



HRH Prince Salman attends journalism award ceremony

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday attended the seventh edition of the Prime Minister's Award for Journalism, held under his patronage.

Private sector projects 'engine to spur growth'



The Council meeting in progress

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The Bahrain and Saudi Arabia projects in the private sector are an engine to spur growth between the two countries. This was emphasised by Saudi Investment Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih as he addressed yesterday the fifth meeting of the Bahrain-Saudi Business Council.

He hailed the advanced level of investment cooperation between the two kingdoms, in line with the directives of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi, to set up a fund specialised in promoting investments in Bahrain.

Al Falih noted that the initiative aims to invest up to \$5 bil-

lion in key economic sectors in both countries. Joint platforms will also be set up in Bahrain to showcase feasible investment opportunities.

"A special portal for Bahraini investors with priority will also be launched," said Al Falih, noting that tourism integration between the two countries will also be revitalised.

The session focused on major development projects, key economic strategies, current developments and efforts to mitigate difficulties curbing exports, in addition to a recommendation to reactivate Al Khobar seaport to transport passengers and merchandise.

The two sides agreed to form a working group to follow up with the King Fahd Causeway Authority regarding exports and imports, issues related to investments and real estate projects to address the obstacles facing the development of partnership and cooperation between the private sector.

(Related report on Page 10)

Bolstering Bahrain, Saudi partnerships

HRH Prince Salman: We offer wide-ranging facilities to attract investment within the Kingdom's priority sectors

● Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council visions and goals hailed

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has stressed the importance of further strengthening the Bahrain and Saudi Arabia bilateral investment partnerships across sectors to meet joint development goals.

He noted that Bahrain offers wide-ranging facilities that continue to attract investment, particularly within the Kingdom's priority sectors, which support the economy.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Minister of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, at Riffa Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the depth of historic relations between the two countries, which continue to be reinforced by the



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Saudi Minister of Investment

support of both His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Royal Highness commended the far-reaching visions and goals that have been set by the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, including the opportunities it has created that has benefited both countries

and their peoples.

He noted the efforts of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in this regard.

HE Eng. Al Falih expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness, noting HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's

commitment to reinforcing Bahrain-Saudi cooperation. He wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunication, HE Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, also attended the meeting.

Attendance and departure

Rules set for public employees' flexible working hours system

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Civil Service Bureau President Ahmed bin Zayed Al Zayed issued Edict (1) of 2023 on CSB's instructions regarding the employees' attendance and departure system in government agencies.

This came following the Cabinet's approval of adopting the flexible working hours system across ministries and government agencies to provide employees with a three-hour window to begin their workday to increase productivity.

The instructions aim to set unified and fair attendance and departure rules for employees working in government agencies to improve and increase productivity, as well as create comfortable and convenient working environment.

Al Zayed indicated that the instructions clarify the procedures and measures necessary

to implement the flexible working hours system in a way that contributes to organising work and providing integrated data and reports that enable decision-makers to follow up on the attendance and departure system in those entities in an accurate and comprehensive manner.

He said that government agencies should instruct employees to adhere to the specified official working hours, while maintaining the provision of government services to the public quickly and effectively, according to performance indicators.

He indicated that the regular working system includes 36 hours weekly, from 07:00 am to 02:15 pm, from Sunday to Wednesday, and from 07:00 am to 02:00 on Thursday.

Regarding the official working hours for the extended working hours system, includ-

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The provisions of the flexible working hours system do not apply to employees working according to the shift system, part-time workers, medical, educational and vital jobs, except after CSB approval.

504 building permits issued

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As many as 504 building permits had been issued between January 1 and May 7 through the "Benayat" system, covering a total area of 384 thousand square metres, according to Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak.

The urban housing requests represented 75% or 380 permits out of the 504, followed by requests of special nature that make up to 18%, or 94 permits, while the number of investment buildings' permits accounted for 4%.

The minister noted that the "Benayat" Building Permit system issued 1,565 permit in 2022.

Al Mubarak affirmed that the system improved the permit request procedures by a 2.2 work days, out five working days for the level of the service.

Key partner in development

HRH Prince Salman attends Prime Minister's Award for Journalism seventh edition



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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has emphasised that the media is an essential partner in helping to achieve the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He said that the press plays a responsible and pivotal role by supporting the Kingdom's national economy and by showcasing its wide-ranging achievements on a regional and international level.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he attended yesterday the seventh edition of the Prime Minister's Award for Journalism, held under his pa-



HRH Prince Salman with the award winners, senior government officials and guests at the event

tronage.

His Royal Highness commended the heads of the national press institutions for their outstanding efforts informing local, regional, and international audiences on the Kingdom's

ongoing development projects.

Winners

Awards were then presented to the following media professionals: Best Column Award: Khalil Yousif from Alayam news-



paper; Best Investigative Journalism Award: Rashid Al Gha'eb from Al Bilad newspaper; Best Interview Award: Hassan Al Sitr from Alwatan newspaper and Mohammed Al Jeyosi from Al Bilad newspaper; and Best Photography Award: Yousif Tulefat from Bahrain News Agency.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister extended his congratulations to the winners and wished them further success in their careers.

He expressed his pride in the

efforts made by the Kingdom's media professionals to raise awareness and knowledge in a responsible, fair, and ethical manner.

Freedom of expression

The Minister of Information Affairs, HE Dr Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Nuaimi, thanked His Royal Highness for sponsoring the award ceremony and supporting freedom of expression, which is a fundamental component of the Kingdom's constitu-

tion. Dr Al Nuaimi congratulated this year's winners, noting that the awards represent the Kingdom's appreciation for their efforts and highlighting that their achievements incentivise their peers.

The winners expressed their gratitude and appreciation for His Royal Highness' continued support of the Kingdom's media professionals and institutions.

Several senior officials, journalists, and media professionals also attended the ceremony.

Hilton And SAYACORP Hospitality Announce Plans To Open Internationally Acclaimed SUSHISAMBA In Downtown Bahrain



L-R- Aligi Gardenghi (Vice President, Operations, Arabian Peninsula, Hilton), Fawaz Al Jowder (CEO, SAYACORP AQAR on behalf of SAYACORP HOSPITALITY) and Omar Gutierrez (Group Co-CEO SUSHISAMBA)

Manama, Bahrain, 15 May 2023

Hilton (NYSE: HLT) has announced the signing of an agreement with SAYACORP Hospitality to introduce the iconic SUSHISAMBA restaurant brand to the highly anticipated Conrad Residences Bahrain Financial Harbour - marking the debut for the global brand in the country. SUSHISAMBA is expected to open in late 2023.

Commenting on the signing, Emma Banks, vice president, F&B strategy and development, EMEA, Hilton, said: "The signing of SUSHISAMBA in partnership with SAYACORP Hospitality, marks Hilton's second SUSHISAMBA restaurant in the region after SUSHISAMBA Doha. Part of the upcoming Conrad Residences Bahrain Financial Harbour in downtown Bahrain, we are excited to see the restaurant deliver the highest standards of hospitality, lifestyle, and culinary experiences as part of this globally renowned brand."

SUSHISAMBA Bahrain will bring a unique blend of Japanese, Brazilian, and Peruvian culture and cuisine. The restaurant will feature a stunning design, bar, terrace, and pool with sweeping views of the Manama seafront and Bahrain Bay. The new location will join the brand's highly acclaimed venues in Dubai, London, Doha, and Las Vegas.

Fawaz Al Jowder, CEO of SAYACORP Aqar on behalf of SAYACORP Hospitality, said: "We are excited to sign this partnership with Hilton and SUSHISAMBA. This will be one of the most unique culinary concepts

SUSHISAMBA Bahrain will bring a unique blend of Japanese, Brazilian, and Peruvian culture and cuisine.

coming to Bahrain, with captivating 360-degree views from the hotel's rooftop showcasing both the city and seafront. This agreement cements our support for Bahrain's Vision 2030, which includes a wealth of upcoming developments designed to entice business and leisure travellers to the region."

SUSHISAMBA Group Co-CEO, Omar Gutierrez, said: "We are excited to bring SUSHISAMBA to Bahrain and are proud of our collaboration with Hilton and SAYACORP Hospitality W.L.L. Bahrain is an incredibly interesting, diverse country, bustling with culture, hospitality, and business commerce, which makes it a perfect location and natural fit for the next phase of SUSHISAMBA."

Hilton currently operates two hotels in the Kingdom of Bahrain - Hilton Bahrain and Hilton Garden Inn Bahrain Bay and has another two openings in the pipeline - Conrad Residences Bahrain Financial Harbour and Hilton Manama City Centre Residences.

For more information about SAYACORP Hospitality, please contact us at info@sayacorphospitality.com.

Bahrain-US relations



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received yesterday the US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Steven C. Bondy. They reviewed solid historical relations and strategic partnership between the two friendly countries, stressing common efforts to further bolster them. Both sides also discussed regional and international issues of common interest.

Bahrain Metro Project operational within two years

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

Part of the Bahrain Metro Project will be operational within two years, according to government officials.

Three ministries revealed their plans for the Bahrain Metro Project with the authorities last week during a meeting.

The project would involve a partnership with private companies from Bahrain and overseas.

As per the Indian media report, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has been awarded the contract to build Bahrain Metro's Phase-1 Project. The project entails the construction of a 20-station, almost 3030 kilometres network.

DMRC will contrast four metro lines for Bahrain Metro in two phases as part of the project.

At the metro junction of Bab Al Bahrain and Al Farooq, two



An artist's impression of the Bahrain Metro Project

interchanges are also anticipated. The first metro line will run from Bahrain International Airport to Seef Mall, according to the DMRC.

King Faisal Highway and Airport Avenue will be traversed. It will be 13 kilometres long, with 9 stations.

Juffair to Issa town will be served by the second metro line. There will be 11 stations along its 15.6-kilometre

length. Together with other places, it will link Salmaniya, Zinj, and Tubli, according to sources.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health also shared its plans to complete the Qalali Health Center, expand Salmaniya Hospital, and build some clinics.

These projects are going to cost BD1.5 billion, with funding from the state, Gulf financing, and other sources.

Unique, brilliant artwork on display

Bahrain Businesswomen's Society holds one-of-a-kind Art Exhibition 'Entilaq' at Safeya Ali Kanoo Hub

Julia Cassano and Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Colourful paintings, 3D art pieces, and creative, practical furniture were showcased yesterday at the first Bahrain Businesswomen's Society Art Exhibition, "Entilaq," by 13 of its female artists.

It was held on behalf of HE Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa, Chairman of the National Council for Arts and HE Shaikha Dwa bint Khalid Al Khalifa, member of The National Council for Art.

The one-of-a-kind art expo, located at the Safeya Ali Kanoo Hub, sponsored by Naseej, will proceed for the week.

Manar Sirriyeh, board member and head of the Cultural and Economic Committee, said the name "Entilaq" was chosen to describe the takeoff of the first art exhibition by the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society.

Every piece of art symbolises something different, and each artist presents a unique sense of identity through different themes, colours, and styles, all products of their own artistic and intellectual innovations.

The Daily Tribune spoke to some of the artists to get a deeper



Aisha Akbari



Latifa Khalid Al Shaikh



Noor Saeed Al Sairafi

understanding behind the impressive artwork.

Painting since she was 8 years old, Aisha Akbari, has regained her love for art, displaying her unique paintings at the expo, inspired by her life and bright colours. Her "Thoub Al Nashil" painting, incorporating golden colours and accents, captivates the traditional dress a woman would wear on her wedding day.

She also displayed her "Blossoms" art piece, inspired by her love of bright colours and worldly travels.

When speaking with artist Noor Saeed Al Sairafi, she said: "Pursuing my love of art is a way

to relieve stress, that is how my love and passion for art began and blossomed. Most of my artwork is influenced by nature, hence the three paintings today depicting the feel of lavender, the beauty of flowers, and the calming sense of the beach and sunset."

Like many, during the pandemic, new talents and hobbies were found, and some found the time to pick up old passions. Rand Alkishtaini, the interior decorator, and furniture designer, claimed her passion whilst studying online and honing her artistic talents during the pandemic, which is where she set forth the idea to

begin painting.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Alkishtaini said: "My ultimate goal and passion is to create desired art where the art can be used in a practical way."

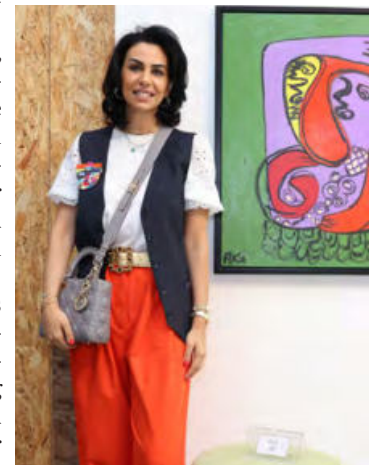
Latifa Khalid Al Shaikh, owner of Latifaalshaikh.art, said that her passion lies with 3D paintings made with various mixed medium materials to display different textures.

