



Eats and Treats



P08-09

Bahrain committed to strengthening UK ties

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, highlighted the long-standing relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UK, which have resulted in various strategic military and defence partnerships.

He emphasised Bahrain's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation to achieve common goals benefiting both Kingdoms and their peoples.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received yesterday the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's Defence Senior Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa, Air Marshal Martin Sampson, at Riffa Palace.



HRH Prince Salman receives Air Marshal Martin Sampson

The latest regional and international developments and issues of common interest were also discussed.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Bahrain Defence Force's Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, also attended the meeting.

Gulf Air to operate three daily Bahrain to Doha flights

Zahra Ayaz
 TDT | Manama

With plans to shortly increase flights, Gulf Air will fly three times daily between Bahrain International Airport and Hamad International Airport in Doha.

The declaration follows a recent official decision by the Kingdom's Civil Aviation Affairs to resume flights between Bahrain and Qatar.

6th Bahrain Smart Cities Summit opens

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Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak yesterday inaugurated the sixth edition of the Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2023.

The two-day event witnessed the participation of government and private agencies in Bahrain and international expert companies in the field of technology, sustainability, and smart cities.

(Full report on Page 4)

Assad invited to UAE summit

Dubai

Syria President Bashar Assad received an invitation to attend the upcoming COP28 climate talks in Dubai later this year, even as the years-long war in his country over his rule grinds on.

\$250 million boost for 'digital future'

Beyon announces biggest ever investment in digital infrastructure in Bahrain

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Beyon is investing more than \$250 million in state-of-the-art digital infrastructure to support the acceleration of Bahrain's digital transformation and the growth of the country's digital economy.

The announcement was made yesterday in a press conference attended by Beyon Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

The Bahrain Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) General Director, Mr. Phillip Marnick, and SEA-ME-WE 6 Management Committee Chairperson, Mr. Yue Meng Fai, were also in attendance at the event, which took place at Centraal, Beyon Campus in Hamala.

During the event, Beyon CEO Mikkel Vinter announced that Batelco, part of the Beyon group, has joined the SEA-ME-WE 6 (Southeast Asia-Middle East-Western Europe) consortium, which is building a 21,700 km-long undersea telecommunications cable system connecting Bahrain with 14 other countries.

Additionally, Batelco is investing to build a regional subsea cable, the 'Al Khaleej' Cable which the company will fully own, enhancing the region's data exchange.

Vinter also announced Data Oasis, which will be the biggest technology hub in the Kingdom and include a newly built advanced Data Centre for the company.

SEA-ME-WE 6

The SEA-ME-WE 6 cable system, offering one of the lowest latencies available between the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Western Europe will significant-



Beyon Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and guests at the event

ly boost Beyon's global network infrastructure.

SEA-ME-WE 6 will have the capability of transferring more than 100 terabits per second. The new subsea cable will create a layer of network diversity and resilience for the heavily used routes connecting the Middle East towards Europe and Asia.

Al Khaleej Cable

Batelco is also investing in the Al Khaleej Subsea Cable to extend from Bahrain to other regional countries including Oman, UAE and Qatar. This fully-owned subsea cable will help to diversify routes and augment international connectivity for the region.

Advanced Data Centre

Another major initiative supporting the ever-growing data movement was also announced. Beyon is developing Bahrain's biggest and most advanced Data Centre that will be located within Beyon Data Oasis, being de-

veloped on a 140K Sq. Mts. site located in the south of Bahrain.

Beyon Data Oasis will incorporate the SEA-ME-WE 6 and the Al Khaleej cables into the Data Centre, enabling hyperscalers and businesses to access seamless integrated solutions and helping to strengthen Bahrain's position as a leading regional technology hub.

The new Data Centre will feature multiple Megawatt power capacity and utilise clean power technologies provided by the company's Solar Park, aligning with its sustainability plans to increase alternative power sources.

Robust connectivity infrastructure

Beyon Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa praised the major announcements that were made yesterday, noting that a robust connectivity infrastructure is central to the growth of the digital economy and that these major initiatives will support the acceleration of the digital

future for Bahrain in line with the Kingdom's vision 2030.

Beyon CEO Vinter said: "Beyon is delighted to join hands with other leading international communication companies and join the SEA-ME-WE 6 cable consortium which will support and strengthen connectivity in the region."

"We are also pleased to reaffirm our commitment to building state-of-the-art facilities that help to attract global tech companies plus leading local and regional companies, by building Beyon's new Data Centre, which will be the biggest in Bahrain."

He added: "Our significant investment, the biggest of its kind in Bahrain's history, reflects the immense importance we place on meeting the requirements of the business industry and our commitment to supporting the growth of Bahrain's digital ecosystem."

Significant impact

TRA General Director Marnick, who attended the event,

said: "This is a very important announcement that will have a significant impact on the development of a robust digital connectivity infrastructure for the Kingdom of Bahrain."

"The deployment of advanced technologies for citizens, residents, and businesses gives them access to the latest communication solutions, and also further enhances Bahrain's position as a leading digital hub."

Enhancing overall coverage

SEA-ME-WE 6 Management Committee Chairperson Yue Meng Fai said: "We are very happy to welcome Batelco to the consortium, which will directly connect Bahrain to the cable and enhance the overall coverage of the SEA-ME-WE 6."

"With millions of people living and working remotely today, this new cable system will support all partners to provide superior broadband access along this multi-regional data superhighway, enabling them to meet and exceed capacity demands of their customers. By building more capacity and flexibility we are ensuring readiness for future needs."

In addition to Beyon in Bahrain, the SMW6 consortium includes its sister company Dhi-raagu in the Maldives and additionally Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, Bharti Airtel (India), China Unicom, Djibouti Telecom, Mobily (Saudi Arabia), Orange (France), PCCW Global, Singtel (Singapore), Sri Lanka Telecom, Telecom Egypt, TM (Malaysia), Telin (Indonesia) and Trans World Associates (Pakistan).

The SEA-ME-WE 6 submarine cable connectivity to Bahrain and Al Khaleej Cable are expected to be completed by Q2 2026.



Bahrain greets Norway King on National Day

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday sent cables of congratulations to HM King Harald V of Norway on his country's National Day.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman wished HM King Harald V abundant health and happiness, as well as further progress and prosperity to the



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

friendly Norwegian people.

His Royal Highness sent a

similar cable to Prime Minister, HE Jonas Gahr Store.

Kingdom urges protections for diplomatic missions in Sudan

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The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned the storming and ransacking of the Jordanian Embassy and the residence of the head of the military office at the Kuwaiti embassy in Khartoum.

In a statement yesterday, the Foreign Ministry denounced the criminal acts which violate the international laws and covenants, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

It voiced Bahrain's solidarity

with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Kuwait, backing all measures they undertake to secure their diplomatic missions, evacuate their compatriots.

It called for an end to violence and vandalism in the Republic of Sudan, urging full protection for the headquarters of diplomatic missions and their buildings and properties, to ensure their safety and all of their personnel, and to punish the perpetrators of the incursions.

It called on all parties in Su-

dan, to avoid escalation, commit to Jeddah Declaration regarding the protection of civilians, facilitate access to humanitarian relief aid, respect the principles of international humanitarian law and the inviolability of diplomatic missions and buildings.

In the statement, the ministry said that peaceful dialogue is the only pathway to defuse the current crisis, in a manner that meets the aspirations of the brotherly Sudanese people for security, peace, stability and development.

Bahrain support for global peace efforts



The Deputy Prime Minister receives the heads of delegations to the APA's economic committee meeting

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Bahrain is committed to supporting regional and global initiatives to establish international peace and security, reinforce peaceful dialogue, openness, communication among peoples' representatives.

This was emphasised by Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa as he received at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday the heads of delegations to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hosted by Bahrain on May 16-17.

