T missiles could "be fired from aircraft at airborne targets, that is to say missiles, drones and so on", Hebestreit



Representative picture



News in brief

◆ **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** arrived yesterday morning in Lithuania for an unannounced visit to the Baltic states, staunch allies of the war-torn country. The three Baltic states - all former Soviet republics which are now EU and NATO members -- are among Ukraine's staunchest allies. "Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are our reliable friends and principled partners. Today, I arrived in Vilnius before going to Tallinn and Riga," Zelensky said on social media platform X, formerly Twitter. "Security, EU and NATO integration, cooperation on electronic warfare and drones, and further coordination of European support are all on the agenda," he said. The Baltic tour marks Zelensky's first official trip abroad this year. In Lithuania, a key donor to Ukraine, Zelensky said he will hold talks with the president, prime minister and the speaker of parliament, and meet with the Ukrainian community.



Zelensky lands in Lithuania on tour of Baltic allies

Palestinian journalist freed from Israeli custody abused: report



Diaa al-Kahlout
AFP | Doha, Qatar

◆ **Bhutanese voters** have elected Tshering Tobgay to become prime minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats, the election commission said in results released yesterday. The election was dominated by serious economic challenges that have called into question the Himalayan kingdom's long-standing policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth. Bhutan also lies sandwiched between the globe's two most populous countries, China and India, who watched the vote with keen interest as they eye strategic contested border zones. Tobgay, head of the liberal People's Democratic Party (PDP), who served as prime minister of the Himalayan kingdom from 2013 to 2018, won 30 of 47 seats in

Tuesday's election, official figures showed.

◆ **The Islamic State** group has claimed responsibility for a blast targeting a vehicle in eastern Kabul that killed at least three people, the second deadly attack by the group in Afghanistan in a week. Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said three people were killed and four wounded by a bomb hidden in a car near a minivan in eastern Kabul on Tuesday. He told AFP Wednesday that police had detained a suspect who had confessed his involvement. The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility on its Telegram channel, saying it had "detonated an explosive device on a vehicle transporting employees of the Pul-e-Charki prison". The attack is the second in recent days, with IS claiming responsibility for an explosion on a bus on Saturday that killed at least five people in the Dash-e-Barchi neighbourhood -- an enclave of the historically persecuted Shiite Hazara community.



SPOTLIGHT

Nepal police arrest 'Buddha boy' over disappearances, rape



Nepal police escort Ram Bahadur Bomjan

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal police said yesterday they had arrested a spiritual leader whose followers believe him to be a reincarnation of Buddha over allegations of disappearances and rape at his ashrams.

Ram Bahadur Bomjan, known as "Buddha Boy" among devotees, became famous as a teenager after followers said he could meditate motionless for months without water, food or sleep.

The 33-year-old guru has a devout following but has long been accused of physically and sexually assaulting his followers, and had been hiding from authorities for several years.

"He was arrested after absconding for several years," police spokesman Kuber Kadayat told AFP. Police apprehended

Palestinian officials accused Israel of committing a "brutal crime"

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

London-based news outlet Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed announced on Tuesday the release of one of its Palestinian journalists from Israeli custody, alleging he faced torture during more than a month in detention.

Diaa al-Kahlout, who was among dozens of Palestinians shown detained by Israeli troops and stripped to their underwear in north Gaza last month, had been released back into the Palestinian territory, the Qatari-owned website said.

The military said they had been helping police in a counter-terrorism operation that resulted in an exchange of fire and the deaths of three.

"The operational vehicle that is seen in the video was dispatched in order to extricate the force that was caught under heavy fire, and unintentionally ran over the terrorist's body," the Israeli military said in response to an AFP request

Houthi claim major missile, drone attack in Red Sea

AFP | Sanaa, Yemen

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels yesterday claimed responsibility for a large-scale drone and missile attack in the Red Sea described as the biggest yet in the international shipping corridor.

Military spokesman Yahya Saree said a "large number" of missiles and drones targeted a US ship that was "providing support" to Israel during its war against Hamas in Gaza.

"The naval forces, the missile force, and the unmanned air force of the Yemeni armed forces carried out a joint military operation with a large number of ballistic and naval missiles and drones," he said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

Earlier yesterday, the US military said American and British forces shot down 18 drones and three missiles launched by the Houthis towards shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

Saree did not give a timing or a location for the attack but a Houthi leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that it was the same incident.

"The operational vehicle that is seen in the video was dispatched in order to extricate the force that was caught under heavy fire, and unintentionally ran over the terrorist's body," the Israeli military said in response to an AFP request

A child stands near the bodies of family members of the Nofal family, after they were killed during Israeli bombardment, at al-Najjar hospital in Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

carried out by the Yemeni armed forces" since the start of their Red Sea campaign against vessels they consider linked to Israel. In a statement, UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps also said it was the "largest attack... to date" by the Houthis in the Red Sea.

Separately, Tawfiq Al-Humairi, adviser to the Houthi's Ministry of Information, told AFP that "this attack is considered the largest

for comment.