"With each art piece, there is a different story behind it, but I aim to include self-expression in all of my pieces. Rather than creating a flat surface in my pieces, I prefer to create 3D art, where every person can enjoy their own

experience and impression of the art," Latifa shared.

On the occasion, Ahlam Janahi, president of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society said: "The society is interested in all cultural and artistic activities that support its members, showcase their outstanding artistic talents, and display the Kingdom as a cultural and artistic destination.

"Many of our society members believe this is an important opportunity to support outstanding women in these arts, hoping that the exhibition will be a good place for them to encourage their talents and development of their art."



Rand Alkishtaini

Al Baraka Islamic Bank B.S.C.(c)

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 MARCH 2023



INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March 2023 [Reviewed]

	Reviewed 31 March 2023 BD'000	Audited 31 December 2022 BD'000
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and financial institutions	70,024	61,239
Receivables	146,922	169,216
Ijara Muntahia Bittamleek and ijara receivables	225,845	211,856
Musharaka	68,366	90,270
Investments	387,916	423,044
Investments in real estate	3,331	3,331
Investment in joint venture	7,061	6,948
Premises and equipment	35,077	37,065
Goodwill	2,983	3,739
Other assets	22,313	19,708
Total assets	969,838	1,026,416
LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS, SUBORDINATED MUDARABA AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Current accounts	91,634	91,631
Murabaha and other payables	93,307	64,767
Other liabilities	43,162	42,671
Total liabilities	228,103	199,069
Equity of investment accountholders (IAH)	642,840	721,190
Subordinated mudaraba	4,550	5,881
EQUITY		
Share capital	57,100	57,100
Additional tier-1 capital	36,192	36,192
Reserves	(10,271)	(6,595)
Retained earnings	5,683	6,093
Equity attributable to parent's shareholders	88,704	92,790
Non-controlling interest	5,641	7,486
Total equity	94,345	100,276
TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS, SUBORDINATED MUDARABA AND OWNERS' EQUITY	969,838	1,026,416
OFF-BALANCE SHEET ITEMS:		
EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS	278,854	313,171
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	126,213	128,475

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the three month period ended 31 March 2023 [Reviewed]

	Three months ended 31 March	
	2023 BD'000	2022 BD'000
INCOME FROM JOINTLY FINANCED ASSETS		
Financings	8,922	8,018
Investments	3,397	2,660
Income from jointly financed assets	12,319	10,678
Return on equity of investment accountholders before Group's share as a Mudarib	(11,878)	(8,817)
Group's share as a Mudarib	1,044	1,954
Return on equity of investment accountholders	(10,834)	(6,863)
Group's share as a Mudarib and Rabalmal	1,485	3,815
INCOME FROM SELF FINANCED ASSETS		
Financings	590	804
Share of income from investment in joint venture	113	228
Investments	4,573	3,286
Income from self financed assets	5,276	4,318
INCOME FROM BANKING SERVICES AND OTHERS		
Revenue from banking services	894	1,161
Other income	870	463
Group's Mudarib / Agency fee from off-balance sheet equity of investment accountholders	12	-
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME BEFORE OTHER FINANCING COST	8,537	9,757
Other financing costs	(656)	(359)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	7,881	9,398
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	(3,052)	(3,177)
Depreciation	(898)	(916)
Other operating expenses	(2,443)	(2,757)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(6,393)	(6,850)
NET OPERATING INCOME	1,488	2,548
Allowances for impairment - net	(537)	336
NET INCOME BEFORE TAXATION	951	2,884
Taxation	(716)	(705)
INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	235	2,179
Attributable to:		
Equity of the parent's shareholders	(214)	1,767
Non-controlling interest	449	412
	235	2,179

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the three month period ended 31 March 2023 [Reviewed]

	Three months ended 31 March	
	2023 BD'000	2022 BD'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income before taxation	951	2,884
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	898	916
Allowances for impairment - net	537	(336)
Gain on sale of investments	(4)	(385)
Share of income from investment in joint venture	(113)	(229)
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	2,269	2,850
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Balances with central banks in mandatory reserves	1,446	7,596
Receivables	10,637	(7,534)
Ijara Muntahia Bittamleek and ijara receivables	(13,871)	(11,570)
Musharaka	21,444	3,945
Other assets	(2,671)	(733)
Other liabilities	305	2,746
Murabaha and other payables	28,540	(15,298)
Current accounts	3	(11,791)
Equity of investment accountholders	(78,349)	12,985
Tax paid	(657)	(20)
Net cash used in operating activities	(30,904)	(16,824)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(11,448)	(19,835)
Sale / redemption of investments	46,456	33,918
Sale in premises and equipment	1,091	192
Net cash generated from investing activities	36,099	14,275
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Subordinated mudaraba	(1,331)	(125)
Cash used in financing activities	(1,331)	(125)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(5,141)	(1,161)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,277)	(3,835)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	45,440	111,586
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	44,163	107,751

For the purpose of the interim consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

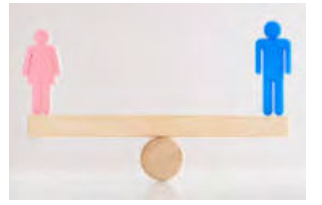
	2023 BD'000	2022 BD'000
Cash on hand	9,876	12,787
Balances with central banks in unrestricted account	10,532	7,549
Balances with other banks and financial institutions (with original maturity of 3 months or less)	18,738	41,718
Receivables - Commodities and Wakala placement with Financial institutions (with original maturity of 3 months or less)	5,017	45,697
Total	44,163	107,751

These statements have been extracted from financial statements audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, who expressed an unqualified opinion on 14 May 2023

Sabah Khalil Al Moayyed
Chairman

Hamad Abdulla Aloqab
Chief Executive Officer and Board Member

Bahrain population 'heavily imbalanced'



Julia Cassano

TDT | Manama

Bahrain currently faces a skewed gender ratio, as although the Kingdom's population has increased by 13,000 between 2022 and 2023, 38.1 per cent of Bahrain's population is female, whilst 61.9 per cent is male, according to the latest available data.

Although these numbers may seem alarmingly disproportionate, the United Nations claims that by 2050, the worldwide sex ratio is expected to even out.

The latest data also says that the countries with the biggest male-to-female ratios are Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain.

Why do the Gulf countries contain such disproportionate populations?

The wide sex imbalances that Gulf countries are facing are mainly due to the large immigrant populations of male temporary workers. Around half of the Kingdom's population are migrant workers.

Pew Research claims that when a majority of a population is young, this tends to produce more males, as more boys are born than girls.

This is more prevalent in countries where sex-selective abortions and female infanticide can contribute to imbalanced sex ratios at birth.

How can a skewed gender ratio impact a society?

Studies cite imbalanced populations as dangerous as in most societies, there are strong social norms and pressures for men and women to find a partner and have children. Therefore, when a population is heavily skewed with more males than females, this means both genders cannot adhere to those social norms.

Studies show that when people cannot adhere to social norms, this may impact their long-term economic prospect. Also, heavily skewed gender imbalances not only cause frustration amongst those trying to find a partner, but large imbalances in the ratio can become more of an individual problem.

For example, young men are already more drawn to risky behavior, however, when coupled with frustrations rooted from a predominately male society, their actions can become a greater risk.

However, Pew Research Center says that events like war, famine, or disease could also heavily impact and alter the world's gender balance, as events like such could cause a greater number of deaths for females or males, and affect migration trends.



Bahrain Flour Mills Company B.S.C.

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 March 2023

	31 March 2023 (Reviewed) BD	31 December 2022 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,202,100	5,172,814
Right-of-use assets	1,216,962	1,240,334
Investment securities	1,539,094	1,541,475
	7,958,156	7,954,623
Current assets		
Investment securities	10,968,457	10,824,052
Inventories	7,234,561	8,618,655
Receivables and other assets	2,198,087	4,141,240
Cash and bank balances	7,031,047	5,698,048
	27,432,152	29,281,995
TOTAL ASSETS	35,390,308	37,236,618
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	2,481,877	2,481,877
Share premium	1,350,000	1,350,000
Statutory reserve	1,241,625	1,241,625
Other reserves	3,463,628	3,463,628
Retained earnings	16,550,956	16,683,756
Total equity	25,088,086	25,220,886
Non-current liabilities		
Employees' end of service benefits	122,558	113,004
Lease liabilities - non-current portion	1,166,054	1,185,464
	1,288,612	1,298,468
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities - current portion	65,475	61,420
Term loan	1,085,950	-
Trade payables and other liabilities	1,162,464	638,425
Government subsidy received in advance	6,698,439	-
Import finance loans	274	8,169,905
Bank overdraft	1,008	1,847,514
	9,013,610	10,717,264
Total liabilities	10,302,222	12,015,732
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	35,390,308	37,236,618

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the three-month period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Three-month period ended	
	31 March 2023 BD	31 March 2022 BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the period	512,840	2,891,878
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	102,590	108,451
Amortisation on right-of-use-assets	23,372	12,857
Net change in fair value of investment securities at profit or loss	(144,405)	(2,735,518)
Interest income from investment securities at amortized cost	(18,717)	-
Interest income from bank balances	(27,454)	(956)
Finance costs	38,299	8,359
Provision for slow moving and obsolete inventories	25,203	2,295
Charge for expected credit losses	4,500	-
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	10,282	15,723
Operating profit before working capital changes	526,510	303,089
Working capital changes:		
Inventories	1,358,891	(46,283)
Receivables and other assets	1,968,342	(479,793)
Trade payables and other liabilities	(122,510)	3,870,068
Net cash generated from operations	3,731,233	3,647,081
Employees' end of service benefits paid	(728)	-
Donation paid	(12,048)	(20,000)
Net cash flows from operating activities	3,718,457	3,627,081
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(131,876)	(13,358)
Interest income received - net	18,863	956
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(113,013)	(12,402)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of import finance loans	(8,169,631)	(3,151,194)
Proceeds from term loan availed	1,085,950	-
Government subsidy received in advance	6,698,439	-
Finance costs paid	(25,342)	(8,359)
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(15,355)	(4,595)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(425,939)	(3,164,148)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,179,505	450,531
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	3,850,534	96,192
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	7,030,039	546,723
Comprising:		
Cash on hand	1,033	964
Bank balances	7,030,014	1,809,333
Bank overdraft	(1,008)	(1,263,574)
	7,030,039	546,723

INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the three-month period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Three-month period ended	
	31 March 2023 BD	31 March 2022 BD
Revenue	2,215,526	2,029,943
Cost of revenue	(6,718,587)	(5,200,658)
Gross loss before Government subsidy	(4,503,061)	(3,170,715)
Government subsidy	5,167,500	3,601,716
Other operating income	11,259	10,300
Gross profit	675,698	441,301
Other operating expenses	(339,215)	(303,138)
Operating profit	336,483	138,163
Net change in fair value of investment securities at profit or loss	144,405	2,735,518
Interest income from investment securities at amortized cost - net	18,717	-
Finance costs	(38,299)	(8,359)
Other income	51,534	26,556
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	512,840	2,891,878
Basic and diluted earnings per share (fils)	21	116

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the three-month period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Share capital BD	Share Premium BD	Reserves		Retained earnings BD	Total BD
			Statutory reserve BD	Other reserves BD		
At 1 January 2023	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	16,683,756	25,220,886
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	512,840	512,840
Charity approved for 2022	-	-	-	-	(25,000)	(25,000)
Dividends declared for 2022	-	-	-	-	(620,640)	(620,640)
At 31 March 2023	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	16,550,956	25,088,086
At 1 January 2022	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	15,901,795	24,438,925
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	2,891,878	2,891,878
Charity approved for 2021	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Dividends declared for 2021	-	-	-	-	(620,640)	(620,640)
At 31 March 2022	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	18,153,033	26,690,163

The condensed interim financial information were reviewed by Ernst & Young - Middle East, approved by the Board of Directors on 14th May, 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Basim AlSaie
Chairman

Salah Mohamed Al Kulaib
Vice Chairman

Wayne Henry Craig
Chief Executive Officer

FINANCIAL RESULTS

31 March 2023

Interim Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Reviewed 31 March 2023 BD 000	Audited 31 December 2022 BD 000
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank of Bahrain	86,806	78,648
Due from banks	24,071	45,028
Financing contracts	1,011,659	999,251
Investments in equity	3,413	3,419
Investments in sukuk	284,966	290,034
Receivables and other assets	121,577	144,993
Premises, equipment and right of use assets	3,525	3,707
TOTAL ASSETS	1,536,017	1,565,080
LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Customers' current accounts	122,414	137,461
Due to banks	845	17,339
Due to non-banks	110,049	108,784
Other liabilities	23,584	19,960
TOTAL LIABILITIES	256,892	283,544
EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS - QUASI EQUITY		
Banks	262,418	264,155
Non-banks and individuals	850,324	832,285
TOTAL EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS - QUASI EQUITY	1,112,742	1,096,440
OWNERS' EQUITY		
Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent		
Share capital	132,519	132,519
Statutory reserve	30,405	30,405
Proposed dividend	-	22,172
Retained earnings	3,459	-
TOTAL OWNERS' EQUITY	166,383	185,096
TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY	1,536,017	1,565,080
OFF-BALANCE SHEET		
EQUITY OF RESTRICTED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS	123,935	122,380
ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT	730,090	725,987
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS	37,648	57,128