Present in the meeting were Council of Representatives

Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh. The Deputy Prime Minister said that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's democratic and civilised approach is based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and serving development goals.

Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah conveyed the greetings of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the heads of the delegations, as well as his best wishes for success to them.

Legislature success

He praised the role that the

legislative branch plays under the King's Comprehensive Reform Project, highlighting the legislature's success in establishing strong relations with councils and the parliamentary organisations, both regionally and internationally.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted the importance of the topics on the agenda of the meeting of APA's Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development, as they represent priorities in both the Government Action Plan, and the work of the legislature.

He congratulated MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloum, Council of Representatives member, APA Vice-President, on his reelection as and APA's Standing Com-

mittee on Economic and Sustainable Development Chairman, wishing him continued success.

The Shura Council Chairman and Council of Representatives Speaker praised the unwavering support of HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for the legislative branch, expressing pride in the kingdom's landmark democratic and parliamentary achievements under the comprehensive development process.

They expressed their gratitude to the Deputy Premier for the government's keenness to enhance executive-legislature cooperation in all fields to optimize the gains of the nation and the citizens.

More flights set to operate from Bahrain to Turkey



Fatima Ahmed and Volker Richter at the opening ceremony



“After Covid, I believe we are in a much better position in terms of tourism, and we are looking forward to a successful tourist season, which begins in September.”

- FATIMA AHMED, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IBN FIRNAS TRAVEL & TOURISM

“It's wonderful to see so many travel agencies and how many Bahrainis are interested in traveling to Turkey. Both the demand and Bahrainis' response are enormous.”

- VOLKER RICHTER, AREA MANAGER TOURISTIC SALES FOREIGN MARKETS AT SUNEXPRESS

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

As Turkey being the preferred holiday destination for Bahrainis, SunExpress, a joint venture between Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines, will fly twice weekly from Bahrain to Trabzon and once to Antalya for this year's summer season.

As per the reports, achieving a revenue of 1,487 million in 2022 above pre-pandemic levels and exceeding its profit target, SunExpress will also reach the largest network this summer, adding 26 new routes and plans to carry more than 12 million passengers by end of this year.

Ibn Firnas Travel Tourism, the General Sales Agency (GSA) for SunExpress, conducted an opening ceremony of new airlines SunExpress yesterday at Zamil Tower. Representatives from well-known travel companies attended the ceremony.

In an interview with The Daily Tribune, managing director of Ibn Firnas Travel & Tourism Fatima Ahmed said: “After Covid, I believe we are in a much better position in terms of tourism, and we are looking forward to a successful tourist season, which begins in September.”

“Outbound travel is more prevalent in June, July, and August, whereas inbound travel runs from September through February.”

“We were formally appointed as their GSA on April 1. We conducted the opening ceremony to inform the traders that SunExpress is now on scheduled flights, and I was pleased to see so many people in the ceremony.”

She said Travel agencies that operate during the holiday season have previously worked with SunExpress as charterers, but at that time they were obligated to purchase the entire package from the charterer.

Nine projects worth BD11.2mln

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Nine infrastructure projects worth BD11,293,119 were awarded last month, said Works Ministry Undersecretary Shaikh Mishal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

In a statement yesterday, the undersecretary he said that bids have been invited for eight other projects a total estimated cost of BD10,872,279.

“The projects were awarded as part of the ministry's efforts to develop public services and upgrade the infrastructure across Bahrain to meet citizens' needs, support the national economy and keep pace with the urban and investment development,” he said.

Bahrain-EU cooperation



Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, received yesterday the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Sven Koopmans, and his accompanying delegation. They reviewed cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the European Union (EU) and ways of bolstering it to serve common interests. They also discussed the efforts of the EU to revive the peace process in the Middle East and achieve regional stability. They also spotlighted the latest regional and international developments and issues of common interest.

Woman ordered to return BD2,700 to Housing Ministry

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation approved a ruling obligating a woman to return a sum of BD2,700 which she unrightfully seized by taking a housing allowance for a period of two years and three months.

A court of First Instance had previously sentenced her to imprisonment; however, she resorted to the Court of Appeal, which ruled to replace the one-year sentence with an obligation to refund the amount.

An official at the Ministry of Housing had discovered that the defendant unrightfully claimed housing allowance for a period of 27 months.

After examining the documents, it was found that she had submitted a photocopy of a ruling from the Sharia Court stating that she was entitled to custody of her two sons. Based on these documents, a housing allowance of BD100 was paid to her.

In the investigations, the defendant denied her guilt stating that following divorce, her former husband filed a custody case for their two children. She submitted an urgent request before the Sharia Court to sum-



An official at the Ministry of Housing had discovered that the defendant unrightfully claimed housing allowance for a period of 27 months.

marily award her custody, but a ruling was issued in favour of the husband which she was not made aware of.



During that period, she was cashing in the housing allowance, which amounted to BD2,700.

The Public Prosecution referred the defendant to the court after charging her with forging an official document, which is a housing unit application form, under the pretext of being the custodian of her two minor sons, and using that false document to seize cash amounts owned by the Ministry of Housing through fraudulent means.

'Life in jail' term for killing own brother

Bahraini man confesses to stabbing victim 26 times with sword

TDT | Manama

A young Bahraini man who killed his own brother by stabbing him 26 times with a sword has been jailed for life.

The defendant had earlier denied the charge of premeditated murder, but he admitted to using drugs and owning the murder weapon, claiming that on the day of the incident, he had imbibed alcohol.

The police station had received a report from the defendant confessing to stabbing his brother with a sword during a disagreement. Security forces headed to the location and found the victim in question already deceased.

One of the policemen interrogated the defendant about the incident and he disclosed that financial disagreements between them led to an altercation at home wherein the victim attempted to assault him with a knife. In response, he took out a sword and stabbed him multiple times.

The mother testified that



there were disagreements between her sons that escalated when the victim threatened the defendant. While performing fajr prayer on the day of the incident, she heard yells from the courtyard and asked her sons to come inside. She resumed her prayer but heard loud noises again.

From outside, the defendant assured her that there was nothing wrong. When she inquired after the victim, he told her that the victim had fallen down. She requested that he take him to a hospital, and he answered that an ambulance was already on the way.

One of the neighbours stated that upon hearing the altercation he went out and witnessed the defendant standing next to his car outside their home talking to the police on the phone.

The neighbour asked about the situation so the defendant led him near the car where a man was lying face-down with grave bleeding injuries next to a knife and sword.

He asked about the identity of the victim and the defendant informed him that it was his brother, whom he killed for being a drug lord and causing trouble for their mother.

The witness added that he



Financial disagreements between them led to an altercation at home wherein the victim attempted to assault the defendant with a knife. In response, he took out a sword and stabbed his brother multiple times.

heard the defendant ask the paramedics whether or not the victim had a pulse.

When they told him he'd passed away, the defendant turned to the other side of the road and smiled. Afterwards, the police arrived and arrested him.

Verdict set for Asian 'human trafficker'

● Accused of forcing employees to work without salaries, locking them up

● Court ruling on May 30, 2023

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has set May 30, 2023 as the date to announce its ruling on the case of an Asian man accused of human trafficking by forcing his employees without paying their salaries as well as locking them up.

According to court files, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) officials visited the restaurant as part of an inspection tour to check if it was meeting the law or not, and several violations were spotted inside it.

The violations were referred to the Public Prosecution, whose investigations found that the defendant brought the employees to work as waitresses, but they were not paid salaries as well as they were locked up.

The women are said to have been also denied to move freely and were not given days off, while they were also forced to sit with customers.