The military said it would review what had happened and added that the video "does not show the incident in its entirety".

The footage of Monday's incident, shared on social media, appears to be taken from a security camera and shows an armoured vehicle slowly driving over what seems to be a lifeless body.

The vehicle then stops, restarts and drives over, crushing the body again with its back wheels.



Israel has occupied the West Bank, home to about three million Palestinians, since 1967. Some 490,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements deemed illegal under international law. Israeli army raids and settler attacks have killed at least 334 people in the West Bank in the past three months, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry.



Swiss train grazes woman in wheelchair fallen on tracks

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A 70-year-old woman in a wheelchair was miraculously left largely unscathed despite a close call with an oncoming train after having fallen on the tracks, Swiss police said yesterday.

The incident happened on Tuesday afternoon at a train station in northeast Switzerland, police in the canton of Aargau said.

The woman, 70, was "very lucky in her misfortune", because she fell exactly between two rails, police said.

The result was that the passing train barely touched her as it passed over her.

She was taken to hospital, as was another person on the platform who was mildly injured by flying parts of the electric wheelchair.

The incident caused delays in traffic at the station in Kaiserstuhl, near Basel for several hours.

Police have so far ruled out any third-party involvement in the incident.

Amidja Knavs was a strong woman who always carried herself with grace, warmth, and dignity," she said, adding: "We will miss her beyond measure and continue to honor and love her in a statement.

Palestinian statehood was anticipated following the Oslo Accords of the 1990s but talks have been moribund for years.

The Israeli government has shown no interest in reviving negotiations and the Palestinian leadership remains split between the Palestinian Authority, headed by Abbas, and Hamas, which rules Gaza.

Abbas described the Gaza Strip as "an integral part of the Palestinian state" according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Israel has for years withheld

part of the funds, over issues including payments to Palestinian prisoners and more recently the Gaza war.

Blinken tells Abbas US backs 'tangible steps' for Palestinian state



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Department of State Counselor Derek Chollet, speak as they depart for Bahrain, inside a military aircraft at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

it," the Palestinian leader told Blinken.

Discussions have been underway for weeks over post-war governance of Gaza, though Israel has warned the fighting is likely to continue for months.

The Palestinian president also raised "efforts made to stop the Israeli aggression against Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank," Wafa reported.

Blinken reiterated Washington's longstanding position that a Palestinian state must stand alongside Israel, "with both living in peace and security", State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

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part of the funds, over issues including payments to Palestinian prisoners and more recently the Gaza war.

Indonesia's Lewotobi Laki-Laki volcano erupts, on highest alert level

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted anew yesterday, spewing ash clouds two kilometres (6,561 feet) above its peak as authorities raised the volcano's alert status to the highest level.

The eruption follows weeks of heightened volcanic activity on the mountain, located on eastern Indonesia's Flores Island, and prompted the local government to issue an evacuation order for nearby residents.

"The communities are urged to immediately evacuate to safe points to avoid hot ash (from the volcano)," local official Benedictus Bolibapa Herin told AFP yesterday.

TOP 4 TWEETS
01



2023 has been confirmed as the warmest year on record. Yet, 2023 was a mere preview of the catastrophic future that awaits if we don't #ActNow. Leaders must commit to path-breaking #ClimateAction, end the fossil fuel age - fairly and fast - and invest in helping vulnerable countries combat climate chaos. #antonio_guterres

02
Former US first lady Melania Trump announces death of her mother

Washington, United States

Former US first lady Melania Trump has announced the death of her mother Amalija Knavs. She was 78.

"It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of my beloved mother," Trump posted late Tuesday on X, the former Twitter.

"Amalija Knavs was a strong woman who always carried herself with grace, warmth, and dignity," she said, adding: "We will miss her beyond measure and continue to honor and love her in a statement."

Melania Trump's mother came to the United States from Slovenia with her husband Victor Knavs, and following a years-long immigration process the couple took the oath to become US citizens in 2018, while Donald Trump was president.

03
Met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss ongoing efforts to minimize civilian harm in Gaza, accelerate the delivery of humanitarian aid, end extremist violence, and work towards an independent Palestinian state. #SecBlinken

04
They built a dungeon around me" to "wall me in", Breivik complained on Tuesday.

"I'm not a hamster, I need real human relationships," he said.

He is not totally isolated, and in addition to his contacts with the guards -- with whom he can play cards, cook or share a meal -- Breivik is allowed to see a pastor, a physiotherapist, a psychiatrist and a Red Cross visitor with a dog that he can pet.

Three rooms, three budgies and an Xbox: how Breivik serves his sentence

AFP | Oslo, Norway

Three private rooms, as many budgies and an Xbox: the lawsuit brought by Anders Behring Breivik against the Norwegian state's prison regime details conditions that would make many prisoners envious.

Since 2022, Breivik has been serving his sentence in the high-security wing of Ringerike prison, on the shores of the lake that surrounds the island of Utøya where he killed 69 people, most of them teenagers, on July 22, 2011.