Interim Consolidated Statement of Income

For the three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended 31 March	
	2023 BD 000	2022 BD 000
Income from financing contracts	15,621	14,819
Income from sukuk	3,350	3,660
Income from investments - net	622	583
Income from due from banks	577	280
OPERATING INCOME	20,170	19,342
Return on equity of investment account holders (wakala)	(9,480)	(4,493)
Return on equity of investment account holders (mudaraba) before Group's share as mudarib	(2,138)	(2,370)
Group's share as mudarib	1,880	2,044
Return on equity of investment account holders (mudaraba) after Group's share as mudarib	(258)	(326)
Profit on due to banks and non-banks	(1,499)	(1,324)
NET OPERATING INCOME	8,933	13,199
Staff costs	3,300	3,084
Depreciation and amortisation	317	326
(Reversal of) / allowance for impairment and credit losses - net	(547)	400
Other expenses	2,404	2,286
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	5,474	6,096
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	3,459	7,103

Interim Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended 31 March	
	2023 BD 000	2022 BD 000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income for the period	3,459	7,103
Adjustments for:		
(Reversal of) / allowance for impairment and credit losses - net (excluding recovery from written off accounts)	(1)	412
Depreciation and amortisation	317	326
Net gain on sale of repossessed assets	-	(41)
Foreign exchange gain	(260)	(173)
Sukuk premium amortisation	352	272
Operating income before changes in operating assets and liabilities	3,867	7,899
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Mandatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	(910)	(1,266)
Due from banks	-	(25,681)
Financing contracts	(12,238)	9,692
Receivables and other assets	1,067	61,034
Customers' current accounts	(15,047)	(1,867)
Due to banks	(16,494)	7,177
Due to non-banks	1,265	(127,765)
Other liabilities	4,019	5,670
Net cash flows used in operating activities	(34,471)	(65,107)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Disposal (purchase) of investment in sukuk - net	4,704	(20,988)
(Purchase) disposal of premises and equipment - net	(135)	61
Net cash flows from (used in) investing activities	4,569	(20,927)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in equity of investment account holders	16,302	84,558
Payments of obligation in relation to right-of-use assets	(138)	(264)
Net cash flows from financing activities	16,164	84,294
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(13,738)	(1,740)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	74,526	178,285
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	60,788	176,545

Interim Consolidated Statement Of Changes in Owners' Equity

For the three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)

	Share capital BD 000	Statutory reserve BD 000	Fair value through equity reserve BD 000	Retained earnings BD 000	Proposed dividend BD 000	Total owners' equity BD 000
Balance at 1 January 2023	132,519	30,405	-	-	22,172	185,096
Net income and other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	3,459	-	3,459
Dividend	-	-	-	-	(22,172)	(22,172)
Balance at 31 March 2023	132,519	30,405	-	3,459	-	166,383
Balance at 1 January 2022	132,519	27,942	1,850	-	21,767	184,078
Net income for the period	-	-	-	7,103	-	7,103
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	85	-	-	85
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	85	7,103	-	7,188
Dividend	-	-	-	-	(21,767)	(21,767)
Balance at 31 March 2022	132,519	27,942	1,935	7,103	-	169,499

These statements have been extracted from the interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023, reviewed by EY. These interim condensed consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14 May 2023. Kuwait Finance House (Bahrain) B.S.C.(c) is licensed by the CBB as an Islamic retail bank.

Mohammad Naser AlFouzan
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Abdulhakeem Yaqoub Alkhayyat
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

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Kuwait Finance House
Bahrain B.S.C.(c) (م.ب.م.ب.م.ب.)
Licensed as an Islamic Retail Bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain



Filipino beach clean-up drive successful

TDT | Manama

Filipino volunteers held a clean-up drive at the Secret Garden in Seef Area as part of the Earth Day celebration.

Around 30 bin bags of litter were collected by volunteers from Siklista sa Bahrain, Ronda Patrol Cycling, and Bahrain Electric Scooter Team, headed by Jose Buno Bernardo III.

One of the event sponsors, Mr Rene Ramos of Lolo's Kitchen, said that he supported the clean-up campaign to clean the beach and protect the environment from the ever-increasing global warming.



Mr Rene Ramos of Lolo's Kitchen and Jose "JB" Bernardo III of Siklista sa Bahrain with fellow Filipino volunteers



6th Bahrain Smart Cities Summit to begin tomorrow

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will host the sixth edition of the Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2023, which will kick off tomorrow at the Gulf Hotel, under the patronage of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak.

Taking part in the two-day summit are 250 participants, including engineers, consultants, experts in the sectors of technology, sustainability, smart cities, academics and government agencies from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Union countries.

During the summit's 10 sessions, 20 work papers will be presented, and more than 40 keynote speakers will discuss key themes, including mainly smart cities solutions and technology of the future, smart buildings and digital twinning, as well as smart and sustainable agriculture techniques.

Korean Arts Brass Band receives enthusiastic feedback from Bahraini audience

TDT | Manama

The Korean Embassy, in collaboration with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), has organised a concert by the Korean Arts Brass Ensemble at the Cultural Hall.

BACA President Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa was present at the musical event government, along with officials, diplomatic corps and culture loving audience in the kingdom.

The Korean Ambassador to

Bahrain, Hye Kwan Chung, said that the band is one of the leading Brass ensembles in Korea and individually won various awards in international competitions.

Ambassador Chung shared his strong belief in the performance

of the band, lauding their ability to indulge the audience senses into the glorious harmony of a brass ensemble.

The performance took the audience on a journey through original soundtracks, jazz arrangements and some K-pop

music pieces. The highlight of the band's Bahrain performance was a rendition of the famous Gulf hit song "Ma Ma'akum Khabar Zain" in collaboration with Dana Al Abdulla, a pianist from the Bahrain Defense Force Band.



United Gulf Investment Corporation BSC

Condensed interim consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	31 March 2023 (Reviewed)	31 December 2022 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	29,107,111	29,732,644
Investment in associates	2,449,546	2,286,100
Right-of-use assets	237,885	252,079
	<u>31,794,542</u>	<u>32,270,823</u>
Current assets		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	256,000	256,000
Inventories	19,284,374	13,685,442
Trade and other receivables	8,252,732	7,848,110
Mudaraba deposits	1,503,835	1,909,577
Cash and bank balances	4,670,998	7,702,113
	<u>33,967,939</u>	<u>31,401,242</u>
Total assets	<u>65,762,481</u>	<u>63,672,065</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000
Statutory reserve	3,400,568	3,400,568
Share premium	116,328	116,328
Other reserves	7,076,318	6,235,195
Equity attributable to shareholders of the parent	30,593,214	29,752,091
Non-controlling interest	7,617,132	7,346,835
	<u>38,210,346</u>	<u>37,098,926</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current portion of term loans	17,028,950	17,028,950
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	414,591	436,118
Employees' terminal benefits	775,620	758,669
	<u>18,219,161</u>	<u>18,223,737</u>
Current liabilities		
Current portion of term loans	1,910,625	1,910,625
Current portion of lease liabilities	85,693	85,418
Trade and other payables	7,336,656	6,353,359
	<u>9,332,974</u>	<u>8,349,402</u>
Total equity and liabilities	<u>65,762,481</u>	<u>63,672,065</u>

Condensed interim consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the three months period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)	Three months ended 31 March 2022 (Reviewed)
Subsidiary sales	10,014,222	15,238,610
Subsidiary cost of sales	(7,630,064)	(10,730,867)
Subsidiary gross profit	2,384,158	4,507,743
Other income	11,015	17,235
	<u>2,395,173</u>	<u>4,524,978</u>
Expenses		
General and administrative expenses	(1,098,160)	(353,236)
Finance costs	(69,333)	(78,517)
	<u>(1,167,493)</u>	<u>(431,753)</u>
Net profit for the period before Zakat and share of profit from investment in associates	<u>1,227,680</u>	<u>4,093,225</u>
Share of profit from investment in associates	35,240	48,443
Net profit for the period before tax	<u>1,262,920</u>	<u>4,141,668</u>
Provision for Zakat	(151,500)	(106,050)
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	<u>1,111,420</u>	<u>4,035,618</u>
Net profit attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Parent	841,123	3,055,673
Non-controlling interest	270,297	979,945
	<u>1,111,420</u>	<u>4,035,618</u>
Basic and diluted earnings per share	<u>4.21 fils</u>	<u>15.28 fils</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Parent	841,123	3,055,673
Non-controlling interest	270,297	979,945
	<u>1,111,420</u>	<u>4,035,618</u>

Condensed interim consolidated statement of cash flows for the three months period ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)	Three months ended 31 March 2022 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net profit for the period	1,111,420	4,035,618
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	645,914	688,089
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	14,194	14,194
Written-off provision for slow-moving inventories	-	(1,361,842)
Reversal of provision for slow-moving inventories	(777,591)	-
Reversal of excess share of loss from investment in associates	-	(78,973)
Net share of profit from investment in associates	(35,240)	(48,443)
Bank interest income	(7,380)	-
Finance costs	69,333	78,517
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(4,821,341)	367,230
Trade and other receivables	(404,622)	(80,820)
Trade and other payables	983,297	310,243
Employees' terminal benefits, net	16,951	5
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(3,205,065)</u>	<u>3,923,818</u>
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(20,381)	(325,133)
Addition to investment in associates	(128,206)	-
Dividends received during the period	-	50,042
Net movement in Mudaraba deposits	405,742	-
Bank interest income received	7,380	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>264,535</u>	<u>(275,091)</u>
Financing activities		
Finance costs paid	(67,681)	(67,764)
Proceeds from term loans	-	6,631,645
Repayment of term loans	-	(8,225,590)
Repayment of lease liabilities including interest	(22,904)	(68,712)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(90,585)</u>	<u>(1,730,421)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(3,031,115)</u>	<u>1,918,306</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	7,702,113	7,145,725
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	4,670,998	9,064,031

Condensed interim consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the three months ended 31 March 2023 (Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent					Non-controlling interest	Total	
	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Share premium	Revaluation reserve	Retained earnings			
At 31 December 2021 (Audited)	20,000,000	3,134,426	116,328	4,329,043	(489,124)	27,090,673	6,499,883	33,590,556
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	3,055,673	3,055,673	979,945	4,035,618
At 31 March 2022 (Reviewed)	20,000,000	3,134,426	116,328	4,329,043	2,566,549	30,146,346	7,479,828	37,626,174
At 31 December 2022 (Audited)	20,000,000	3,400,568	116,328	4,329,043	1,906,152	29,752,091	7,346,835	37,098,926
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	841,123	841,123	270,297	1,111,420
At 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)	20,000,000	3,400,568	116,328	4,329,043	2,747,275	30,593,214	7,617,132	38,210,346

These unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial information were approved, authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on their

Rashed Abdulla Al Suwaiket Al Hajri
Chairman

Abdulla Fahad Al-Subaie
Vice - Chairman

Bahrain Flour Mills company reports Q1 profit

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Flour Mills company yesterday reported a first-quarter 2023 net profit of BHD 512,840, compared to BHD 2,891,878 in the same quarter a year ago. Al-Matahin attributed the decrease to decline in fair value of investment.

Earnings per share decreased to 21 fils from 116 fils in prior-year quarter.

Operating profit surged 144% to BHD 336,483 from BD 138,163 in the year-ago quarter, thanks to a decrease of operating expenses, in addition to the increase in sales flour products.

With regards to sales, the Company achieved BHD 2,215,526, compared to BHD 2,029,943 in the year-earlier quarter, with an increase of 9%.

Total equity decreased by .5% to BHD 25,088,086 com-



Basim AlSaie

pared with 25,220,886 recorded as of 31 December 2022.

The total assets reached BHD 35,390,308 compared to BD 37,236,618 in the year 2022, with a decrease of 5%.

The results were announced during a board meeting held yesterday chaired by Basim AlSaie, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mazad invites bids for Sitra Power and Water Station

● The auction will conclude on 23rd of May

TDT | Manama

Mazad said it's continuing to accept bids for the auction of the Sitra Power and Water Station, which will close at 10am on May 23, 2023.

The Electricity and Water Authority, the current owner of the site, is working in collaboration with Mazad, a subsidiary of the Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, to identify a buyer. The auction commenced in early February, with the bidding process starting at BHD 10,200,000.