Bahraini artist to open personal exhibition today at BACA Art Centre



One of Ahmed Anan's masterpieces to go on display at the event

TDT | Manama

The Art Centre of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) will witness today, at 7pm, the opening of the personal exhibition of artist Ahmed Anan. Themed "Shirt of Absence", the exhibition is a tribute to artist Anan for clinching second place in the 48th edition of Bahrain Annual Fine

Arts Exhibition last year.

The exhibition will be open to visitors daily, until June 17, from 9am to 8pm.

Anan will be displaying a collection of artworks including drawings on canvas and paper as well as bronze sculptures. The exhibition reflects the ordeal of loss that a person can go through as well as the personal experience that the artist himself went through.

Born in Manama, in 1968, Anan is a Bahraini fine artist who gained his artistic experience through personal effort and direct contact with prominent artists in the region and the world in the fields of painting, photography, sculpture, printmaking and collage arts.

He was honoured many times and has many participations in exhibitions inside Bahrain and beyond.

Bahrain ranks third Arab country in PIRLS Study

● Students' academic average increases to 458 points

TDT | Manama

Bahrain students have excelled in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2021), as their academic average increased to 458 points, marking an increase of 12 points compared to the previous results in 2016.

Bahrain ranked third Arab country, and 45th in the world, in a study in which 5,251 male and female fourth-grade students from 119 public schools and 67 private schools in the Kingdom participated.

Commenting, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, expressed his pride in these distinguished results achieved by the students of Bahrain despite the challenges faced by the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the fact that it's the Kingdom's second participation in this international test.



Dr. Juma

He stressed that the development of the educational process in Bahrain is fruitful outcome of the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The minister praised the Education Ministry's efforts to advance educational services at all levels, especially those related to basic skills, such as reading and writing in Arabic and English, as well as numeracy skills, expressing his appreciation to everyone who contributed to the achievement.

'Unseasonably cold weather' in Kingdom as summer heat builds up

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Bahrain should brace for a wave of rain with thunderstorms towards the end of the week, based on forecast reports.

After a blistering heat, residents are astonished to see the gloomy weather this month.

Since summer has officially started, many have expressed their excitement for the brisk wind on social media.

The Meteorological Department predicted an unstable weather with a probability of rain and could occasionally become thundery. Bahrain rarely experiences such dense shades of grey clouds during the month

of May.

While many people are welcoming the pleasant weather changes with open arms, every year authorities ask the public to remain cautious.

Due to the unpredictable

weather, the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication issued a number of warnings. The Coast Guard Directorate also advised mariners to exercise caution in the face of severe weather.

Making Bahrain cities 'smart' and innovative

Summit highlights importance of modernising economies and using technologies to achieve progress

● Key stakeholders from public and private sectors explore ideas and solutions

● Bahrain younger population a positive force for development

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

The first day of the Bahrain Smart City Summit 2023 was held yesterday at The Gulf Hotel Convention Center, bringing together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to discuss and explore innovative ideas and solutions in the field of smart cities.

It was held under the patronage of the Minister of Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, HE Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak.

The Summit included multiple panel discussions with experts talking on topics like "A Holistic Approach To Smart Cities", "Building For The Future", and "Where Smart City Technology Meets Advanced Financing".

Dr. Jassim Haji, President



From left, Dr. Jassim Haji, Dr. Muneer Zuhdi, Mahmood Dashti and Calum Handforth

of the International Artificial Intelligence Group, moderated one of the panels with Dr. Muneer Zuhdi, CTO Nokia Enterprise-MEA, Eng. Mahmood Dashti, senior project manager, Enterprise Technology Partnerships, Batelco, and Calum Handforth, UNDP advisor on smart cities, discussing the holistic approach within smart cities.

The panel unanimously highlighted that bringing new technologies into Bahrain's cities can be used to solve current problems.

Cities are in a constant state of facing major challenges due to population growth that produces congestion, excess pollution, and absence of adequate infrastructure, which makes it

“Technologies and Artificial Intelligence should be used to compliment the world we live in, and enhance the opportunities and infrastructure we already have.”

- DR. MUNEER ZUHDI, CTO NOKIA ENTERPRISE-MEA

increasingly more difficult to maintain sustainability and environmental obligations.

Dr. Muneer Zuhdi, CTO Nokia

Enterprise-MEA, said that technologies and Artificial Intelligence should be used to compliment the world we live in, and enhance the opportunities and infrastructure we already have.

"When we look at the Gulf countries, they started later in terms of modernising their economies and using technologies to boost their country, however, they are now progressing at high rates," Dr. Muneer said.

The panel also emphasised how Bahrain's younger population will play a crucial role in accelerating the Kingdom's economy and ecosystem.

They agreed that the youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the proper knowledge and opportu-

nities they need to thrive.

It is essential for the youth to be active in Bahrain when working with new startups, voicing new ideas, and sharing innovations that could better society for all. The panel said that for this to effectively further economies, different sectors must merge to synergise.

Calum Handforth identified that it is both the private sector and public sectors' responsibility to share ideas and use their skills to create more opportunities.

Using already successful Bahraini businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship creates a thriving ecosystem that only encourages greater innovation and ideas for the country.

DTAC 2023 concludes

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Toastmasters Annual Sector 20 Conference "DTAC 2023" has concluded, in the presence of Youth Affairs Minister Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi and officials.

The conference featured two competitions in Arabic and English in which 70 contenders from Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt and Iraq competed. During the event a host of influential personalities presented training workshops and lectures in English and Arabic.

The conference Chairman, toastmaster Bader Bushlibi asserted that the support and directives of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa have contributed to achieving the goals as they reflected positively on the organisers and the competitors in the field of communication and leadership.

Talks on economic, sustainable development

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will host the meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) today.

The meeting will be chaired by MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloum, Council of Representatives member, APA Vice-President, and APA's Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Chairman.

It will be attended by delegations from around 23 different Asian parliaments.

The APA meeting will discuss eight projects, mainly establishing a joint Asian energy market. The discussions on the project will focus on building tangible Asian partnerships, renewable energy legislations, investing in infrastructure and technology to better utilise alternative energy sources and mitigating climate change, and providing sustainable work environments.

iGA wins 'Smart Citizens Engagement Award'

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) participated in the 6th Smart Cities Summit 2023.

The event was held under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs, on 16-17 May at the Gulf Convention Centre of Gulf Hotel.

iGA participated in the panel discussion and the concurrent exhibition organised alongside with summit with participation of local and international entities.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Mohamed Ali Al Qaed, iGA Chief Executive received the



Mr. Mohamed Ali Al Qaed receives the award

Smart Cities 2023 Award - Smart Citizens Engagement category for Tawasul app.

The app been awarded for its features and eServices that

contributes to reinforce and enhance community partnership support smart cities.

On this occasion, Al Qaed expressed his sincere thanks and

appreciation to the organizing committee for the well organization and awarding iGA, wishing the summit all the success.

He emphasised that the award

reflects the government's efforts towards adopting technologies and providing advanced channels that reinforce communication between citizens and residents with the public entities and support government efforts and policies towards sustainable development.

The iGA is participating in number of panel discussions as part of the summit's program, i.e. the "Food security and AgriTech in Bahrain, opportunities and challenges" in which Mr. Fathi Al Burshaid, Chief of Spatial Information and Remote Sensing - GIS Directorate is showcasing a number of iGA projects such as Vegetation survey, Soil Mapping and Botanical Atlas Projects.

Filipino students show gratefulness to parents and teachers

TDT | Manama

The Graduating Classes from Elementary and High School Department of Philippine School (Bahrain) held its "Gratitude Day" at Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE) Auditorium in Juffair with the theme: "Moving Forwards with Grateful Hearts."

The event was attended by Dr. Josephine B. Fernandez, member, Board of Directors and parents of Grade Six, Grade



Students with their parents and teachers at the event

Ten completers, and parents of the graduating classes of Grade Twelve.