Mere hours earlier, he had detonated a bomb in Oslo, killing eight others.

The 44-year-old right-wing extremist now has three personal rooms to himself: a living room, a study room and a small gym.

On the floor below -- which he shares with another prisoner, though never at the same time -- he has access to a kitchen, a TV

lounge with a games console, a dining room and a room for visits.

"Breivik has much more space than any other inmate in Ringerike prison," the facility's director Eirik Bergstedt told Norwegian news agency NTB in December.

Despite these conditions, Breivik, who in 2012 was sentenced to

21

years in prison -- which can be extended indefinitely -- has taken his conditions: in a letter to AFP in 2014, he threatened to go on hunger strike in prison if he did not get, among other things, a Playstation 3 instead of the older Playstation 2.

In a tearful address to the court on Tuesday he said authorities are trying to "push me to suicide".

Although the decor is relatively plain, the gym includes several exercise machines and the lounge has a large flat screen TV and several armchairs so he can play Xbox with the guards.

In a tearful address to the court on Tuesday he said authorities are trying to "push me to suicide".

It is not the first time Breivik has used strong words to protest his conditions: in a letter to AFP in 2014, he threatened to go on hunger strike in prison if he did not get, among other things, a Playstation 3 instead of the older Playstation 2.

In a tearful address to the court on Tuesday he said authorities are trying to "push me to suicide".



A similar sleeping cell on the second of two floors where Anders Behring Breivik serves his custodial sentence in the Ringerike prison is pictured

to



Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik (C) makes a Nazi salute as he arrives to a makeshift court in Skien prison's gym

However, it is not the material conditions of his detention that he is protesting.

Held apart from other inmates in high-security facilities for almost 12 years, Breivik claims his extended isolation is a violation of Article 3 of the European

CHEERS celebs

Nicolas Cage wants clothes to match 'expression in filmmaking'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Nicolas Cage chooses clothes that "match [his] expression in filmmaking".

The 59-year-old actor switches between favouring "maximalist or minimalist" looks depending on the roles he's playing, and a snakeskin jacket he wanted to wear in 'Wild at Heart' is something he'll always remember.

He told W magazine: "I try to find clothing that matches my expression in filmmaking — I can be either maximalist or minimalist."

"I found a snakeskin jacket at a store called Aardvark's, on

Melrose, and then went to rehearsals for 'Wild at Heart'. I said to David Lynch, 'I want to wear this snakeskin jacket.'

"David calls me Nickster. When we were in Cannes with 'Wild at Heart', the president's wife demanded that I sing 'Love Me Tender' to her in front of everybody at a long table.

"David said, 'Nickster, you get up there right now on that table, and you sing that song!' So I jumped up. I was so nervous.

"But David got the Palme d'Or for 'Wild at Heart'. I like to think that my fractured singing helped him win the award."

And Nicolas also recalled feeling ill at ease

wearing a tuxedo when he picked up the Best Actor Oscar in 1995.

Nicolas Cage

Kate Beckinsale rushes to hospital straight from Golden Globes

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kate Beckinsale rushed straight to the hospital after the Golden Globe Awards 2024.

The 50-year-old actress joined Don Cheadle on stage to present Lily Gladstone with the best performance by a female actor prize at the ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday.

On Tuesday, Kate shared a series of photos from her evening, from the event itself to ending her night in a hospital sporting the same dress from the bash.

She could be seen sat beside a patient's bed, with two friends also seen in the room.

It's believed she was visiting her stepfather Roy Battersby, following reports from the Daily Mail newspaper that he suffered a stroke after a previous



Kate Beckinsale
ous cancer diagnosis.

She captioned the post: "Golden Globes 2024 start to end."

A friend commented: "I don't know how you made it through last night with all that is going on. You are strong and a consummate pro."

Fox | Los Angeles

Kelly Clarkson is truly embracing the "New Year, New You" mantra.

After the "Breakaway" singer left the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles for the Big Apple, Clarkson candidly spoke out about how living on the West Coast impacted her mental health and explained that upon moving to New York, she decided to choose a healthier lifestyle.

"I was very unhappy in L.A. and had been for several years. I needed a fresh start," Clarkson, 41, told People in her cover interview.

She recalled telling NBC, the network that airs her talk show, "I'm not trying to sound ungrateful, I just can't stay here

[in L.A.] anymore for my mental health; for me and my kids. They weren't doing well either."

"For the past few years, I'd just been showing up and smiling and doing what I'm supposed to do, but you can only compartmentalize so long until you break," she explained.

The "A Moment Like This" singer confessed she also prioritized her physical health with some key dieting tips, as Clarkson was determined to get

Kelly Clarkson

in the best possible shape of her life.

"I eat a healthy mix. I dropped weight because I've been listening

to my doctor — a couple years I didn't," she said. "And 90 percent of the time I'm really good at it, because a protein diet is good for me anyway. I'm a Texas girl, so I like meat — sorry, vegetarians in

the world!"