The successful bidder will be accountable for disassembling all equipment, structures, and production unit foundations and accessories at the Sitra plant. Additionally, they will need to arrange the necessary tools and machinery for the plant's dismantlement.

The Sitra plant was operational for over 40 years prior to its closure in 2021. The site has highly specialised equipment which could be repurposed including; six desalination distillers with a processing capacity of up to 25 million gallons per day; six steam boilers; four



Talal Al Araif



The Sitra plant was operational for over 40 years prior to its closure in 2021.

25 MW capacity steam turbines with generators; a gas turbine with a capacity of 25 MW; two gas reduction stations; numerous pumps, transformers, switches and electrical

Talal Al Araif, Chief Executive Officer of Mazad, said: "The opportunity to purchase and dismantle the Sitra station, with its various constituent parts, is a unique one for any investor and helps Mazad in its aims of helping the local economy and kick-starting projects that will increase national revenue."

Sitra Power and Water Station Features

- Six desalination distillers
- Six steam boilers
- Four 25MW capacity steam turbines with generators
- One 25MW gas reduction
- Pumps of various sizes
- Transformers, switches and electrical cables

Bank ABC first quarter net profit surges 94%

TDT | Manama

Bank ABC yesterday reported a 94% surge in its first quarter profit as operating income grew helped by growth across all core markets and beneficial interest rates.

The Group said it has started the year on a robust footing with a strong 21% growth in revenues compared to the same period last year driven by diversified business growth and tailwinds from rising interest rate environment. The balance sheet remained healthy, maintaining strong capital and liquidity ratios.

Consolidated net profit attributable to the shareholders of the parent was US\$60 million, a growth of 94% from US\$31 m in the year-ago quarter.

Earnings per share was US\$0.02, up 94% from US\$0.01 in the same quarter last year.

Total comprehensive income attributable to the shareholders of the parent was negative US\$1 m, compared to an income of US\$8 m reported in 2022, primarily due to depreciation of the Egyptian pound against US\$,



Saddek Omar El Kaber



Bank ABC Head Office in Bahrain

Loans and Advances, stood at US\$17.9 billion, slightly lower than the US\$18.2 bn reported at 2022 year-end, with deal volume set to pick up across the rest of 2023.

Looking ahead, the Group said it remains focused on disciplined cost control while continuing its investments into the strategic digital initiatives to build its 'bank of the future'.

Commenting, Bank ABC's Group Chairman, Saddek Omar El Kaber, said, "We are delighted with the excellent start to the year, which builds on business momentum from 2022 and continues to show performance acceleration, with a remarkable 94% increase in our Q1 net profit compared to same period last year."

He added: "While there are global banking industry pressures and economic challenges in a number of our markets, the Group's diversified business portfolio and robust balance sheet management positions Bank ABC to continue its strong upward trend in profitability improvement over the rest of 2023."

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME				
At 31 March 2023		For the three months ended 31 March 2023				
	Reviewed 31 March 2023 US\$ '000	Audited 31 December 2022 US\$ '000	Three months ended 31 March 2023 Reviewed US\$ '000			
ASSETS						
Cash and balances with banks	757	1,152				
Due from banks	10,624	8,519				
Investment in sukuk	11,179	11,170				
Investment in equities and funds	4,293	4,293				
Investment in real estate	19,421	19,421				
Equipment	179	185				
Other assets	530	2,125				
TOTAL ASSETS	46,983	46,865				
LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Staff payables	657	773				
Other liabilities	363	465				
Total liabilities	1,020	1,238				
Owners' Equity						
Share capital	59,039	59,039				
Accumulated Losses	(19,514)	(19,850)				
Reserves	6,438	6,438				
Total owners' equity	45,963	45,627				
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY	46,983	46,865				
			2022 Reviewed US\$ '000			
INCOME						
Profit on investment in sukuk			133			
Profit on due from banks			117			
			250			
Investment banking fees			24			
Ijarah income from investment in real estate			312			
Other income			102			
OPERATING INCOME			688			
EXPENSES						
Staff costs			185			
Depreciation			6			
General and administrative expenses			161			
OPERATING EXPENSES			352			
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE NET CHARGE FOR EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES			336			
Net charge for expected credit losses			(82)			
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD			336			
			2022 Reviewed US\$ '000			
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY						
For the three months ended 31 March 2023						
	Share capital US\$ '000	Statutory reserve US\$ '000	General reserve US\$ '000	Total reserves US\$ '000	Accumulated losses US\$ '000	Total owners' equity US\$ '000
Balance at 1 January 2023 (Audited)	59,039	4,212	2,226	6,438	(19,850)	45,627
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	-	336	336
Balance at 31 March 2023 (Reviewed)	59,039	4,212	2,226	6,438	(19,514)	45,963
	Share capital US\$ '000	Statutory reserve US\$ '000	General reserve US\$ '000	Total reserves US\$ '000	Accumulated losses US\$ '000	Total owners' equity US\$ '000
Balance at 1 January 2022 (Audited)	59,039	4,046	2,226	6,272	(21,340)	43,971
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	-	84	84
Balance at 31 March 2022 (Reviewed)	59,039	4,046	2,226	6,272	(21,256)	44,055
INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS						
For the three months ended 31 March 2023						
	Three months ended 31 March					
	2023 Reviewed US\$ '000	2022 Reviewed US\$ '000				
Net cash flows generated from / (used in) operating activities	1,706	(519)				
Net cash flows generated from investing activities	4	-				
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,710	(519)				
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	9,676	5,506				
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	11,386	4,987				
<p>Mohamed Al Sharif Chairman Ameer Abdul Ghani Director Bader Al Abbasi Acting Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>These were extracted from the Financial Statements on which Deloitte & Touche - Middle East issued an unqualified opinion dated 9th May 2023 which are available on LMC website. These Financial Statements have been Authorized for issuance in accordance with a resolution of the board of Directors dated 8th May 2023. Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C.(c) is Licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as Wholesale Islamic Bank. The Bank's total equity as at 31 March 2023 is US\$ 45,963 million (31st December 2022: US\$ 45,627 million) which is less than the minimum capital requirement of US\$ 100 Million required under LR Module of Volume 2 of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) rule book (LR- 2.5.2B), and the Shareholders of the Bank, in their Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") held on 27 April 2020, passed a resolution approving the conversion of the Bank's license from an Islamic Wholesale Bank to a Bahrain Shareholding Company subject to CBB approval.</p> <p>Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C.(c) CR 49092 P.O. Box 11567, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 1756 8568, Fax: +973 1756 8569 Email: info@lmc Bahrain.com</p>						



News in brief

◆ **Ukraine's President** Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday called Germany a "true friend" in his country's battle against Russia, as Berlin pledged unwavering support for Kyiv ahead of a widely expected counter-offensive. Berlin unveiled a new military package for Kyiv worth 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion), its biggest yet for Ukraine, as Zelensky made his first visit to Germany since Russia's invasion. The Ukrainian president had travelled to Berlin for talks with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier after meeting Italian leaders and Pope Francis in Rome. His next destination later Sunday will be another European heavyweight France, where meetings are expected with President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, sources told AFP. Zelensky's weekend diplomatic tour comes ahead of an EU summit in Reykjavik and a gathering of G7 leaders in Japan.



Zelensky calls Germany 'true friend' as Ukraine readies riposte

◆ **Iranian authorities** have arrested eight people for "leading" a workers' strike at a key gas site in the south of the country, local media reported yesterday. "Eight main leaders of the workers' strike in the South Pars projects have been arrested by the intelligence services," Akbar Pourat, the deputy local governor, was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency. Some 40,000 people are employed at the South Pars/North Dome mega-field, the largest known gas reserve in the world, which Iran shares with Qatar. "Eight companies and subcontractors active in this area have been blacklisted for incitement to strike," Pourat added. In early May, local media reported the arrest of external contractors involved in supporting strike calls in the same area.

◆ **Russia says two military commanders killed in east Ukraine** Russia said yesterday that two of its military commanders had been killed in combat near the frontline hotspot of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine. In a rare announcement of its losses on the battlefield, the Russian defence ministry said the commander of the 4th motorised rifle brigade, Vyacheslav Makarov, and the deputy commander of the Army Corps for military-political work, Yevgeny Brovko, had been killed in fighting in eastern Ukraine. The announcement came as battles raged for control of Bakhmut in the eastern region of Donetsk. Colonel Makarov was killed as his brigade repelled attacks by Ukrainian troops south of the settlement of Krasne, the defence ministry said in a statement.

◆ **Cyclone Mocha** crashed through Myanmar and southeastern Bangladesh yesterday, sparing sprawling refugee camps but bringing a storm surge to swaths of western Myanmar where communications were largely cut off. Mocha made landfall between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Myanmar's Sittwe packing winds of up to 195 kilometres (120 miles) per hour, in the biggest storm to hit the Bay of Bengal in over a decade. By late Sunday the storm had largely passed, AFP correspondents said, and India's weather office said it would weaken as it hit the rugged hills of Myanmar's interior. Some 400-500 makeshift shelters were damaged in camps housing almost one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar but there were no immediate reports of casualties, refugee commissioner Mizanur Rahman told AFP.

◆ **Category 5 Cyclone Mocha hits Myanmar, Bangladesh**

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

'This is boring'

AFP Britons have been having a ball celebrating Charles III's coronation with one notable exception -- the king himself. Charles looked deeply miserable for most of the historic ceremony at Westminster Abbey. He seemed particularly glum in the golden carriage that carried him and Queen Camilla through the cheering crowds. His mood was not helped by having to wait outside for his



son William and his wife Kate to take their seats. According to a lip reader employed by Sky News, Charles complained to Camilla: "We can never be on time. This is negative... This is boring."

Missing you already

A book about dealing with grief has been charged with murdering her husband. Kouri Richins penned "Are You With Me?" -- which was billed as "heartwarming and reassuring" -- after finding her husband Eric dead in bed after mixing him a drink. The Utah man had earlier told a friend "he thought his wife was trying to poison him". An autopsy revealed he had died from an overdose of the defence-

Hill tribes, Spider-Man and elephants: Thailand votes

● 52 million people were registered to vote

● Opposition parties have led in polling

Chiang Mai

From Hmong hill people voting in the shadow of mist-cloaked jungle mountains to Spider-Man cosplayers on Bangkok's scorching streets, millions turned out to cast their ballots in Thailand's election yesterday.

Voters are tipped to deliver a resounding defeat to incumbent Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha after a campaign that has played out as a clash between a reformist young generation and the conservative, military-backed establishment. Some 52 million people were registered to vote across the sprawling kingdom.

In northern Chiang Mai, hundreds of Hmong hill people queued to vote in an echoing teak-pillared hall as roosters crowed, shortly after polls opened at 8:00 (0100 GMT). "This election is good for everybody since we will see a big change that we have been waiting for the past eight years," Jidapa Wangwanapat told AFP. "If this election turns out well



Pheu Thai Party's prime ministerial candidates Paetongtarn Shinawatra (R) and Srettha Thavinsin (L) talk to media persons as they arrive to watch live results on a screen at the party headquarters in Bangkok



Two men dressed as Spiderman to encourage people voting perform in front of a queue of voters

and there's no corruption, then I think the country would be better," the 22-year-old said.

Opposition parties have led in polling ahead of the election, building on voters' dissatisfaction with a struggling economy and a feeble post-pandemic recovery. "I expect this election will

change Thailand for the better since the economy is really bad at the moment," Maethawee Wangwanapat told AFP.

"I hope this election will move the country into a better direction," said Maethawee, 30, wearing a traditional Hmong blue velvet embroidered jacket. Hmong people -- who in

Thailand mainly live in northern Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai -- have a complicated history with central Thailand and some continue to face discrimination. "This is their future"

Hundreds of miles south near the ancient capital Ayutthaya, elephants helped at a local polling station, local media reported, with photos of the pachyderms queuing with voters.

The scenes in the capital Bangkok were no less colourful as two men dressed as Spider-Man, one carrying a guitar, entertained people on the hot streets.

And while most prime ministerial candidates took a quiet luxury approach to their outfits, Bhumjaithai party leader Anutin Charnvirakul -- who oversaw the legalisation of cannabis in Thailand -- voted wearing a shirt decorated with the green leaf.

On the other end of the spectrum, pro-democracy activist Parit Chiwarak, who goes by the nickname "Penguin", voted with a cardboard box on his head.

Emblazoned with the slogan "EC don't cheat the election", his message was a reference to Thailand's Electoral Commission and fears that, in a country with a long history of coups, the result of the ballot may not be respected.

Pakistan ex-PM Imran Khan calls for nationwide protests



Police commandos escort former Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan (C) as he arrives at the high court in Islamabad

Lahore

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan called for nationwide "freedom" protests yesterday, after his brief arrest and detention this week triggered deadly unrest.