They were assisted by the school's administrative and

schools teaching and supportive staff, class advisers and the two Guidance Counselors from Elementary and High School, Ms. Marian Joy L. Quilang and

Mr. Glenn D. Raz.

This program is one of the institutional activities under student services spearheaded by the guidance office.

This occasion was held to show the students' gratefulness to their parents, and loved ones who helped and supported them as they travel in their educational journey thus far.

The students expressed their sincere gratitude not only to their parents but also to their teachers who molded their behavior and taught them the right attitude in facing trials, difficult tasks and accepting victory with gratitude and humility.

Highway lane set for closure

TDT | Manama

Resurfacing works on RShaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway near Roundabout 6 Underpass for southbound traffic to Zallaq necessitate closure of the slow lane.

The Works Ministry said two lanes will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effective starting from May 19 to May 25.

Bahrain Chamber & IMF meeting highlights jobs, investment focus



Bahrain Chamber and IMF officials during a photocall

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's commitment to developing policies that foster investment and create high-quality jobs was highlighted during a meeting between the Bahrain Chamber and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday. Khalid Najibi, the First Vice-Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, also emphasised the collaborative efforts with the

government to boost trade, facilitate investment, and exchange experiences with countries worldwide. The comments were made during a meeting attended by a delegation from the IMF, led by Asmaa Al-Janaini. During the meeting, Najibi discussed the private sector's endeavours in driving the national economy and attracting significant investment projects. He acknowledged the government's provision of financial



support packages, which played a vital role in equipping the private sector with the necessary resources to navigate the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. In turn, Al-Janaini commended the Bahraini government for launching incentive initiatives and implementing a fiscal balance program that sustains economic growth.

Ajwan Resort Masterplan approved for implementation



The resort land measures 1 million square meters with approximately 1.25 kilometers of open waterfront.

TDI | Manama

INOVEST yesterday said it has received final approval from the Eastern Province Municipality for its revised Ajwan Resort masterplan. Ajwan Resort, previously known as Dannat Resort, is owned by First Gulf Real Estate Company (FGREC), a Saudi company, in which INOVEST has a shareholding of approximately 37.6%. Ajwan Resort is located in Half Moon Bay in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The resort land, which measures 1 million square meters with approximately 1.25 kilometers of open waterfront, is being handled by

Sumou Holding, a Saudi based mega-developer, and First Gulf Real Estate Company (FGREC). Speaking on the occasion, CEO of INOVEST, Yasser AlJar, said, "Developing Ajwan Resort is well aligned with the central theme of real estate investment within the INOVEST Group strategy, and it serves to illustrate our capability in developing and implementing unique real estate opportunities." From his end, Dr Abdulaziz Al Dukahil, Chairman of FGREC's Board of Directors, noted, "The decision to revise the masterplan came as a result of a series of lengthy meetings with our strategic partners, Sumou Holdings."

iPoint honours Advanced PC, SharafDG as top partners at iCONNECT 2023



Vendor Partners with Nabeel Almoayed, Managing Director, Business International Group

TDI | Manama

iPoint, the distribution division of Business International Group, recognised Advanced PC as the Best Channel Partner and SharafDG as their Best Retail Partner of the Year. The awards were presented during the annual channel meet and Award Ceremony called "iCONNECT 2023," held at Diplomat Radisson Blu in Bahrain. The event witnessed the presence of over 450 guests, including resellers and vendor partners.

Nabeel Almoayed, Managing Director of Business International Group, along with John Joseph, Group General Manager, Aruldas Thomas, General Manager of iPoint - Bahrain, and the Vendor Partners, presented the partner awards. Almoayed expressed optimism about the company's expansion and growth in technology products and services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, emphasizing their offering of renowned brands such as Microsoft, Epson, Lenovo, Dell, and others, supported by an extensive channel reach to



Jason McMillan, Epson & iPoint Team launching the new range of Epson WorkForce Enterprise C6000 Series

the technology markets. Furthermore, the event featured the launch of the new range of Epson WorkForce Enterprise C6000 Series, an innovative office solution, by Jason McMillan, Sales Director of Epson Middle East.



Sharaf DG receiving the Best Retail Partner of the Year Award from Nabeel Almoayed



Advanced PC receiving the Best Channel Partner of the Year Award from Nabeel Almoayed

BBK launches offers for credit cards, consumer loans

TDI | Manama

BBK has recently announced the launch of its exclusive offers for credit cards and consumer loans with a variety of benefits. The special offers will be available at the bank's promotional stand at the City Centre Bahrain, ground floor next to Costa Coffee from the 17th to 20th May. The banks said customers visiting the stand can benefit from highly competitive interest rates on personal loans and credit cards - with a chance to win prizes. Dr Adel Salem, General Manager of Retail Banking at



Dr Adel Salem

BBK, stated that the latest credit cards and consumer loan offers come with numerous perks, such as a flexible repayment period, and competitive interest rates as well as other benefits.

BisB announces promotions to senior management positions

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), a provider of digital banking services in Bahrain, has announced promoting several employees to senior management positions. These included 17% of total members: 44% women and 56% men. BisB said it is currently integrating a strategy to ensure equal opportunities, impartiality, and administrative justice, while also supporting talented employees and nurturing them throughout their career paths. Afnan Saleh, Chief Human Resources Officer, said: "We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the employees who have been promoted across different divisions and departments in the Bank. These promotions recognize the staff's potential and their loyalty to the organization, contributing to our current level of excellence and



Afnan Saleh

leadership in Islamic banking in Bahrain. This step also reflects our commitment to investing in our employees and supporting their professional development." Female employees occupy approximately 50% of the total promotions in senior management positions, which, the Bank said, testifies its commitment towards young Bahraini leaders, empowering women and gender equality.

Russian oil exports hit post-invasion high: IEA



Krasnodar Krai governor Veniamin Kondratyev shows firefighters battling a blaze at an oil refinery in the southern Krasnodar region's Ilsky settlement. Russia said a drone attack sparked the refinery fire.

Paris

Russia's oil exports rose in April to the highest level since its invasion of Ukraine, boosting revenues by \$1.7 billion despite Western sanctions, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

The Paris-based organisation said Russian exports increased by 50,000 barrels per day to 8.3 million bpd last month, estimating that the country did not fully deliver on a threat to cut production sharply.

"Indeed, Russia may be boosting volumes to make up for lost revenue," the IEA said in its monthly oil market report. The country's oil export revenues rose by \$1.7 billion to \$15 billion in April.

The figure, however, was 27 percent lower than the same month in 2022. Russia's tax receipts from its oil and gas sector were down by 64 percent year-on-year, the agency added. The Group of Seven wealthy nations and Australia have set price caps on Russian petroleum products and crude in coordination with the European Union in an effort to cut a key source of funding for its war on Ukraine.

The EU has also imposed

embargoes on the country's key oil exports.

In response, Russia has threatened to cut off countries and companies that comply with the price cap.

It has also announced a production cut of 500,000 barrels per day while its allies in the OPEC+ group of oil producers, including Saudi Arabia, also agreed to slash output.

The IEA said Russia crude output held "broadly steady" in April at 9.6 million barrels per day and that the country must cut a further 300,000 barrels per day in May to bring itself into line.

"Russia seems to have few problems finding willing buyers for its crude and oil products, frequently at the expense of fellow OPEC+ members in the two-tier market that has emerged since the embargoes came into force," the IEA said.

The agency said China and India accounted for nearly 80 percent for Russian crude export destinations. China's emergence from nearly three years of Covid restrictions is also expected to lift world oil demand this year as the IEA raised its forecast by 2.2 million bpd to an average of 102 million bpd.

This is 200,000 bpd above the previous forecast.