She added, "But I still splurge. The other night I had a frozen yogurt with my daughter, and it was magical."

In 2018, Clarkson told "Today" that she lost 37 pounds after changing her diet.

The single mother of two shares daughter River Rose, 9, and son Remington Alexander, 7, with ex-husband Brandon Blackstock, 47.

Clarkson and Blackstock married in 2013, and she filed for divorce in 2020 after seven years of marriage.

The "Because of You" crooner noted the split was part of the reason she decided to flee Los Angeles.



Arnold Schwarzenegger wants 'careless' cyclist's lawsuit thrown out

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Arnold Schwarzenegger has blamed a "careless" cyclist for their crash.

The 'Terminator' actor is being sued by Joanne Flickinger, who claimed he hit her with his SUV while driving "negligently" on San Vicente Boulevard in Hollywood last February, but he has now filed a response and wants the civil suit thrown out of court because he insisted it wasn't his fault.

Responding to the complaint — which saw the 78-year-old star accused of driving "with excessive speed and [failing] to keep a proper lookout", the former Governor of California argued in documents ob-

tained by RadarOnline.com: "[Flickinger]

was so careless and negligent about the matters alleged in the Complaint so as to have contributed in some degree to the injuries, damages and/or losses alleged by [Flickinger]

and therefore said carelessness and negligence completely bars or eliminates any recovery by [Flickinger]."

He insisted any alleged injuries she sustained where caused by third parties out of his control and asked the court "that in the event they are found liable to [Flickinger], said liability should be reduced

At the time of the accident, law enforcement sources told TMZ: "The woman made a left turn in front of Arnold before he had a chance to hit his brakes and he was not going very fast at all".

by the percentage of fault attributable to [Flickinger], and all other parties, persons, firms, corporations, and entities; and that said liability for non-economic damages of these Defendants is several only, and not joint, so that these Defendants shall be responsible only for the amount of non-economic damages."

Arnold wants the lawsuit thrown out and his costs paid.

In her complaint, the cyclist alleged the collision caused her "severe injuries" which are "permanent".

She is seeking damages exceeding \$25,000 for "past and future pain and suffering, emotional distress; past and future loss of earnings; past and future loss of earning capacity; past and future medical expenses; past and future healthcare expenses; past and future incidental expenses; and past and future household services".

Arnold Schwarzenegger



Lisa Bonet files for divorce from Jason Momoa



Jason Momoa and Lisa Bonet
Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Lisa Bonet has filed for divorce from Jason Momoa.

The 56-year-old actress has been married to 'Aquaman' Jason, 44, since 2017 and has Lola, 16, and 15-year-old Nakoa-Wolf with him but announced in 2022 that they had called it quits and she has now filed for divorce, according to documents obtained by UsWeekly.

According to the documents, October 7, 2020 is their official date of separation, and "irreconcilable differences" are listed as as the reason for their split.

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

4	8	5	6	9	7	1	2	3
7	9	6	3	2	1	5	8	4
1	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	6
6	7	3	4	1	2	8	9	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	7	3	2
5	2	9	8	7	3	6	4	1
9	5	8	1	3	4	2	6	7
2	6	4	7	5	9	3	1	8
3	1	7	2	8	6	4	5	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-Confuse; 6- Muscat native; 11- Slangy negative; 14- Weighted down; 15- Loudness units; 16- Sheet music abbr.; 17- Model; 18- Grant portrayer; 19- Man-mouse connector; 20- Kinds; 22- Draw a bead on; 24- Wife of Mark Antony; 28- Start for fish, meatballs, or massage; 30- Elevated; 31- Old; 32- At full speed; 33- Forte; 37- Thrice, in prescriptions; 38- Novelist Calvino; 39- Lac contents; 40- Ornate; 43- Perfidious; 45- Without ___ in the world; 46- Contract; 47- Satisfied; 50- Osteotitis; 51- Mikhail's wife; 52- Tiger's choice; 53- Consumed, usually food; 54- Currency unit in Nigeria; 57- Fluff, as bangs; 62- Not sweet; 63- Religion of the Muslims; 64- Academy award; 65- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 66- Elected; 67- Photo finish;

Down

1-The Greatest; 2- June honoree; 3- HST's successor; 4- Salonga of "Miss Saigon"; 5- Animate; 6- Honshu port; 7- Rock climbing plant; 8- Abby's twin; 9- Maiden name preceder; 10- Begin, e.g.; 11- Model Campbell; 12- Rich tapestry; 13- Anger; 21- If it may be flipped; 23- It's a thought; 24- Use a soapbox; 25- Humped ruminant; 26- Ornamental coronet; 27- Faulkner's " Lay Dying"; 28- Inscribed pillar; 29- Tiger's city; 31- Sudden outpouring; 33- Square one; 34- Russian revolutionary leader; 35- Spoil; 36- Disgusting; 38- Neighbor of Turkey; 41- Cricket equipment; 42- Like sea life; 43- Specter; 44- S.A. country; 46- ___-mo; 47- Collide; 48- Western; 49- Family tree member; 50- Picture border; 52- Nest eggs, briefly; 55- Powdery residue; 56- UN agency; 58- That, in Tijuana; 59- Perform in a play; 60- Watched the kids; 61- Before;