The one-time cricket superstar -- who has been tied up in dozens of legal cases since being ousted from power in April last year -- was freed on bail on Friday after his detention was declared unlawful by the Supreme Court.

Enraged by the arrest, supporters set fire to government buildings, blocked roads and damaged property belonging to the military, which they blame for Khan's downfall.

"Freedom does not come easily. You have to snatch it. You have to sacrifice for it," he said in an address broadcast on YouTube Saturday night.

He called for supporters to hold protests "at the end of your streets and villages" across the country on Sunday evening for one hour starting at 5:30 pm (1230 GMT).

After five days of tumult across Pakistan, Sunday morning was quiet, but Khan has

also pledged to return to campaigning on Wednesday for immediate elections.

For months, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party leader has waged a campaign of defiance against the military. His arrest on Tuesday came just hours after he was rebuffed for claiming senior officials were involved in an assassination attempt against him last year.

"The army chief's actions have made our military bad. It is because of him, not because of me," Khan said from his home in Lahore, although it was unclear whether he meant the serving chief, or his predecessor, whom Khan has held responsible for his ouster.

He previously told reporters that "one man, the army chief" was behind his arrest. But Khan distanced himself from the attacks against the military's installations at the protests, denying his party workers were involved and calling for an independent investigation into the violence.

The army, which denies the accusations made by Khan, on Saturday warned against attempts to create "misperceptions" against the institution.

Armenia, Azerbaijan leaders meet in Brussels as tensions simmer

Armenia and Azerbaijan's leaders met yesterday for talks in Brussels amid heightened tensions on the tense border between the two countries over control of a contested enclave.

The talks between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev are being hosted by European Council President Charles Michel. The meeting, the fifth of its kind under European mediation, began shortly after 1:00 pm (1100 GMT), Michel's spokesman said. Michel held bilateral talks with Pashinyan on Saturday evening and with Aliyev on Sunday morning.

The talks come a day after fresh clashes erupted on the border between the two Caucasus countries.

On Friday, the Armenian government announced that one Armenian soldier had been killed and two others wounded by Azerbaijani forces.

On Thursday, an Azerbaijani soldier was killed and four Armenian soldiers wounded in other clashes.

Pashinyan accused Azerbaijan of seeking to "undermine the talks" in Brussels and said there was "very little" chance of signing a peace accord with Aliyev. The neighbours fought two wars in the early 1990s and 2020 over control of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ukraine troops, Western arms targeted in strikes: Russia

Moscow, Russia Moscow said yesterday that Russian forces had struck Western arm depots and Ukrainian troops in the western city of Ternopil and the eastern town of Petropavlivka.

Russia's armed forces "delivered a strike with high-precision long-range air and sea-based weapons at the points of deployment of the Ukrainian armed forces," the defence ministry said in a statement.

"Places of storage of ammunition, weapons and military equipment received from Western countries" were also struck, it said, adding that "all" targets had been hit.

Russia targeted Ternopil as Ukraine's Eurovision act Tvorchi, who hail from the western town, performed in Liverpool on Saturday night.

"Our hometown... was bombed by Russia while we sang on the Eurovision stage about our steel hearts, indomitability and will," Tvorchi posted, dedicating their performance to "all cities of Ukraine that are shelled every day."

Legal fund for man charged in New York subway death tops \$1.6 mn

● Neely was reportedly not physically threatening anyone

● Witnesses said Penny allegedly restrained Neely after the latter was screaming at passengers for food and drink and said he was willing to die

AFP | New York

A crowd-funding effort supporting the man charged over the chokehold death of a homeless person in New York has raised more than \$1.6 million on a platform known for facilitating funding of far-right figures. The death earlier this month of Jordan Neely, a Michael Jackson impersonator who often performed on the subway, sparked outrage after it was caught on camera.

Daniel Penny, a 24-year-old US Marine veteran, was charged with manslaughter in the second degree and released on bail. The charge accuses Penny of "recklessly" causing the death of 30-year-old Neely, but it stops



US Marine veteran Daniel Penny (C) is walked out of the New York Police Department 5th Precinct in Lower Manhattan on his way to an arraignment after he surrendered to authorities after being charged with 2nd Degree Manslaughter in the chokehold death of Jordan Neely.

short of saying he had intent to kill. The online fund supporting him was set up by the law firm Raiser & Kenniff, P.C., which is representing Penny.

It's available on the crowd-funding site GiveSendGo, which bills itself as "The #1 Free Christian Fundraising Site." GiveSendGo has drawn attention for allowing campaigns other crowd-funding sites have removed for violating their terms, particularly those run by alt-

right and white supremacist groups.

Conservative Florida Governor Ron DeSantis -- who has not officially declared a presidential bid but who is widely expected to run for the Republican nomination -- threw his defense behind Penny on social media, calling to "stop the Left's pro-criminal agenda, and take back the streets for law abiding citizens."

"We stand with Good Samaritans like Daniel Penny. Let's show this Marine... America's got his back."

Neely's death on May 1 infuriated activists and many lawmakers, prompting several protests calling for the arrest of Penny.

The video showed Neely on the ground of a subway train as Penny is seen holding him around the neck for several minutes in front of a few onlookers.

Witnesses said Penny allegedly restrained Neely after the latter was screaming at passengers for food and drink and said he was willing to die.

Neely was reportedly not physically threatening anyone. Family and friends told local media that he had a history of mental illness, like many living on the streets in the city of almost nine million residents.

IBM employee on sick leave for 15 years sues company for no pay rise

NDTV

A senior IT worker who's been on sick leave since 2008 took his employer to court for discrimination because he didn't receive a salary hike, *Telegraph* reported. As per the report, Ian Clifford is employed by tech giant IBM but he's been sick for the past 15 years. According to his LinkedIn profile, he's been "medically retired" since 2013.

However, he claimed that he was a victim of "disability discrimination" because his salary had not been increased in the 15 years he has worked. Under an IBM health plan, the IT specialist receives more than 54,000 pounds (Rs 55,30,556) a year and is guaranteed to receive the salary until he is 65.

But, the employee argued that the health plan was "not generous enough" because his salary will wither over time due to inflation. Notably, Clifford first went on sick leave in September 2008 and things remained as such until 2013 when he



Clifford first went on sick leave in September 2008

raised a grievance. Heeding his complaint, IBM offered him a "compromise agreement" where he was put onto the company's disability plan so he wouldn't be dismissed. Under the plan, a person who is unable to work is not dismissed but remains an employee and has "no obligation to work".

An employee on the plan has a "right" until recovery, retirement, or death if earlier, to be paid 75% of agreed earnings. In his case, his agreed salary was 72,037 pounds, meaning from 2013 he would be paid 54,028 pounds per year after 25% was deducted. The plan was fixed in place for more than 30 years until he reached retirement age at 65.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Phishing a threat to e-banking & e-transactions



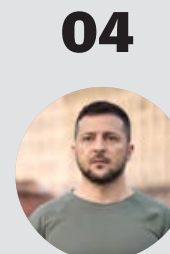
TOP 4 TWEETS 01 Today, I join families across America in celebrating the moms and women filling the role of a mother in our lives. Our mothers and grandmothers believe in us, sacrifice for us, and lift us up. They're the people in our lives who have given us the most. Happy Mother's Day. @POTUS



02 The meeting with Mr. Doug McMillon, CEO of Walmart, was a fruitful one. We had insightful discussions on different subjects. Happy to see India emerge as an attractive destination for investment. @narendramodi



03 Until the Supreme Court struck down Biden's vaccination decree, he tried to demand that we fire all unvaccinated personnel -- some of our finest people. @elonmusk



04 I thank Germany for the largest military aid package since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion. German air defense systems, artillery, tanks and infantry fighting vehicles are saving Ukrainian lives and bringing us closer to victory. @ZelenskyyUA

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

Phishing, is an electronic crime, that refers to luring techniques used by identity thieves to "fish" for personal information in a pond of unsuspecting internet users. It is a general term for the creation and use by criminals of e-mails and websites that have been designed to look like they are coming from well-known, legitimate trusted businesses, financial institutions and gov. agencies. The disguised e-criminals deceive internet users to disclosing their bank and financial information or other personal data such as usernames and password...etc.

Phishing continues to be regarded as one of the most rapidly growing class of identity theft scams on the internet that is really causing both short-term losses and long-term economic damages that cause grave financial losses to their potential victims. Recent available data indicates that criminals are increasing the number of their victims "consumers" who have suffered from credit card fraud, identity fraud, and related financial losses incurred from such acts. The estimated losses from phishing attacks are now in billions of dollars worldwide and the losses are tremendously growing on daily basis. An urgent action, from concerned entities, to combat this electronic threat is required immediately.

Depending on the type of fraud that a criminal commits with the aid of stolen identifying data, many individuals and or business corporations may lose anywhere from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands of dollars. We are witnessing this every day in many types of e-banking transactions. Phishing also poses a particular threat because techniques used are constantly evolving. For example, "vishing" which is one of the forms of "phishing" involves identity thieves sending an e-mail designed in the same way as a phishing e-mail, yet instead of providing a fraudulent link to click on, the e-mail provides a customer service number that the client must call and is then prompted to "log-in" using account numbers and passwords.

Alternatively, consumers will be called directly and told that they must call a fraudulent customer service number immediately in order to protect their account. Spear phishing, also, is an e-fraud technique whereby there are e-mails that appear to be genuine and they are sent at the same time to all employees or staff members within a certain company, gov. agency, organization or group. Here, much like a standard phishing e-mail, such message(s) might look like it comes from an employer or from a colleague who might send an e-mail message to everyone in the company, in an attempt to gain log-in information.

Spear phishing scams, are very dangerous and they work to gain access to the company's entire computer system. The financial sector is the most heavily targeted for phishing schemes and this network spreads to cover leading banks and financial institutions as well as small entities and no one is protected from this new electronic crime going all around the globe and crossing borders, without being noticed. The short-term effect of these scams is to defraud individuals and financial institutions. It has been noted that in some phishing schemes, criminals were able to convince up to at least 5% of their recipients to respond to their e-mails, resulting in a significant number of consumers who have suffered credit card fraud, identity theft and financial loss.

In the long run phishing may also undermine public trust in the use of the internet for online banking and e-commerce because phishing can make them less likely to use the internet for their business transactions and legitimate commerce communications. Due to the seriousness of this e-crime and the threats to all, we believe that a strong legislative framework is fundamental and required for combating identity theft and other mechanisms and / or methods used to that end such as "phishing" and "vishing", or any other new name for e-crimes.

The cybercriminal code, e-crimes laws and internet regulations should be revised with the intention of defining and punishing such new trend of e-crimes & e-criminals. Moreover, banks and financial institutions are urgently required to take all technical appropriate measures to defend their systems from such intruders and trespassers. Cybersecurity is imminent for business survival.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Saudi Arabia plans to invest \$5 billion in Bahrain, says Al Faleh

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia is planning to invest about \$5 billion in various economic sectors in Bahrain, revealed Saudi Minister of Investment, Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Faleh.

This move is in response to the directives of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who has authorised the allocation of a specialised fund for investment in Bahrain.

Al Faleh also announced that Saudi Arabia is working to achieve economic integration between the two countries, particularly in the private sector.

These comments were made during the 5th meeting of the joint Bahraini-Saudi Business Council, which was co-chaired by Sameer Nass, the Chairman of Bahrain Chamber, and Abdulrahman bin Saleh Al Otaishan.

Other attendees included Bahrain's Transportation and



Ministers and top officials during the 5th meeting of the joint Bahraini-Saudi Business Council

Telecommunications Minister, Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi, President of the Federation of Saudi Chambers, Hasan bin Mujeb Al Huwaizi, members of the joint council from both sides, and several officials.

During the meeting, Nass ex-

pressed his pride in the strong fraternal relationship between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and highlighted the growing economic cooperation between the two nations.

The volume of trade between them amounted to \$3.9 billion in

2022, with Bahrain's exports to Saudi Arabia reaching \$3 billion.

Nass also stressed the untapped opportunities and potential for further trade and joint investments, pledging to make more efforts to boost economic ties.

NBB introduces Points Monthly Challenge for daily transactions

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has recently introduced a new rewards-based gamification experience to its Points by NBB users. Through a series of challenges, customers will be able to earn additional rewards when using the Bank's various channels and services to complete different challenges. Under the theme "Points Monthly Challenge", customers can elevate their banking journey with challenges that focus on daily engagements that meet their financial needs such as types of transactions, as well as the number of transactions and their total value.

Supported by its brand promise of being "Closer to You", NBB's latest campaign is the first of its kind in the Kingdom, offering an extensive lineup of exciting challenges on daily banking activities, including: credit and prepaid card expenditure both locally and internationally, sending money locally and internationally using NBB's Digital Banking app, and cash withdrawals from NBB's ATMs.