GIG Takaful first in region to adopt new FAS

TDT | Manama

Takaful International Company (GIG Takaful Bahrain), a leading provider of Islamic insurance solutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced that it has become the first Takaful company in the region to adopt new Financial Accounting Standards (FAS) 43 and 30, issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Organizations (AAOIFI)



Essam Al Ansari

which are equivalent to the International Financial Reporting Standards IFRS 17 and IFRS 9.

IFRS 17, the international accounting standard that FAS 43 is equivalent to, sets out comprehensive requirements for the recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of insurance contracts.

Additionally, FAS 30, equivalent to IFRS 9, focuses on the classification, measurement, and impairment of financial in-

struments. By implementing FAS 30, GIG Takaful aims to bolster its risk management practices and strengthen its financial position.

Commenting on this milestone achievement, Essam Al Ansari, CEO of GIG Takaful Bahrain, said: "We believe that this will further enhance our reputation as a leading provider of Islamic insurance and strengthen our position as a market leader in Bahrain."

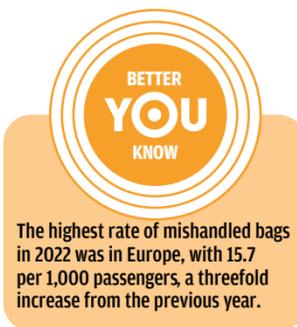
Mishandling of luggage soars as air travel rebounds: study

AFP | Paris

The rate of lost, damaged or delayed luggage nearly doubled last year as air travel rebounded and the sector faced staff shortages following the Covid pandemic, a study found yesterday.

The report by SITA, an IT provider for the air transport industry, said 7.6 bags per 1,000 passengers were mishandled in 2022, up from 4.35 per 1,000 passengers the previous year.

The surge follows more than a decade of reduction in the rate



of mishandled luggage, according to SITA.

In total, 26 million bags were mishandled last year, com-

pared to 9.9 million in 2021, as the number of travellers neared pre-Covid levels, according to SITA.

"After a decade where the mishandling rate more than halved between 2007 and 2021, it is disheartening to see this rate climbing again," said SITA chief executive David Lavorel.

"As an industry, we need to work hard to ensure passengers are once again confident to check in their bags," he said.

Passenger air traffic soared to 3.42 billion last year, but airports

and airlines had fewer staff to handle the surge after laying off thousands when the pandemic brought the sector to its knees.

Air traffic had reached 4.5 billion in 2019, with a baggage mishandling rate of 5.6 bags per 1,000 passengers.

The highest rate of mishandled bags in 2022 was in Europe, with 15.7 per 1,000 passengers, a threefold increase from the previous year.

This compared to 6.35 per 1,000 passengers in North America and three per 1,000 in Asia.

EU backs tougher tax rules on crypto transactions

Brussels

EU ministers agreed strongly yesterday to crack down on the use of cryptocurrencies in tax fraud, as Brussels bolsters its efforts to regulate the volatile sector.

The 27-member bloc's parliament last month approved the world's first comprehensive

rules covering crypto assets, which include cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ethereum and tradable tokens whose value is secured using blockchain technology, such as NFTs.

During a meeting of EU economy and finance ministers on Tuesday, they agreed on rules to go after individuals who stash their cash where tax authorities

have no oversight.

The rules will close loopholes that allow people to avoid taxation on their income using crypto assets, Swedish Finance Minister Elisabeth Svantesson said.

The rules will force all crypto asset providers (CASPs) based in the EU, regardless of their size, to report the transactions

of clients who reside in the bloc.

There will also be an automatic exchange of tax rulings within the EU relating to the wealthiest individuals to target attempts to hide money from the taxman.

The directive will come into force on January 1, 2026 after the European Parliament adopts its position.

Al Malaki Specialist Hospital partners with Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust



In pictures, the launch ceremony

TDT | Manama

Al Malaki Specialist Hospital announced its collaboration with orthopaedic experts from Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust in the United Kingdom.

The official launch programme took place yesterday at the hospital, with representatives from the UK & Greece Embassies, the Undersecretary

from the Ministry of Education, and other guests, under the patronage of Dr Mariam Al-Jalahma, the CEO of NHRA.

As part of the collaboration, Al Malaki Specialist Hospital will host two orthopaedic doctors from Oxford University on May 16th and 17th. The hospital expressed confidence that this partnership will yield significant benefits for both institutions and contribute to the advancement of healthcare in the region. Ox-

ford University Hospital NHS Trust is globally recognised for its excellence in orthopaedic care.

Al Malaki Specialist Hospital stated that, as part of the launch, it is offering second opinion consultations with the Oxford experts, with scheduled appointments for over 100 patients.

The visiting doctors from Oxford University Hospital are:

Dr Duncan Whitwell - Con-

sultant Hip/Knee & Oncology Surgeon; Dr. Whitwell specialises in the treatment of hip/knee and oncology disorders. He serves as an NHS Consultant at Oxford University NHS Trust and the Manor Hospital, Oxford. Additionally, he holds the position of Senior Clinical Lecturer at Oxford University and organizes annual arthroplasty and oncology courses. Dr Whitwell frequently hosts visiting surgeons and provides support

for complex reconstructive surgeries globally.

Dr Chris Little - Consultant Hand & Upper Limb Surgeon: Dr. Little brings extensive expertise in surgical procedures of the hand and upper limb. His specialist practice focuses on shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand musculoskeletal disorders. Dr. Little offers various treatments for conditions such as Carpal tunnel and Cubital tunnel syndrome. He is an ex-

pert in arthritis treatments, including joint-preserving and replacements for fingers, thumbs, wrists, elbows, and shoulders. Additionally, he specialises in the treatment of upper limb fractures, particularly the wrist, and performs arthroscopic surgeries for shoulder, elbow, and wrist. Dr. Little has also pioneered local anaesthetic treatment options for numerous hand and wrist conditions.

News in brief

◆ **French first lady** Brigitte Macron yesterday denounced an attack on her great-nephew, who was beaten up outside her family's chocolate shop in an apparent politically motivated assault. Jean-Baptiste Trogneux was returning to his apartment on Monday evening above the famed Trogneux chocolate shop that he runs in Amiens in northern France, when he was set upon by anti-government protesters. The 30-year-old was hit on the head, arms and legs by his aggressors, who insulted "the president, his wife and our family" before running away, the victim's father, Jean-Alexandre Trogneux, said yesterday. "They've crossed the line. I'm flabbergasted," Trogneux added, saying his son was being checked by a doctor and was awaiting the results of a scan. Brigitte Macron issued a rare statement condemning the "cowardice, stupidity and violence" of the attack. "I am in complete solidarity with my family and have been in touch constantly since 11 pm yesterday," she added.



Relative of Brigitte Macron beaten up at family chocolate shop

◆ **Sam Altman, the chief executive** of ChatGPT's OpenAI, told US lawmakers yesterday that regulating artificial intelligence was essential, after his chatbot stunned the world. The lawmakers stressed their deepest fears of AI's developments, with a leading senator opening the hearing on Capitol Hill with a computer-made voice, sounding remarkably similar to his own, reading a text generated by the bot. "If you were listening from home, you might have thought that voice was mine and the words from me, but in fact, that voice was not mine," said Senator Richard Blumenthal. Artificial intelligence technologies "are more than just research experiments. They are no longer fantasies of science fiction, they are real and present," Blumenthal said.

ChatGPT's Altman pleads to US Senate for AI rules



◆ **Six African leaders** plan to travel to Russia and Ukraine "as soon as is possible" to help find a resolution to the war, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky have "agreed to receive the mission and the African heads of state, in both Moscow and Kyiv," Ramaphosa said. Ramaphosa said he had held "separate telephone calls" with Putin and Zelensky over the weekend, where he presented an initiative drawn up by Zambia, Senegal, the Republic of Congo, Uganda, Egypt and South Africa. "I agreed with both President Putin and President Zelensky to commence with preparations for engagements with the African heads of state," Ramaphosa said.