Yesterday's solution

R	A	F	F	E	A	S	T	E	A	R	S
E	C	R	U	I	D	I	O	T	A	R	A
C	H	E	R	G	O	R	E	N	U	R	E
T	E	E	N	H	R	E	U	N	F	A	I
E	S	T	A	T	T	N	A	N	I	L	
D	E	C	O	Y	U	N	A	B	A	T	
V	I	X	E	N	S	L	I	M	P	A	
A	M	A	H	A	D	N	I	S	G	T	
S	E	C	T	E	G	A	N	O	T	A	
E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	U	P	P	
E	S	P	Y	M	N	O	P	N	O	P	
E	T	O	T	C	R	E	P	E	L	E	
T	A	P	A	R	K	O	A	L	S	E	

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

HORIZON INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742421 or INFO@HORIZONINTERIORS.NET

SAFIAN ABDULLAH FOR INTERIOR DECORATION BRAHMINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66927651 or RJANI55555@GMAIL.COM

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

MOROCCAN PALACE SPA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211110 or ABUJHAD@GMAIL.COM

YUM YUM EXPERIENCE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39006719 or PRO@RAMADAMANAMA-CITYCENTRE.COM

WK MARVEL ALUMINIUM WORKSHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33864416 or WAZIRMK21@GMAIL.COM

BRIDGE 911 SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39923170 or ASHQADAARBA@GMAIL.COM

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

SEA WORLD COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39442111 or ROSHI.seaworld@gmail.com

AI Hilal Multi Specialty Medical Center -Manama has a vacancy for the occupation of PHARMACIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17824444 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

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

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

KOZHIKODE STAR RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36864446 or SH_AMNAH@HOTMAIL.COM

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

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain11@gmail.com

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

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

Access & Coating Gulf Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212471 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

MAYSHA MASSAGE AND SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66996941 or MARWA.ALAWADHI@HOTMAIL.COM

ARIF MASIH INTERIOR DECOR CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34497856 or ZEE4ZEE.ZEE4@GMAIL.COM

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Davis rallies Lakers in thriller over Raptors



Anthony Davis of Los Angeles Lakers in action

AFP | Los Angeles

Anthony Davis scored a season-high 41 points as the Los Angeles Lakers edged past the Toronto Raptors 132-131 in a thrilling NBA clash on Tuesday.

A pulsating duel that saw no fewer than 23 lead changes swung decisively in favor of the Lakers thanks to a huge fourth-quarter display from Davis.

The eight-time All-Star erupted for 20 points in a high-scoring final period, including a perfect 11-from-11 free throws, to help the Lakers overturn a six-point deficit and claim a second straight victory.

The win followed Sunday's nail-biting derby victory over the Los Angeles Clippers, and left the Lakers at 19-19 for the season -- 10th in the Western Conference.

"We'll take it, we can do better, but obviously for us that's a big-time win," a relieved Davis said after the game.

Davis received crucial scoring support throughout the line-up -- something that has been a problem for Los Angeles in recent outings.

LeBron James scored 22



All our guys came in and did a heck of a job. Obviously there's going to be a lot of attention on me and 'Bron and that's going to give the others a lot of open shots and open plays

ANTHONY DAVIS

points while five other Lakers players finished in double digits.

"All our guys came in and did a heck of a job," Davis said.

"Obviously there's going to be a lot of attention on me and 'Bron and that's going to give the others a lot of open shots and open plays.

"We've just got to keep feeding them the ball, keep trusting them to keep making plays."

Scottie Barnes led Toronto's scorers with 26 points while Pascal Siakam finished with 25 and R.J. Barrett 23.

In other games on Tuesday, the Western Conference-leading Minnesota Timberwolves cruised to an impressive 113-92 road victory over the Orlando Magic in Florida.

Darts fans looking to attend the high-profile 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters this 18 and 19 January at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) have only one day left today to take advantage of the 20 per cent Early Bird discount on tickets.

The darts spectacle at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" is set to feature legendary icons in the sport, headlined by recently crowned World Champion Luke Humphries and 16-year-old darts sensation Luke Littler.

They are among eight Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) superstars who will be competing in the Kingdom against eight Asian representatives in the two-day event, which marks the first stop on this year's World Series of Darts calendar.

After the 20 per cent discount, tickets to the 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters start from BD20 for a two-day pass. Premium seating, including stage-side tables, are from just BD32 for the



Action from a previous edition of Bahrain Darts Masters

two days.

Fans are urged not to miss out on BIC's fantastic Early Bird offer to get the best value for money and watch the greatest players in the game today in action.

The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters will once again take place in BIC's beautifully set-up dome tent, which will boast a fun and electric atmosphere.