Customers are required to add or update their email address through Points by NBB as they will be receiving a weekly email on their challenge status. Users will begin earning additional rewards at the end of the monthly challenge.



Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking at NBB, said: "We are pleased to be the first bank in Bahrain to introduce a gamification experience through our loyalty rewards platform."

On his end, Omar Al Adhami, Head of Retail Digital Banking at NBB, said: "From daily spending to cash withdrawals on NBB's ATMs, the various challenges will enable Points by NBB users to gain rewards for their lifestyle choices through our digital channels. NBB continues to deliver engaging campaigns that bring us closer to our customers."

Points by NBB enables customers to redeem their base points through cashback, Air Miles from Gulf Air, donations to various charities. As for their bonus points, it can be redeemed against raffle tickets that allows them to participate in different raffles taking part throughout the year to win valuable prizes. Customers can earn more when they bank more with NBB, enjoying a vast range of offers and discounts with participating merchants.

Mumtalakat CEO meets Saudi minister



Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) met with Khalid A. Al-Falih, Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia, during his visit to Bahrain. The meeting explored new areas of cooperation with Saudi Arabia's sovereign investment institutions, as well as investment opportunities within Mumtalakat's portfolio companies. Shaikh Abdulla emphasised the significant role of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council in strengthening economic ties.



AIB names April winner of BD100,000



The award ceremony
TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank (AIB) announced Hasan Ghailan as winner of April's BD100,000 Grand Prize following a raffle draw.

Ali Al Derzi, Acting Chief Retail Officer of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, welcomed all to open an account or increase

their balances in alBarakat to enhance their chances of winning. The current alBarakat scheme offers a Monthly Grand Prize of BD100,000 for one winner, in addition to weekly cash prizes of BD500 for eight winners, as well as four weekly prizes for customers who have never won in the alBarakat account.

EDB Chief meets Saudi minister



Khalid Humaidan, Chief Executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB), received Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment, for a meeting during the Minister's official visit to Bahrain. Humaidan highlighted the vital role of Bahrain EDB in attracting direct investment and discussed potential areas of cooperation across the priority sectors, namely financial services, manufacturing, logistics, information and communications technology (ICT), and tourism; and respective strategic projects in line with Economic Recovery Plan. As of 2022, Saudi Arabia's FDI stock in Bahrain reached \$9.1 billion, making up 26% of total FDI, which totals up to approximately USD 35.4 billion. During 2022, Bahrain EDB attracted over USD 1.1 billion, which is projected to create over 6,000 new jobs in the Kingdom over the next three years.

Zain and Ericsson announce deploying new 18% more energy efficient 5G hardware

TDT | Manama

● First of its kind in the Kingdom

● To accelerate 5G mid-band spectrum deployment and boost capacity, coverage, and connectivity speeds

Zain Bahrain has recently deployed Ericsson's New 5G Hardware that is expected to save up to 18% more energy and weighs less than earlier generations of 5G radios.

The new 5G hardware is the lightest and smallest Massive MIMO radio in the industry and is



Ali Isa Al Yaham

also the most energy-efficient radio of this type deployed in the region. It is also designed to accelerate 5G mid-band spectrum deployment and boost capacity, coverage, and connectivity speeds.

Ali Isa Al Yaham, Chief Technology Officer at Zain Bahrain, "Zain Bahrain aims to create a more sustainable future by de-

ploying the latest energy-efficient technologies into its network and infrastructure. The new 5G hardware will improve energy efficiency and reduce the cost of operations and the impact on the environment. We will continue to provide our consumers and enterprises with the best network performance."

Zain Bahrain said it is committed to continually evolving its network in the most sustainable way possible.

The telco will continue to test more innovative technologies in the future as part of its sustainability strategy and the Kingdom's effort to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

celebs



Britney Spears 'staying awake for three consecutive days on energy drinks'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Britney Spears has reportedly been staying awake for "three consecutive days" on energy drinks. The 'Toxic' singer, 41, who has been free of her conservatorship since April 2022, reportedly has Red Bull, Celsius and other caffeinated beverages "nonstop". Sources told TMZ her alleged daily was part of "craving" a "high". The outlet added its upcoming TV special, 'Britney Spears: The Price of Freedom' will detail the singer's life in the 13 months since she was freed from her conservatorship. A trailer for the show also

revealed it would delve into her third marriage, to Sam Asghari, 29, as well as her family feud. Britney recently shot down TMZ's report that she "almost died" amid reports in February her friends had been planning an intervention for her. The mum-of-two said on Instagram: "It makes me sick to my stomach that it's even legal for people to make up stories that I almost died. "I mean at some point enough is enough!!! I'm probably going to have to stop posting on Instagram because even though I enjoy doing it, there's obviously a lot of people who don't wish me well!!! "I'm honestly not surprised at all... Again doing the best I can!!! Again, the conservatorship has been over for almost a year... No folks, it's not 2007... it's 2023 and I'm making my first homemade lasagna at home!!! "I finally got my fireplace to work in my living room!!! As my hubby says it best: don't believe everything you read!!! All that love right back at ya!!!"

After Britney was accused of having a "meltdown" at a restaurant in January, Sam told TMZ his wife was only "frustrated" fans were filming her and invading her privacy during their meal. Britney later temporarily deleted her Instagram, prompting concerned fans to call police, which led to offices performing a welfare check on the singer at her home - which she said was the result of her followers going "too far" and invading her space.

Britney Spears

Jamie Foxx is out of hospital following health scare

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jamie Foxx has been out of hospital "for weeks". The Oscar-winning star was hospitalized back in April because of a medical complication - but his daughter Corinne has taken to social media to reveal that he's now out of hospital. Corinne, 29, wrote on Instagram: "My Dad has been out of the hospital for weeks, recuperating. (sic)"

Corinne revealed that the 55-year-old actor recently played a game of pickleball, and she also thanked fans for their support over recent weeks. Speaking to fans via Instagram, she said: "Thanks for everyone's prayers and support! We have an exciting work announcement coming next week too!"

Corinne made the comments following a recent wave of speculation about her dad's health. Earlier this month, Jamie took to social media to thank fans for their support. However, he didn't mention anything about leaving hospital.

The Hollywood star wrote on Instagram: "Appreciate all the love!!! Feeling blessed [prayer and heart emojis] (sic)"

Jamie Foxx

My Dad has been out of the hospital for weeks, recuperating. Thanks for everyone's prayers and support! We have an exciting work announcement coming next week too!

JAMIE FOXX

Corinne also shared the post on her own Instagram page. She captioned the post: "Thanks for the love!"

In April, Corinne announced that her dad was suffering from a medical complication.

However, little else has been shared about his health over recent weeks.

In a statement written on behalf of her family, Corinne explained: "We wanted to share that my father, Jamie Foxx, experienced a medical complication yesterday.

"Luckily, due to quick action and great care, he is already on his way to recovery. We know how beloved he is and appreciate your prayers. The family asks for privacy during this time."

Jamie suffered the issue while he was working on the Netflix movie 'Back in Action', which also stars Cameron Diaz and Glenn Close. The actor was last seen on the set on April 10.

Tom Hanks isn't fazed by criticism of his novel

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Tom Hanks feels confident he can "handle" criticism of his new novel.

The 66-year-old actor feels proud of 'The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece' - which has been inspired by his career in Hollywood - and Tom insists he won't be fazed by any negative reviews.

The veteran movie star told the BBC that he has become "stronger when it comes down to really being torn apart".

In his novel, Tom refers to film stars who are "cry-babies, psychological train wrecks, on-the-wagon alcoholics [and] off-the-wagon addicts".

The actor also revealed that he opposes airbrushing classic books for modern audiences,

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Tom Hanks' collection of short stories, 'Uncommon Type', was published in 2017 and has sold more than 234,000 copies in the UK

after novels by the likes of Ian Fleming and Agatha Christie were recently amended by their publishers.

Tom explained: "I'm of the opinion that we're all grown-

ups here. Let's have faith in our own sensibilities as opposed to having somebody decide what we may or may not be offended by.

"Let me decide what I am offended by and what I'm not offended by. I would be against reading any book from any era that says 'abridged due to modern sensitivities'."

Meanwhile, Tom previously claimed that he's only made four "pretty good" movies during his career.

The Oscar-winning actor also described the film-making process as a "miracle".

Tom - who has starred in movies such as 'Forrest Gump', 'Philadelphia' and 'Saving Private Ryan' - told PEOPLE: "No one knows how a movie is made, though everyone thinks they do.

"I've made a ton of movies - and four of them are pretty good, I think - and I'm still amazed at how film s c o m e t o - g e t h e r. From a flicker of an idea to the flickering image onscreen, the whole process is a miracle."

Tom Hanks



Jennifer Lopez wants her kids to 'stand in their own truth'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jennifer Lopez wants her children to "unapologetically be themselves".

The 53-year-old star has 15-year-old twins Emme and Max with her ex-husband Marc Anthony, and Jennifer has revealed what life lessons she'd like to

pass on to her kids. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "To stand in their own truth and unapologetically be themselves.

"I try to do that more as I've gotten older and grown up a bit and I want them to know that there's nothing that they can't accomplish, that they are very limitless.

"That is a real thing and if you believe that you can accomplish anything in your life and I hope they're getting that from me."

The chart-topping star also revealed that she's planning to take it easy on Mother's Day.

Jennifer - who married Ben Affleck in 2022 - said: "I mean, it's like a day off. I'm looking forward to just spending it at home with the kids, with the hubby."

Jennifer Lopez



Jennifer Garner would have loved to have become a minister: 'My mom still thinks I will be!'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Jennifer Garner would have loved to have been a minister.

The 'Elektra' actress, 51, who takes children Violet, 17, and Seraphina, 14 - who she had with her 50-year-old former husband Ben Affleck - to

church, added her mum still thinks she may still swap careers and take up holy work.

She told the latest issue of Allure magazine: "I would have really liked being a minister. My mom thinks I still will be. I grew up in such a lovely church in the United Methodist Church, and the minister was like the den parent."

Jennifer added about

identifying with the creative side of theology: "What I like about the study of religion, it reminds me of the study of theatre - it's really a liberal arts education.

"You have to understand history, geography, literature. It's art, it's everything. I don't know anything about Hinduism, Islam, so many other religions, and I wish I did. That feels like a sign of

respect." Jennifer went on about how she thinks the church brings together communities: "I think the more you engage, the more you learn about different ways that people believe and worship, the more you can sit next to anyone and be a neighbour.



Jennifer Garner

SUDOKU

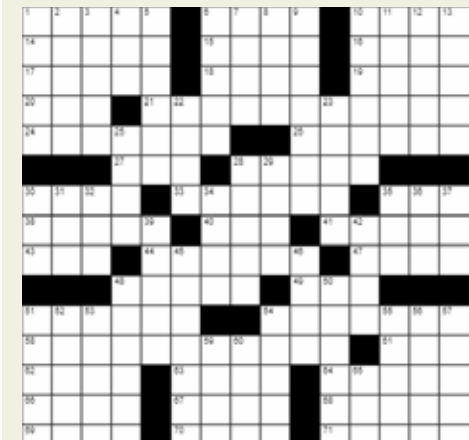
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Yesterday's solution

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

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- Lawsuits; 6- Arrived; 10- Recipe amt.; 14- Bikini blast; 15- Sea east of the Caspian; 16- Comic Rudner; 17- Pave over; 18- dancing is popular with cowboys; 19- Citrus coolers; 20- Muesli morsel; 21- Promotion in rank; 24- Chocolate chewy cake; 26- Walk stealthily; 27- Show stoppers; 28- Food and water; 30- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 33- Composer Debussy; 35- Advanced degree; 38- Summits of buildings; 40- Leb. neighbor; 41- Like non-oyster months; 43- Cheer for Manolete; 44- Native drum; 47- Encourage in wrongdoing; 48- Marshal; 49- Boat propeller; 51- Separated; 54- Taller and thinner; 58- Arrogant; 61- Compass dir.; 62- Ornamental fabric; 63- Hwys; 64- Goes the distance; 66- Sets of equipment; 67- Bibliography abbr.; 68- Tennis champ Chris; 69- Very much; 70- Challenge to complete a task; 71- Gives a 98, say;

Down

1- Chocolate substitute; 2- Shed ___; 3- Brief brawl; 4- Conductor ___Pekka Salonen; 5- Leave high and dry; 6- Have a cow?; 7- Type of song, to be sung solo; 8- Jazz flutist Herbie; 9- Voted into a seat; 10- Vagrants; 11- Bathroom fixture; 12- Pad user; 13- Cut's partner; 22- Round object, often used to store computer data; 23- Duck with soft down; 25- Street urchin; 28- Beastly; 29- Monetary unit of Spain; 30- B-way hit sign; 31- "You've got mail" co.; 32- School of the future; 34- Capital of Peru; 35- Kan. neighbor; 36- "Cats" monogram; 37- DDE's predecessor; 39- Sprinkle; 42- Songbird; 45- Commanded; 46- Lament; 48- Still; 50- Fisherman; 51- Lively Bohemian dance; 52- Be of use to; 53- Verso's opposite; 54- Cotton thread used for hosiery; 55- Atlas feature; 56- ___ nous; 57- Reposes; 59- Bluesy James; 60- At hand; 65- Actress Gardner;

Yesterday's solution

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

Classifieds



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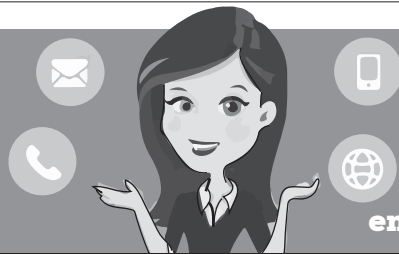
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Chelsea agree terms with Pochettino: reports



Mauricio Pochettino reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Chelsea are on the verge of hiring Mauricio Pochettino as their new manager after agreeing terms with the former Paris Saint Germain boss, according to reports yesterday.