African nations to send peace mission to Ukraine, Russia



◆ **A French investigating** magistrate yesterday issued an international arrest warrant for Lebanon's central bank chief Riad Salameh, a source close to the case said. Salameh earlier failed to appear for questioning by French investigators who want to know how he amassed sizeable assets across Europe, his lawyer said. "We're hoping we will have intensive discussions," he said, speaking at a press conference in Cape Town during a state visit by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

France issues arrest warrant for Lebanese central bank chief

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Deceased woman wins local election in India

Lucknow
A woman won a local election in India almost two weeks after her death as supporters kept their pledge to back her in a sign of respect, officials said.



Ashiya Bi

Ashiya Bi polled at nearly 44 percent in the race for a municipal civic body seat in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh this month, and was declared victorious posthumously.

The popular 30-year-old first-time candidate fell ill, reportedly from an acute lung and abdominal infection, and died just 12 days before the poll.

Her husband informed election officials, but district officer Bhagwan Sharan said yesterday that there was no procedure in place to remove her name from the ballot.

"Once the electoral process begins, it cannot be halted or paused," Sharan said.

Before she passed away, Bi proved a major hit with voters, and many decided to cast their ballots for her anyway in a sign of respect and admiration.

"Ashiya made friends easily and people didn't want to break the promise of support they gave her and hence the result," local resident Mohammad Zakir told the Times of India daily.

Her husband Muntazim Qureishi said Bi had "won hearts with her calm demeanour". "Our votes are a tribute to her," the paper quoted another voter, Arif, as saying. Personal, familial and community loyalties often play a decisive role in India's at-times colourful and chaotic elections.

Ukraine supreme court chief detained in \$2.7 mn graft probe

AFP | Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday that law enforcement had detained the head of the country's supreme court in a \$2.7 million bribery inquiry, as Kyiv pursues anti-graft measures required for closer integration with the European Union.

"The head of the supreme court has been detained," Oleksandr Omelchenko, a prosecutor with Ukraine's anti-corruption prosecutor's office, told reporters in Kyiv.

Omelchenko said two people, including the court's chief Vsevolod Kniaziev, had been



Zhevago

detained as part of the investigation but declined to identify the second individual. "This is the biggest-ever case"

implicating the judiciary, said the head of Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU), Semen Kryvonos.

Kryvonos likened a group of judges within the supreme court who were implicated in the probe to a "criminal group".

Anti-corruption officials say Ukrainian billionaire Kostiantyn Zhevago had offered the bribe to court officials, with a law firm acting as intermediary.

Anti-corruption officials said Zhevago had transferred \$2.7 million to the lawyers, of which \$1.8 million was to be paid to Supreme Court justices and \$900,000 to lawyers for their

"services as intermediaries".

They said Zhevago had hoped to bribe the court to issue a ruling allowing him to keep control of the shares of a mining company that is at the centre of a dispute with former shareholders.

Zhevago, a former member of the Ukrainian parliament and one of the country's richest men, is currently in France, and Kyiv is attempting to secure his extradition.

He was detained in France in December on suspicion of money laundering and embezzling funds linked to his banking business at home.

Mocha toll rises to 81 in Myanmar

Mocha made landfall on Sunday

Mocha was the most powerful cyclone to hit the area in over a decade

AFP | Sittwe

The death toll in cyclone-hit Myanmar rose to 81 yesterday, according to local leaders and junta-backed media, as villagers tried to piece together ruined homes and waited for aid and support.

Packing winds of up to 195 kilometres (120 miles) per hour, Mocha made landfall on Sunday, downing power pylons and smashing wooden fishing boats to splinters.

In Rakhine state, at least 41 people died in the villages of Bu Ma and nearby Khaung Doke Kar, inhabited by the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority,



A Rohingya woman washes clothes past destroyed houses at Basara refugee camp in Sittwe

local leaders told AFP reporters at the scene.

Thirteen people were killed when a monastery collapsed in a village in Rathedaung township north of Rakhine's capital Sittwe, and a woman died when a building collapsed in a neighbouring village, according to Myanmar state broadcaster MRTV.

"There will be more deaths, as more than a hundred people are missing," said Karlo,

the head of Bu Ma village near Sittwe.

Nearby, Aa Bul Hu Son, 66, said prayers at the grave of his daughter, whose body was recovered on Tuesday morning.

"I wasn't in good health before the cyclone, so we were delayed in moving to another place," he said. "While we were thinking about moving, the waves came immediately and took us."

"I just found her body in the lake in the village and buried her right away. I can't find any words to express my loss."

Other residents walked the seashore searching for family members swept away by a storm surge that accompanied the cyclone, AFP correspondents said.

State media had reported five deaths on Monday, without offering details.

Mocha was the most powerful cyclone to hit the area in over a decade, churning up villages, uprooting trees and knocking out communications across much of Rakhine state.

China said it was "willing to provide emergency disaster relief assistance", according to a statement on the Facebook page of its embassy in Myanmar.

The United Nations refugee office said it was investigating reports that Rohingya living in displacement camps had been killed in the storm.

It was "working to start rapid needs assessments in hard-hit areas" of Rakhine state, it added.

German court jails five over record museum jewel heist

Dresden

A German court yesterday sentenced five gang members to up to six years in prison for snatching priceless 18th-century jewels from a Dresden museum in what has been dubbed the biggest art heist in modern history.

The thieves made off with a haul worth more than 113 million euros (\$123 million) from the Green Vault museum in 2019. Some, but not all, of the loot was recovered in exchange



One of the pieces stolen from the Royal Palace

for four of the defendants confessing in court.

The convicted men, who appeared relieved by the relatively

light sentences, are members of the "Remmo clan", an extended family mostly based in Berlin and known for a web of ties to organised crime.

The court in Dresden handed down three sentences ranging from just under to just over six years for armed robbery, aggravated arson and grievous bodily harm for the November 25, 2019, heist.

Two of the men, who were minors at the time of the crime, received juvenile sentences of five years and four years and

four months respectively.

A sixth defendant was acquitted because he produced a credible alibi -- an emergency surgery at a Berlin hospital.

The plea deal came in for criticism, however, with the president of the Berlin prosecutors' association, Ralph Knispel, noting that the defendants had not been required to reveal their accomplices.

"The question is what message that sends" to other criminals, Knispel told public broadcaster RBB.

One dead, 23 missing after hippo hits boat in Malawi

AFP | Lilongwe

A baby died and 23 people are missing after a hippopotamus hit a boat travelling on Malawi's Shire River, authorities said yesterday.

Police in the southern African country's southern district of Nsanje said the vessel, a canoe, was carrying 37 people across the waterway when the incident took place on Monday morning. Nsanje police spokeswoman



Representative picture

Agnes Zalakoma told AFP locals managed to pull 13 people from

the treacherous waters, while another 23 were still missing on Tuesday.

Rescuers also retrieved the lifeless body of a one-year-old who had drowned in the collision, she said.

"The search mission to locate the missing individuals is currently underway," Zalakoma said.

The canoe started to list and eventually capsized after the hippo collided with it, Zalako-

ma said. The Shire is Malawi's largest river.

Boat accidents are common in Malawi, where the lack of regular water transport forces many to cross lakes and rivers in sometimes rickety boats, in the absence of proper regulations.

Last month at least five people died after an overcrowded boat sank in Malawi's central district of Mchinji.