Those attending will be able to

show off their flair for colourful costumes and fancy dress, while enjoying the highest level of darts in a venue specially designed to replicate the famed Alexandra Palace in the UK, the home of the World Darts Championship.

BIC and CBX have teamed up with the PDC to bring the World Series of Darts back to Bahrain in partnership with Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority.

thority.

Current world number one Humphries and world number 31 Littler are set to be joined by six others who are all amongst the top eight-ranked players in the world to form a star-studded line-up.

They include three-time World Champion and current world number two Michael van Gerwen, defending Bahrain Darts Masters champion and world number three Michael Smith, World Matchplay winner and current world number four Nathan Aspinall, Wales' reigning World Cup winner and world number five Gerwyn Price, 2018 World Champion and world number six Rob Cross, and two-time World Champion and current world number eight Peter Wright.

The Asian representatives include Lourence Ilagan, Paolo Nebrida and Reynaldo Rivera from the Philippines; Haruki Muramatsu and Tomoya Goto from Japan; Man Lok Leung from Hong Kong; and Bahraini stars Abdulla Saeed and Hasan Haji.

Shelton ends losing run to reach Auckland quarter-finals

AFP | Auckland

Top seed Ben Shelton got his Australian Open preparations back on track yesterday after a run of defeats with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Hungary's Fabian Marozsan at the Auckland Classic.

The American world number 16 reached the quarter-final of the Australian Open, the last four at the US Open and secured a first ATP title in Tokyo in his first full season on tour in 2023.

But the 21-year-old ended his

campaign with first-round exits in Vienna and Paris, before another first-up loss last week in Brisbane.

"It was definitely a tough match playing against Fabian," said Shelton, who had received a first-round bye, after getting past the world number 65 in 71 minutes.

"I had a tough win against him last year at a Challenger tournament. So really cool to have a match-up first against him, he's a great player. It was a fun match but happy to get



Ben Shelton

through it."

Shelton, who sent down 10 aces, faces a quarter-final on

Thursday against Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena, who beat Austrian seventh seed Sebastian Ofner 7-5, 6-3, one of several seeds to tumble out yesterday.

Loeb ready for big new test after tough Dakar day

Bahrain Raid Xtreme driver collects time penalty as Saudi Al Rajhi extends rally lead

● Loeb and Lurquin face navigational challenges, receiving a 15-minute penalty

● Today introduces a daunting 48-hour Chrono stage with unique challenges

● Al Attiyah claims yesterday's victory, moving to second place overall

TDT | Manama

After a punishing day in the Dakar Rally, Sébastien Loeb must again look to make up for lost time with Bahrain Raid Xtreme as the event prepares to go offline in Saudi Arabia.

Opening the road on yesterday's 118km Stage 5 between Al-Hofuf and Shubaytah was always going to be tricky for Loeb and Fabian Lurquin in the BRX



Sebastien Loeb in full flight at the wheel of his Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter

Prodrive Hunter, and it became even tougher when they collected a 15 minute penalty for missing a waypoint.

It was a reminder of how unforgiving the Dakar can be, as Saudi Arabia's Yazeed Al Rajhi

extended his overall lead to 9 mins 3 secs in his Toyota Hilux, and Loeb slipped three places to ninth following his thrilling

stage victory 24 hours earlier. This was a day on which the

time was questionable, ahead of today's first half of the daunting new 48-hour Chrono stage.

With separate courses for the cars and motorbikes, yesterday's winner will start first in the morning without the benefit of



Sebastien Loeb strategically aimed to lose time in yesterday's stage to secure a favourable road position for the upcoming challenges

“We had a clean stage. We wanted to lose some time on this one to have a good road position for tomorrow. I'm not sure what will be our position with the time we lost, but hopefully it will be good and we can do well tomorrow”

SEBASTIEN LOEB

lost, but hopefully it will be good and we can do well tomorrow.”

It was another tough examination for the crews, who were up at the break of dawn in the bivouac to travel 527 km just to reach the start of yesterday's stage taking them back into the relentless dunes of the Empty Quarter.

The opening of the new two-day marathon stage today will see competitors spread between eight bivouacs overnight, with basic camping provisions and no connection, in between time trials of 572km and 483km.

BIC offers thrill of driving a Formula 1 circuit in Orange Media Open Track this Saturday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is offering motorsport fans the incredible experience of driving a world-famous grand prix race track in its hugely popular Orange Media Open Track activity, taking place this Saturday in Sakhir.

Participants will be able to bring their very own road cars or motorbikes and take them out for a spin at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

Saturday's event will be held along BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix circuit—the same raced on by the biggest stars in the world such as in Formula 1 and the World Endurance Championship.



A car is seen on the track at BIC (file photo)

Orange Media Open Track is one of the most highly attended offerings at BIC, giving speed enthusiasts the chance to satisfy their craving for an adrenaline-pumping thrill. All this,

while having the peace of mind to push their vehicle to its limit within a safe and controlled environment.

Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance in every Orange Me-

dia Open Track activity, so there is no close or aggressive overtaking permitted. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly by officials.

The cost to take part in Saturday's Orange Media Open Track, when booked in advance, is BD82.500 for the full day, BD55 for the half day and BD22 for a single session. Prices for booking on the day itself are BD93.500 for the full day, BD66 for the half day and BD27.500 for a single session.

Instructor sessions are also available at an extra cost, while additional drivers and passengers can also participate for a fee.

India's Kohli to miss T20 opener against Afghanistan

AFP | Mohali

Star India batsman Virat Kohli will miss the first of three Twenty20 internationals against Afghanistan due to "personal reasons", coach Rahul Dravid said yesterday.

Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma both returned to the T20 squad after more than a year's absence for the series starting Thursday in Mohali, as the teams prepare for the T20 World Cup in June.

"Virat Kohli will miss the first game due to personal reasons," Dravid said at a press conference.

"He will be playing from the second and third T20."

Kohli and Rohit last played a T20 international in November 2022, when India lost to England in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Dravid said Rohit and the left-handed Yashasvi Jaiswal remain as the team's first-choice openers in the T20 format.

"As of now, we will be certainly opening with Rohit and Jaiswal," Dravid said when asked if Kohli could open with Rohit.

"But when you have a squad, you have to have that flexibility to do whatever is required if that is in the best interest of the team and gives us the best chance to succeed."

"So nothing is closed. But certainly, we're really happy with what Jaiswal has done as



Virat Kohli in action



Dravid said Rohit and the left-handed Yashasvi Jaiswal remain as the team's first-choice openers in the T20 format

Smith to replace Warner as opener against West Indies

AFP | Sydney

Steve Smith will open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja against the West Indies in place of the retired David Warner, Australia selectors said yesterday, with all-rounder Cameron Green coming in at number four.

Warner bowed out of Test cricket the weekend after the last Test against Pakistan in Sydney, having been a fixture at the top of the order for 12 years.

Recognised openers Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris and



Australia's Steve Smith (right) and Cameron Green during a practice session

Matt Renshaw were long seen as the main contenders to fill the role, until Smith last week said he wanted to do the job.

"Steve Smith will be opening

the batting and Cameron Green will be coming into the number four position which is fantastic," chief selector George Bailey told reporters.

"Steve's motivated and energised and keen to do it."

"It's a challenge for him, it's something ... he thinks he can do. It's an itch he'd like to scratch and ultimately for us, as a team, it's something that fits."

The highly-rated Green has been sidelined recently by a resurgent Mitchell Marsh, who has assumed the all-rounder role.

Shifting Smith up the order, rather than opting for a specialist opener, allowed selectors to bring Green back primarily as a batsman.

"The way the rest of that batting order is functioning left us feeling like we have someone who we think is pretty talented, who potentially was going to find it hard to get any Test cricket in the next period," Bailey said of Green.

"I don't think that's going to be particularly beneficial for Greeny. We can get a lot of benefits out of him playing."

an opener for us, and he gives us a left-right combination as well at the top."

Jaiswal, 22, made the Indian team after a stellar show in the Indian Premier League last year when he scored 625 runs at a destructive strike-rate of 163.61.

Asian handball action begins!

Bahrain play Kazakhstan as part of opening day schedule today in 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship

● Tournament technical meeting held, participating national teams' kits presented

● Matches to be held at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, starting from 1pm

TDT | Manama

The 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship gets underway today in the Kingdom of Bahrain, kicking off the title bids of 16 of the continent's leading national teams.

Four matches are scheduled for today at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

At 1pm, Hong Kong take on the UAE in a Group D encounter, followed at 3pm by India facing Iraq in Group C. At 5pm, Japan square off with Saudi Arabia in another Group C fixture, and then at 7pm hosts Bahrain play Kazakhstan in Group D to get their home stand underway.

The prestigious competition, organised by the Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) in cooperation with the Asian Handball Federation, continues until 25 January.



Ali Issa attends the technical meeting

As part of the formalities ahead of the start of play, the event's official technical meeting took place yesterday with representatives from each of the participating nations on hand. BHA president and Bahrain Olympic Committee member Ali Issa was also present.

At the gathering, all issues relating to the tournament were discussed, and the kits of each of the participating national teams were presented.

The 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship also acts as a qualifier for 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship. The top five senior men's national teams secure berths in

TODAY'S GAMES

1pm: Hong Kong vs UAE
3pm: India vs Iraq
5pm: Japan vs Saudi Arabia
7pm: Kazakhstan vs Bahrain

next year's worlds, to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway.

Bahrain is hosting the continental competition for the fourth time in its history. It previously also staged the event in 2016, 2014 and 1993.

The championship's preliminary round will be held until Tuesday next week. The field has been divided into four groups for this stage, at the end



The championship's preliminary round will be held until Tuesday next week. The top two teams from each group move on to the main round and stay in contention for the coveted title. The bottom two squads will compete for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup

of which the top two from each move on to the main round and stay in contention for the coveted title.