Pochettino is reportedly set to join Chelsea at the end of this season as he returns to the Premier League four years after his sacking by Tottenham.

The Argentine will replace interim manager Frank Lampard at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea co-owner Todd Boehly bids to get his troubled club back on track after a dismal season.

Pochettino will be Chelsea's sixth permanent manager in five years after Boehly sacked Thomas Tuchel in September and then axed Graham Potter in April.

Pochettino, who has also

Pochettino will be Chelsea's sixth permanent manager in five years after Boehly sacked Thomas Tuchel in September and then axed Graham Potter in April

managed in the Premier League with Southampton, left Paris Saint Germain in July 2022 and was replaced by Christophe Galtier.

Pochettino guided Tottenham to the Champions League final in 2019 when they finished as runners-up to Liverpool.

He also led the north Londoners to a second place finish in the Premier League in 2017 and the League Cup final in 2015, missing out on the silverware to Chelsea on both occasions.

Leverkusen held by Stuttgart ahead of Roma Europa League clash

AFP | Berlin

Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 1-1 draw at Stuttgart yesterday, just days before their second leg Europa League semi-final clash with Roma.

Leverkusen narrowly lost the first leg in Rome 1-0 and will host Jose Mourinho's Roma, the Europa Conference League holders, on Thursday.

In Stuttgart, both sides traded penalties in the second half, home forward Serhou Guirassy opening the scoring

The draw leaves 2006 champions Stuttgart in the automatic relegation places, two points from safety with two matches remaining

before Argentinian World Cup winner Exequiel Palacios levelled.

Leverkusen had strung together a 14-game unbeaten run under manager Xabi Alonso, but have now lost two and

Royal Endurance Team riders triumph!



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the race

● **Issa leads Manal Fakhrawi and Ahmed Al Dhawadi in general category**

● **Al Ruwaei crowned champion of event's juniors class**

TDT | Manama

The Royal Endurance Team won yesterday the 120-kilometre race for the general and junior categories as part of an international ride in Spain.

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa congratulated the team on their performance.

"This victory builds on the achievements of the Royal Team in international and European forums", he said, commanding the role of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and

Salman Issa, Abdulla Al Ruwaei win respective categories in 120-kilometre ride at international championship in Spain



Royal Endurance Team riders competing in the general category

Royal Endurance Team captain.

HH Shaikh Khalid said that the achievements reflect the level attained by the sport of endurance, that the victory in Spain builds on the achievement of HH Shaikh Nasser, who ranked first in the World Endurance Championship in Abu Dhabi. HH Shaikh Khalid congratulated Royal team riders Salman Issa, Manal Fakhrawi and Ahmed Al Dhawadi, who won the top three spots, in addition to Abdulla Al Ruwaei, the champion of junior category.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad participated in the 160km event but his horse failed to pass the veterinary examination after the first stage of the race. He followed up the other team riders, who motivated them to achieve positive results in both races.

Issa finished first, clocking six hours, seven minutes and 41 seconds, followed closely by Manal in 6:07:42 and Althawadi in 6:07:46.



Abdulla Al Ruwaei carries the Bahrain flag as he wins the juniors class

Al Ruwaei outclassed other riders to rank first in the junior category, clocking a winning time of 6:59:14.

The Royal Team's champions were honoured at the end of the event.

The Royal Team members hailed the support of HH Shaikh

Nasser, which motivated them to achieve the positive results in Spain.

They also hailed HH Shaikh Khalid's directives during the different phases of the races, which enabled them to achieve an honourable performance.

Djokovic battles past Dimitrov into Italian Open last 16

AFP | Rome

Novak Djokovic reached the last 16 of the Italian Open yesterday after winning a battle with Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, while blistering Iga Swiatek thrashed Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-0..

Six-time Rome champion Djokovic initially looked in improved form compared to his sluggish tournament opener against Tomas Etcheverry but again had a fight on his hands against the former world number three.

No longer wearing the elbow brace he had in Friday's second round match, Djokovic looked to have shaken off the injury which forced him to miss last week's Madrid Masters.

The 22-time Grand Slam title winner lost his serve in the first game of the match but broke back immediately and in game

four broke again to tip the first set in his favour.

Djokovic served out to take the lead and in game three of the second set broke former world number three Dimitrov, who handed the initiative to the Serb with a weak backhand into the net.

Man City on brink of title

Brighton thrash Arsenal to leave Manchester City one win from title

● **Gundogan masterclass takes Man City closer to title at Everton's expense**

AFP | London

Manchester City are on the brink of winning the Premier League title after Arsenal crashed to a shock 3-0 defeat against Brighton yesterday.

Mikel Arteta's side were rocked by second half goals from Julio Enciso, Deniz Undav and Pervis Estupinan at the Emirates Stadium.

Second placed Arsenal trail City by four points and a defeat for the Gunners at Nottingham Forest on Saturday would hand Pep Guardiola's men their fifth title in six years.

Fired by Ilkay Gundogan's brace and Erling Haaland's latest goal, City's 3-0 win at Everton earlier yesterday had moved them within touching distance of the title and Arsenal's loss makes the silverware almost certain to remain in Manchester.



Manchester City's German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan celebrates with Manchester City's English midfielder Phil Foden (R) after scoring

Even if Arsenal beat Forest, City will be champions for a third successive season if they defeat Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium in their next game on May 21.

City have three games to play, with the Chelsea clash followed by trips to Brighton and Brentford, while Arsenal have just a home match against Wolves after their trip to Forest.

While battle-tested City are

powering towards the finish line, Arsenal's young team have choked away their bid to win a first title since 2004.

Arsenal's recent four-game winless run, including a 4-1 thrashing at City, allowed their rivals to seize top spot, an opportunity they have exploited in ruthless fashion.

Although Arsenal's unexpected title challenge seems destined to fall short, it has still been a



While battle-tested City are powering towards the finish line, Arsenal's young team have choked away their bid to win a first title since 2004

hugely encouraging season for the north Londoners after over a decade of underachievement.

There is no shame in coming second to a team of treble-chasing City's class, although Arteta will be frustrated they failed to last the pace after leading the table for long periods.

Thrashed 5-1 at home by struggling Everton on Monday, Roberto De Zerbi's Brighton bounced back with a dynamic display that prayed on the anxiety coursing through Arsenal's players and fans.

Brighton threatened on the



We have a very experienced team and competing in the last few games of the season is not a new situation for us, and that helps us a lot. It's about staying calm and trust in your abilities

ILKAY GUNDOGAN

counter early on as Aaron Ramsdale's superb save repelled Enciso's rising strike.

Knockout blow

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard had scored five goals in his last five games and he went close to a sixth with a stinging shot that whistled just wide.

The Gunners suffered a blow when Brazilian winger Gabriel Martinelli was forced off with an injury sustained after a tackle from Moises Caicedo.

Gabriel Jesus's shot from a tight angle was turned away by Jason Steele, while Leandro Trossard almost netted against

his old club when the Arsenal forward's effort clipped the top of the bar.

Arsenal had scored three or more goals in each of their last six home league games, but they failed to make any headway against well-drilled Brighton.

Bukayo Saka and Odegaard went close late in the first half with a powerful drives that flashed narrowly wide.

Brighton landed their knockout blow in the 51st minute as Enciso made the breakthrough.

Estupinan's initial cross was blocked but he knocked the rebound towards Enciso and he headed home while Arsenal appealed in vain for a foul on Jakub Kiwior.

Arteta sent on Reiss Nelson and the winger almost bagged an immediate equaliser as he rifled inches wide.

But Undav bagged Brighton's second goal in the 86th minute as Trossard carelessly lost possession, allowing the forward to lift a deft lob over Ramsdale.

Estupinan sent Arsenal fans streaming to the exits deep into stoppage-time when he slotted home after Undav's shot was parried by Ramsdale.

Bangalore crush Rajasthan by 112 runs in IPL



Glenn Maxwell of Royal Challengers Bangalore plays a shot

AFP | Jaipur

Fifties from skipper Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell, followed by inspired bowling, led Royal Challengers Bangalore to a crushing 112-run win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL yesterday.

Du Plessis made 55 and Maxwell smashed a 33-ball 54 to guide Bangalore to 171-5 before their bowlers then skittled Rajasthan for 59 runs in Jaipur.

South African left-arm quick Wayne Parnell took three wickets, including Jos Buttler for a duck, as Rajasthan fell to the third-lowest total in Indian Premier League history.

The lowest IPL total was Bangalore's 49 against Kolkata in 2017.

Bangalore, still searching for their first IPL title, moved up two places to fifth in the 10-team table, with the top four

Scorecard

Royal Challengers Bangalore 171 for 5 (Du Plessis 55, Maxwell 54, Zampa 2-25) beat Rajasthan Royals 59 (Hetmyer, Parnell 3-10, Bracewell 2-16, Karn 2-19) by 112 runs

Really good for our net-rate. We batted first and assessed the conditions. We batted in the powerplay and thought 160 will be a good score

FAF DU PLESSIS

to make the play-offs.

"Really good for our net-rate," said Du Plessis. "We batted first and assessed the conditions. We batted in the powerplay and thought 160 will be a good score."

Inaugural champions Rajasthan dropped to sixth with a game left in the league stage after their heaviest defeat in the T20 tournament.

Pace spearhead Mohammed Siraj struck first to dismiss Yashasvi Jaiswal, who hit the fastest IPL fifty in 13 balls against Kolkata on Thursday, for a duck.

The rest of the batting fell flat in just 10.3 overs, with only Shimron Hetmyer (35) and England import Joe Root (10) managing double figures.

All-round Kolkata down Chennai to keep play-off hopes alive

AFP | Chennai

Fifties from skipper Nitish Rana and Rinku Singh led Kolkata Knight Riders to a six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings and stay alive in the Indian Premier League yesterday.

Kolkata kept Chennai down to 144-6, a total they overhauled riding on a key stand of 99 between Rinku (54) and Rana (57 not out) in Chennai.

Spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine took two wickets each to set up victory as Kolkata jumped a spot to seventh in their attempt to finish the league stage on top four for a play-off berth.

Four-time winners Chennai remain second in the 10-team table led by holders Gujarat Titans and on course for the play-offs.

Kolkata looked in trouble at 33-3 after Chennai pace bowler



Rinku Singh of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot

Deepak Chahar's third strike to send back Jason Roy, before the left-handed pair of Rinku and Rana guided the team home with nine balls to spare.

Rinku, who became an IPL sensation with his five sixes off the last five balls to conjure up a miracle win for Kolkata last month, struck his second fifty of

the season before being run out.

Rana made most of a dropped catch on 18 to reach his fifty and stood firm to hit the winning runs.

Four-time winners Chennai started strongly but slipped from 61-1 to 72-5 in the space of 19 balls before Shivam Dube revived the innings with his un-

Scorecard

Kolkata Knight Riders 147 for 4 (Rana 57*, Rinku 54, Chahar 3-27) beat Chennai Super Kings 144 for 6 (Dube 48*, Conway 30, Narine 2-15, Varun 2-36) by six wickets

beaten 48.

Dube kept up the fight in his 34-ball knock laced with three sixes but it was superstar and skipper M.S. Dhoni who brought the house down in his team's last league game at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

Dhoni, who many suspect is playing his final IPL, walked in to a deafening roar as he faced four balls including a wide and no-ball on which he was bowled but ended on two not out.

In the first match of the day, skipper Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell helped Royal Challengers Bangalore boost their play-off chances with a 112-run rout of Rajasthan Royals.

Controlled Bezzecchi wins chaotic Le Mans MotoGP

AFP | Le Mans

Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi comfortably held off sprint winner Jorge Martin to take victory in the 1,000th MotoGP event at Le Mans yesterday.

A number of race favourites such as world champion Francesco Bagnaia, who started on pole, and six-time champion Marc Marquez crashed out in a chaotic race, allowing Johann Zarco to complete the podium on his home track.