Eats & Treats

BAHRAIN

to your heart's content

B023-23

Apart from Water

Hydrate with food this summer

A hot summer day in Bahrain calls for the first thing that comes to mind - Water. When we feel parched and dehydrated, water is the most desirable beverage. Our bodies are designed to need water as it assists with essential body functions such as digestion, maintaining ideal body temperature and transporting nutrients. Drinking water first thing in the morning flushes out the stomach and balances the fluid levels in the body. When we sweat during summer, our body loses water, making it crucial to replenish lost fluids. We need around 3-4 litres of water daily, but I have often heard of people struggling to consume the recommended amount. Most people lean towards

fizzy, sugar-laden drinks, caffeinated beverages, and other alternatives. These often result in temporary satisfaction. Have you noticed your desire to drink more after consuming sugar-laden aerated drinks? A temporary thirst quencher makes you feel unsatisfied. Infused water is another excellent alternative, but how much can one consume?

The great news is that you can also keep your body hydrated through food

sources! Several fruits and vegetables are laden with water which can assist with hydration. Cucumbers, iceberg lettuce, celery, zucchini, and cabbage contain over 90% water. This is evident even as you bite into these vegetables. Including them in your diet can speed up hydration after a hot day. A simple cold sliced cucumber sprinkled with salt can instantly refresh and rehydrate you. Such foods help you to feel better instantly. Various fruits offer the same benefit. Watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, and apples are instant hydrators. A single bite of chilled, juicy fruit provides relief from the scorching summer that can often dehydrate you. Incorporate these water-rich foods in your meal plans to stay hydrated even as temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius.

Here are two recipes to show you how to add more moisture-rich foods to your summer meals. The first recipe is Zoodles with Meat Sauce. Zoodles is spiralised zucchini and does not taste like spaghetti, but you will be surprised at how pleasing it is when combined with a delicious meat sauce. It would help if you had a spiraliser to prepare zoodles; an alternative would be to cut them into fine long strips. The second recipe is Apple Pecan Salad. Fresh, juicy, and crunchy apples make this salad so good!



ZOODLES

Ingredients:

- 1 kg medium-sized zucchini, ends trimmed
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions:

- Spiralize zucchini according to the instructions on the spiralizer or cut them lengthwise into 2mm thickness (to look like spaghetti).
- Boil a pot of water and add some salt. Boil the zoodles for about 3 minutes until tender. It should still be intact and not break apart. Drain in a colander to remove excess liquid. You may also sauté it in a little butter before plating up with the meat sauce. Add black pepper to taste.

MEAT SAUCE

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 500 gms ground beef
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 3/4 cup chicken broth, then more as needed
- 2 1/2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1/4 cup (packed) chopped fresh basil
- 3/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1/4 cup finely shredded parmesan, plus more for serving
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

- Heat olive oil in a deep vessel over medium-high heat.
- Add beef and start crumbling the beef, let sear until golden brown, about 3 minutes.
- Continue to cook, tossing and crumbling occasionally until fully cooked through, about 3 minutes longer.
- Transfer beef to a large plate lined with paper towels, leave 1 Tbsp rendered fat in the vessel (or add 1 Tbsp olive oil).
- Reduce skillet heat to medium, add onion and sauté for 4 minutes. Add garlic and sauté for another minute.
- Stir in crushed tomatoes, water, tomatoes paste, cooked beef, basil and oregano. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Bring to a simmer, then reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until onions are tender, about 15 - 20 minutes. Adjust consistency with a little more water as needed.
- Stir in parmesan. Serve warm with cooked spaghetti, garnish with more parmesan and parsley.

Cool Apple Pecan Salad



Ingredients:

For the salad

- 1 crisp tart apple
- 8 cups mixed greens or tender lettuces
- 1/4 cup candied pecans
- 1/4 cup goat cheese or feta cheese crumbles
- 1/4 cup pomegranate seeds or dried cranberries
- Optional: chopped fresh thyme, for garnish

For the maple vinaigrette dressing (use 6 tablespoons in the salad)

- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons apple cider or white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- Fresh ground black pepper (Optional)

Instructions:

Make the dressing: In a medium bowl, whisk the maple syrup, vinegar, Dijon mustard, salt, and black pepper. Whisk in the olive oil 1 tablespoon at a time until a creamy dressing forms.

Assemble the salad:

Thinly slice the apple. Place the greens on a large platter or individual plates. Top with apple slices, candied pecans, goat cheese or feta crumbles, and pomegranate seeds or dried cranberries. Top with about 6 tablespoons of the dressing (or more as desired) and serve immediately.



TAPAS BOHEA



'Brunch-Licious Fridays' At La Med, Is Back!



I was ecstatic when I heard that the Ritz-Carlton Hotel was going to restart their Friday brunch at La Med Restaurant after a long break due to the pandemic. It was an instant reminder of the lovely view and food, so I could not wait to experience it.

Before I dive into the details, I must mention that this brunch is ideal for those looking for a peaceful environment to relish a delectable selection of food and beverages. Their menu features the best dishes from their award-winning speciality restaurants, meaning guests can enjoy Thai, Indian, Mexican, Italian, Japanese and continental cuisine. They have live cooking stations for eggs, pasta and crepes.

The warm greetings of the staff were as welcoming as the soothing light blue and white coastal décor. I sat on a comfortable cushioned chair at a table by the window with a beautiful pool view. The calming blue water and smiling faces of children enjoying the pool made my heart happy. Positive vibes were bustling through the dining area as adults were seen ordering their favourite beverages and browsing the buffet while children were excitedly

tailoring the balloon twister. A solo artist entertained guests with familiar tunes.

The artisan bread display was hard to miss. A cosy soup station was available aside from it. The larger display



had a beautifully presented, wide range of colourful and tasty salads, cold seafood such as lobsters, mussels and shrimps with condiments,

cold cuts, quiche and much more. The hot meals section consisted of chicken biryani, beef medallions with gravy, Arabic mixed grills, lamb chops with peppercorn sauce, mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables, Mediterranean fish with olives, Thai green curry, and other delicacies.

I opted for a virgin strawberry mojito, and it was a very refreshing start. It was tart and sweet owing to the combination of lemon and fresh strawberries with freshness from the mint, all topped with ice.

The carnivore in me was awakened by the obvious sight of the carvery counter upon entering the restaurant. However, I could not resist the chicken satay with peanut sauce. These chicken skewers were everything I hoped for. Tender, mouthwatering chicken marinated in lemongrass, garlic and other aromatics was brilliant with the smooth and creamy peanut dipping sauce. Batter-fried squid rings were as large as my desire to consume them. They were nicely seasoned, as were the shrimps. I devoured them with sweet chilli sauce - the perfect accompaniment to batter-fried seafood. The sushi bar was busy with sushi lovers as they had a wide range of sushi - nigiri and maki. I adore California maki and tempura shrimp maki, and they were a delightful mouthful when combined with a dip of soy sauce and a dot of wasabi.

My first bite from the carvery was a slice of beef sirloin with chimichurri and flakey sea salt.



Flakey sea salt elevated the dish further, as did the gravy. I relished the steak with roasted potatoes and red bell peppers.

Lamb chops with a generous helping of rosemary peppercorn sauce were delicious! The lamb chops were well-trimmed, tender, and scrumptious. It did not have a gamey taste like lamb



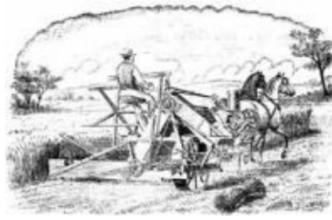
melted white chocolate chips. I paired it with strawberry and caramel sauces.

That thick layer of caramel on the salted caramel brownie was magnificent. The salted caramel layer had a little gelatin to set it. A little piece of chocolate cake with chocolate ganache was sumptuous and scrumptious. Cute individual portions of lemon mousse cakes, cheesecakes, fruit tarts and carrot cake were all so pretty. Crème Brulee was perfect with the crackly shell. The Coffee mousse with lemon dessert had a pretty purple and white chocolate glaze. I noticed that no one cut it until the last moment. It was gorgeous!