The bottom two squads will compete for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup.

Group A features defending champions Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Chinese Taipei, while Group B includes Iran, South Korea, China and New Zealand. All eight of those teams will be in action tomorrow.



Bahrain national team officials at the meeting

Squad

Bahrain have a full-strength squad for the tournament, to be guided by head coach Aron Kristjansson from Iceland.

The Bahrainis are to be spearheaded by inspirational captain and international handball star Hussain Al Sayyad. The roster also features top veterans including goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Ali Eid, Hassan Shehab, Ahmed Almaqabi, Ahmed Jalal, and Hassan Al Samaheejji, along with the Kingdom's young talents such as Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mujtaba Al

Zaimour, Mohammed Hameed, Qassim Qambar, Ahmed Redha, Abdulla Al Zaimour, Hassan Madan, Jassim Khamis, Ali Al Ashiri and goalkeeper Hesham Issa.

The Bahrainis have never won the Asian men's title, but have claimed the silver medals five times in the past and also won the bronze medal once.

The nationals captured their silver in 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018 and in the 2022 championship. Their bronze medal was won in 1995.

Qatar are the reigning champions. They have won the gold medal the last five editions of the tournament.

Manama complete clean sweep of regular season

● Travin Thibodeaux scores 33 points to spearhead Manama against Al Ettihad

● Defending champions claim 10th straight win to head into Top Six undefeated

TDT | Manama

Manama defeated Al Ettihad 97-88 last night to complete their regular season campaign with an undefeated record in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

The defending champions now head into the Top Six stage as the number one seeds and a favourite to claim one of the available spots in the Golden Square semi-finals.

Ettihad, despite their loss, are also through to the ensuing stage of the leading six clubs, as are Al Hala, who were not in action yesterday.

The remaining teams that



Manama's Travin Thibodeaux goes for a floater as he is defended by Al Ettihad players during their game last night

qualify will be confirmed over the next two days, with up to four squads still vying for a place and keeping their title bids alive, including Al Najma, Al Ahli, Muharraq and Nuwaiderat.

They are also set to wrap up their regular season schedules this week. Tonight, Nuwaiderat take on Samaheej and Sitra face Isa Town, both of whom are currently winless. Tomorrow,

Ahli take on Bahrain Club and Muharraq square off with Hala.

Tie-break rules will need to

be applied should any of the

clubs finish with identical win-

loss records.

In last night's contest, Manama took a 24-17 lead at the end of the first quarter, which they

stretched to 56-37 at the half.

They maintained their strong

play in the third and then led by

Standings

	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	10	10	0	312	20
Al Ettihad	10	7	3	188	17
Al Hala	9	7	2	95	16
Al Najma	10	6	4	95	16
Al Ahli	9	6	3	92	15
Muharraq	9	5	4	115	14
Nuwaiderat	9	5	4	10	14
Samaheej	9	3	6	-118	12
Bahrain Club*	9	2	7	-236	10
Isa Town	9	0	9	-233	9
Sitra	9	0	9	-320	9

*One of Bahrain Club's losses was a forfeit due to a no-show

as many as 26 in the final canto before coasting to the finish line.

American professional Travin Thibodeaux spearheaded the victors with 33 points, while Ali Jaber and Ali Hussain finished with 16 points apiece. Sir'Dominic Pointer chipped in with 15.

Sayed Kadhem Majed came off the bench to pace Ettihad with 27 points, while Jordan Washington added 18 in the loss.

With the result, Manama closed the regular season with a 10-0 win-loss mark, while Ettihad went to 7-3.

Bahrainis fall to Angola in Dubai training match



Bahrain's Abdulla Yusuf looks to make a play as he evades an Angolan defender during their training match last night

morrow and continues until 10 February.

They had previously also lost to Australia, and the nationals failed to score in both matches.

Last night's game marked the end of the Bahrainis' training camp in Dubai where they were having their final lead-up to the AFC Asian Cup.

They are now scheduled to fly to the Qatari capital today.

Bahrain are in Group E for the competition's preliminary round along with South Korea, Malaysia and Jordan. The nationals kick off their campaign against the South Koreans on Monday at 2.30pm, and then take on their Malaysian counterparts on 20 January at 5.30pm. They complete the preliminaries against Jordan on 25 January at 2.30pm. All times are Bahrain.

Rybakina, Pegula dig deep to stay alive in Adelaide

AFP | Adelaide

World number three Elena Rybakina and fifth-ranked Jessica Pegula ground out wins at the Adelaide International yesterday to book their spots in the

quarter-finals. Coming off the back of crushing Aryna Sabalenka to lift the Brisbane International title on Sunday, top seed Rybakina had to battle hard to get past Spain's Cristina Busca 6-3, 7-5.

The Russian-born Kazakh, aiming for a deep run at the upcoming Australian Open, will face either Veronika Kudermetova or Ekaterina Al'exandrova for a place in the semi-finals.



Jessica Pegula during her match