Bezzecchi, however, on a Ducati, showed total control once he hit the front to claim his second MotoGP win, following his victory in Argentina last month.



Mooney VR46 Racing Team Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi waves to the crowd after victory

Mayhem started in the fifth lap when Bagnaia leant into Vinales who was overtaking him on a corner, resulting in both riders ending up on their backsides in the gravel

The 24-year-old, who only stepped up from Moto2 at the start of 2022, is now just one point behind championship leader Bagnaia who came under investigation for his part in the crash that took him out of the race as well as Aprilia's Maverick Vinales.

Ahli break Manama hearts in draw

Al Khaldiya now in prime position to clinch title in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● **Khalifa Issa Al Lafi puts Manama ahead in 70th minute**

● **Abdulla Al Bahrani equalizes four minutes from full time**

TDI | Manama

Al Ahli spoiled a potential party for Manama last night in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Needing a victory to move ahead in the tremendously tight title race, Manama took the lead in the second-half, only for Ahli to equalise with just four minutes left in regular time to send the match into a 1-1 deadlock at the final whistle.

Substitute Khalifa Issa Al Lafi had put Manama ahead in the 70th minute, but Ahli sub Abdulla Al Bahrani equalised to break Manama hearts.

With the result, Manama are now tied with Al Khaldiya on 41 points apiece on the league



The new-look Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League shield standings, but Khaldiya are in first place on goal difference and with one match still to play.

Khaldiya will play that game on Thursday against Bahrain Club, and will need only a draw to secure the all-new champions' shield, which has been given a fresh look by the Bahrain Football Association.

Khaldiya must not lose by more than three goals as they currently enjoy that gap on goal difference on the league table.



Manama are now tied with Al Khaldiya on 41 points apiece on the league standings, but Khaldiya are in first place on goal difference and have one match still to play. That will be on Thursday against Bahrain Club, and it will crown the new champions

Al Lafi's goal came after he took advantage of some porous Ahli defending and pounced on an uncleared ball inside the penalty box. He made no mistake in slotting home past Ahli goalkeeper Ebrahim Luthfallah into the bottom-left corner of the net.

Ahli had a few opportunities to try and come away with a



Al Ahli's Abdulla Al Hashash battles to keep possession with Manama's Ahmed Ammar

share of the points and were finally rewarded in the 86th minute.

Al Bahrani sent home a volley off a brilliantly lobbed pass. Al Bahrani was in the perfect position right in front of goal to receive the ball, and he hit a perfect shot against Manama goalkeeper Mohammed Hassan.

With the result, Ahli went to 31 points and finished the season in sixth place overall amongst

the 12 teams.

Meanwhile, also taking place Thursday will be another crucial match between East Riffa and Al Hala. Both teams are trying to avoid relegation, along with Bahrain Club, and this fixture will decide the final rankings for the season.

East Riffa and Hala are presently tied on the table with 21 points apiece, with East Riffa in ninth and Hala in 10th place,

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Al Khaldiya	21	12	5	4	22	41
Manama	22	11	8	3	19	41
Muharraq	22	10	10	2	22	40
Riffa	22	11	6	5	18	39
Sitra	22	10	8	4	10	38
Al Ahli	22	7	10	5	1	31
Al Shabab	22	7	6	9	-4	27
Hidd	22	7	6	9	-9	27
East Riffa	21	4	9	8	-6	21
Al Hala	21	5	6	10	-10	21
Bahrain Club	21	4	6	11	-10	18
Budaiya*	22	1	2	19	-53	-1

(*Budaiya deducted six points due to a decision by the Bahrain Football Association)

respectively, on goal difference. Bahrain Club, who will have a tough task against title-chasing Khaldiya, are on 18 points in 11th place.

Whichever team finishes ninth and 10th will take to the pitch in relegation play-offs against the third and fourth-ranked clubs from Bahrain's second division.

The 11th-ranked side will join bottom-of-the-table club Budaiya in the lower-tier league next season.

Winfred fourth in Nairobi meeting

● **Bahraini elite athlete puts in solid performance in women's 1,500 metres race**

TDI | Manama

Bahraini elite athlete Winfred Yavi finished a solid fourth in the women's 1,500 metres run at the Kip Keino Classic, held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Winfred, who earlier this month set the world lead en route to a fine victory in the women's 3,000m steeplechase at the Doha Diamond League, completed the race in four minutes 06.34 seconds.

Janat Chemusto of Uganda clinched the

victory in 4:01.79, while Nelly Chepchirchir of Kenya followed as the runner-up in 4:04.56. Hawi Abera of Ethiopia finished marginally ahead of Winfred in 4:06.15.

Winfred's finishing time was just short of her personal best in the distance of 4:05.54, which she set in the same meeting last year.

It was the second international outdoor race for Winfred this season as she prepares for a busy summer, being one of Bahrain's top hopefuls for a medal at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest this August and the Hangzhou Asian Games in China in September and October.

Winfred was the only Bahraini athlete competing in this year's Kip Keino Classic, which was a Gold-level meet on the World Athletics Continental Tour.



Bahrain's Winfred Yavi races to a fine victory in the women's 3,000m steeplechase at the Doha Diamond League earlier this month (File photo)

Manama aim to extend WASL Gulf finals



Manama's Mustafa Hussain looks to score against Kuwait SC in game one of their finals series last week (File photo)

● **Bahrain league champions look to bounce back against Kuwait SC in game two of best-of-three championship series**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club will be looking to stay alive tonight in their best-of-three championship series against Kuwait SC in the Gulf sub-zone of the 2022/2023 FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL).

After losing game one 78-87 last week in Kuwait City, the defending Bahrain league champions will be hoping to bounce back in game two, scheduled for an 8pm tip-off at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

The Kuwaitis are still undefeated in the competition and Manama will need to dig deep into their arsenal to thwart

their rivals' aspirations of closing out the finals.

If needed, the winner-take-all rubber match will take place on May 22 back in Kuwait City.

As Gulf finalists, Manama and Kuwait are already assured of their places in the WASL Final 8, where they will be joined by champions of South Asia and Central Asia. The WASL Final 8 will qualify for FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2023, on the road to FIBA Intercontinental Cup 2023, FIBA's highest club competition.

Shabab Al Ahli of Dubai also join Manama and Kuwait as the third-placers in the Gulf sub-zone. Only the top three teams from the Gulf sub-zone make it through as this region's representatives in the WASL Final 8.

The WASL is a new basketball competition sanctioned by FIBA, the sport's global governing body. Manama are one of 16 teams that have taken part in this inaugural edition.

Evenepoel back in Giro pink after tight time-trial

AFF | Rome

Race favourite Remco Evenepoel took back the overall lead of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday winning a rainy 35km stage nine individual time-trial by a single second from Geraint Thomas.

The riders were forced into a prudent approach given the rain-slick urban streets and cobbled surfaces as the top five on the day were separated by just eight seconds.

Evenepoel now leads the Giro ahead of Thomas by 45sec with Primož Roglič third at 47sec.

Rounding out the top five are Tao Geoghegan Hart at 50sec and Joao Almeida at 1min 07s.

Evenepoel's supposed main rival Roglič finished 17 seconds down on a day he was wearing his Olympic time-trial champion's golden helmet.

The Team Jumbo leader Roglič had been trailing by a far wider margin but rallied over the final section to limit his damages.

The biggest surprise of



Soudal - Quick Step's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel competes during the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia 2023

“I started too fast and suffered a little midway, but I got my legs back in the end. It's not the best result, but I won even if it wasn't a top performance”

GERAINT THOMAS

the tricky stage nine was the 2018 Tour de France champion Thomas who timed 41min 25sec, one second slower than Evenepoel but one second faster than his teammate Hart.

Thomas won the 2020 Giro time trial in Sicily only to crash out a few days later as his teammate Hart went on to lift the title.

The 23-year-old world champion and Vuelta winner Evenepoel said he had had a bad day and was looking forward to a good day off on Monday.

The biggest surprise of the tricky stage nine was the 2018 Tour de France champion Thomas who timed 41min 25sec, one second slower than Evenepoel but one second faster than his teammate Hart

“I started too fast and suffered a little midway, but I got my legs back in the end,” said the Quick Step rider who complained about the wind.

“It's not the best result, but I won even if it wasn't a top performance.”

Al Ahli off to rousing start!

Bahrainis claim come-from-behind, five-set win over Indonesian rivals as Asian clubs volleyball gets underway

● **Favourites Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, Shahdab Yazd of Iran and Korean Air Jumbos Pro-VC from South Korea cruise**

● **Also victorious on day one were teams from Kuwait, Qatar, Chinese-Taipei and Yemen**

TD | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli made a spectacular start to the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship being hosted by the Kingdom yesterday, as favourites Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, Shahdab Yazd of Iran and Korean Air



Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club from South Korea were also victorious.

Ahli needed five sets to topple Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi from Indonesia, but the continental giants, billed as the top



Ahli players with officials celebrate after their win

Ahli's Gabriel Candido reacts to the crowd after scoring a point

contenders for the coveted title in the 16-nation tournament, all lived up to expectations. They claimed their respective assignments in straight sets at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Other winners on day one were Gulf sides Kuwait Sporting Club of Kuwait and Police Sports Team from Qatar, as well as Taichung Bank from Chinese-Taipei and Khaypil Sports Club from Yemen.

Attending yesterday's games were Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, and other high-ranking officials from the BVA and Asian Volleyball Confederation.

Ahli fell behind twice against Bhayangkara in their head-to-head, but the Bahrainis showed their resolve and rallied to the all-important 3-2 (26-28, 25-23, 20-25, 25-18, 15-6) victory.

Mohammed Anan finished with a team-high 18 points, while Mohammed Yaqoob added 15 and Brazilian Gabriel Candido contributed 13.

"When I came into the game, I tried to do something, push our guys and inject some energy," said Candido.

"This win was important for us today, but this is finished and tomorrow we will need more concentration. Korea have good blocking and good attacking. It will not be easy but we will be prepared for this."

Packed

Nasser Anan praised Ahli's fans who packed the arena to support their team, giving them an extra boost in their come-from-behind win. "The fans were number one," he said. "We are playing in Bahrain, we are at home. The fans

TODAY'S SCHEDULE	
COURT A	11.30am: Kam Air VC (Afghanistan) vs Shahdab Yazd (Iran) 2pm: Khaypil Sports Club (Yemen) vs Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force (Thailand) 4.30pm: Police Sports Team (Qatar) vs Kuwait Sporting Club (Kuwait) 7pm: Al Ahli (Bahrain) vs Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club (South Korea)
COURT B	11.30am: Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC (Mongolia) vs Suntory Sunbirds (Japan) 2pm: Taichung Bank (Chinese-Taipei) vs South Gas Sports Club (Iraq) 4.30pm: Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi (Indonesia) vs Canberra Heat (Australia) 7pm: Atyrau VC (Kazakhstan) vs Aspiring Volleyball Team (Hong Kong)

gave us more strength, and after this win, we are even more encouraged to do our best."

Suntory Sunbirds, runners-up in last year's competition, outclassed Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force from Thailand 3-0 (25-17, 26-24, 25-19) in their Pool C encounter.

Former Olympic gold-medalist and multi-titled international volleyball star Dmitry Muser-skiy from Russia towered over his opponents to finish with 20 points. Cuban teammate Alain Junior de Armas added 18 markers, while Kenya Fujinaka scored 11 for the Sunbirds.

Shahdab Yazd cruised against South Gas Sports Club of Iraq 3-0 (25-22, 25-14, 25-18) in Pool B. Amir Ghafour finished with 15 points to lead the Iranians as they look to follow in the footsteps of their countrymen from Paykan Tehran, who were the champions from last year's Asian clubs event.

Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club were just as dominant in their game over Canberra Heat from Australia. They posted an impressive 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-12) result for a flying start in Pool A. Donghyeok Im led his team with 13 points, while Jun Lee contributed 12 markers.

In Pool D, Kuwait Sporting

“The fans were number one. We are playing in Bahrain, we are at home. The fans gave us more strength, and after this win, we are even more encouraged to do our best”

NASSER ANAN

Club were 3-1 (25-17, 23-25, 25-22, 25-23) winners against Aspiring Volleyball Team from Hong Kong, while Police Sports Team battled past Atyrau VC of Kazakhstan 3-1 (25-19, 25-22, 22-25, 25-23).

Taichung Bank swept past Kam Air VC of Afghanistan 3-0 (25-21, 25-16, 25-14) in Pool B, while in Pool C, Khaypil Sports Club needed to go the maximum to defeat Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC of Mongolia 3-2 (28-30, 25-17, 20-25, 29-27, 17-15).

Tournament action continues today with the second day of play in the preliminary round. The first games of the day are scheduled for 11.30am and the programme will continue until the night, with the concluding fixtures slated to begin no earlier than 7pm.

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- ▶ Gynecologist Consultation

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