After a cup of green tea with mint as the finale, I left the hotel feeling grateful, with a not-so-secret intense desire to return. Take advantage of the Brunch-licious Fridays at La Med. Head to the Ritz-Carlton with your friends or family for the perfect Friday outing.

The brunch is priced at BD 35 per person (includes soft beverages), BD 45 per head (includes select beverages), and BD 17.5 per child (includes soft drinks). For more information or bookings, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com





WHO warns against using artificial sweeteners

● **Increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and mortality in adults**

AFP | Geneva

Artificial sweeteners, used to replace sugar in a vast range of products, do not help in losing weight and can have serious health effects, according to the World Health Organization.

The United Nations' health agency released new guidelines on Monday advising against using so-called non-sugar sweeteners or NSS.

A systematic review of available evidence "suggests that use of NSS does not confer any long-term benefit in reducing body fat in adults or children", the WHO said.

In addition, results from the review "suggest that there may be potential undesirable effects from long-term use of NSS, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and mortality in adults".

Sweeteners are consumed by millions of people every day in products like diet soda or to sweeten coffee, partly as a



Some alternatives to sugar, when consumed long term, do not serve to reduce body fat in either adults or children, the W.H.O. said in a statement. (Picture Courtesy of New York Times)

way to avoid weight gain from sugar. But how healthy these substitutes are has long been a matter of controversy.

The WHO's director for nutrition and food safety, Francesco Branca, stressed that replacing ordinary sugar with artificial sweeteners "does not help with weight control in the long term".

"People need to consider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars, like fruit or unsweetened food and beverages," he said.

"NSS are not essential dietary factors and have no nutritional value. People should reduce the sweetness of the diet altogether, starting early in life, to improve their health."

The WHO said its new recommendation applied to everyone except individuals with pre-existing diabetes.

It includes all synthetic and naturally occurring or modified sweeteners not classified as sugars found in manufactured foods and beverages or sold on their own to be added to products by consumers.

14 people to be tried over French teacher's beheading

Paris

A total of 14 people are set to face trial in France over the beheading of a teacher by an Islamist extremist in 2020, a crime that shocked the country, legal documents obtained showed yesterday.

The most serious charges -- complicity in a terrorist murder -- are being pressed against two friends of the Chechen refugee who murdered teacher Samuel Paty after he showed pictures of the Prophet Mohammed to his pupils, the case documents reveal.

The killer, 18-year-old Abdullakh Anzorov, was shot dead by police at the scene in the Paris suburb of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

Prosecutors believe his friends, Azim Epsirkhanov and Naim Boudaoud, accompanied Anzorov to buy a knife and Boudaoud travelled with him to the school.

Another six adults will be tried for associating with ter-

rorists, including the father of a girl at Paty's school, an Islamic preacher, as well as a Muslim convert in contact with Anzorov via Twitter.

Six teenagers will be brought before children's courts for allegedly undertaking surveillance around the school and identifying Paty for his killer.

Paty was targeted after messages spread on social media that he had shown cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed from the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo to his class.

The 47-year-old history and geography teacher had used the magazine as part of an ethics class to discuss free speech laws in France where blasphemy is legal and cartoons mocking religious figures have a long history.

Paty has become a symbol of France's fight to maintain its strict secular values, with President Emmanuel Macron calling him a "quiet hero" of the republic.

Coming years 'critical' to slash plastic pollution: UN

Paris

The world must halve single-use plastics and slash throwaway consumption to stem the tide of environmental pollution, according to a UN report yesterday that warns the next few years are critical.

Concern is growing about the impacts of plastics, with microplastic fragments found from the deepest oceans trenches to the top of Mount Everest.

In humans, they have been detected in blood, breast milk and placentas.

The report by the United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP) comes two weeks before negotiators from nearly 200 countries meet in Paris for a new round of negotiations aimed at reaching a legal agreement next year to end plastic pollution.

It lays out a three-pronged plan based on reuse, recycling and diversifying the materials used -- to help slash plastic pollution 80 percent by 2040 overall and cut single-use plastic production by half.

The report cited research estimating plastic could emit 19 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

UK promises 45,000 seasonal agricultural worker visas

London

The UK government yesterday promised to award 45,000 visas for seasonal workers in the agricultural sector

next year despite calls from within the ruling Conservative party to cut immigration.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said at a conference in London that there was "no

good reason" Britain cannot train its own lorry drivers and fruit pickers to drive down immigration. But Downing Street defended the decision to grant the visas again.

Two new skeletons found at Pompeii excavations

Rome

Archaeologists at Pompeii said yesterday that they had uncovered two new skeletons of male victims who likely died in an earthquake that accompanied the devastating volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which buried the Italian city in ash in AD 79.

The pair, believed to be two males aged at least 55, were found in recent excavations at Pompeii's "Chaste Lovers" block of buildings.

They are believed to have been killed as an earthquake knocked down a wall in the room where they sought shelter. One of the skeletons had an arm raised as if in defence. The earthquake struck as the huge blast from nearby Mount Vesuvius covered the city of Pompeii with thick volcanic ash, preserving the bodies of many of its residents.

To date, the remains of more than 1,000 people have been uncovered throughout the sprawling site, most recently in November 2020 when archaeologists unearthed two bodies, believed to be a young enslaved person and his possible owner.

The two newly discovered victims announced Tuesday



Archaeologists working by one of two skeletons uncovered at the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, likely middle-aged males who died in an earthquake during the devastating volcanic eruption that buried the Italian city in 79 AD.

"probably died due to multiple traumas caused by the collapse of part of the building", the Pompeii archaeological park said in a statement.

They were found in what is believed to be a storeroom inside the "Chaste Lovers" block, where colourful frescoes and the skeletons of mules who worked the millstones for grain have been uncovered in the past.

The skeletons were found lying on their side with their legs curled up, and one wore a ring on his left hand.

Protecting himself

Earthquakes before and during the eruption, as documented in letters by Roman author Pliny the Younger, also took their toll.

"Among the causes of death, the collapse of buildings, in some cases due to earthquakes that accompanied the eruption, proved to be a lethal threat," the park said.

Pompeii's director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, said modern technology was helping archaeologists "better understand the hell that completely destroyed the city of Pompeii in two days, killing many inhabitants: children, women and men".

YOU

KNOW WHAT

Archaeologists estimate that 15 to 20 percent of Pompeii's population died in the eruption, mostly from thermal shock as a giant cloud of gases and ash covered the city.

Traces of what is believed to be a cloth bundle were found next to one of the victims, containing necklace beads and coins.

Inside the room was an amphora and a collection of bowls and jugs, while an adjacent room contained a home shrine in the form of a fresco, and a narrow bathroom with a toilet.

In the room where the men were found, part of a wall had collapsed, hitting one of the victims "whose raised arm perhaps refers to the tragic image of a vain attempt to protect himself from falling masonry", the park said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Chemical weapons are an abomination. They have no place in our world. I urge all countries to strengthen their commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Let's rally behind our goal of a safer, more secure planet for all.

@antonioguterres

02



Had an excellent meeting with tribal leaders from Arunachal Pradesh. We discussed different aspects relating to the state's development and fulfilling the wishes of the people.

@narendramodi

03



Starlink enables greater access to health-care and medical services, especially for those in remote locations.

@elonmusk

04



My plan cuts wasteful spending on Big Oil and Big Pharma. MAGA Republicans' bill cuts veterans' health care, Meals on Wheels, and education. They're showing us their values—loud and clear.

@POTUS

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

CELEBS

celebs

Dwayne Johnson opens up about his depression battles

ANI | Los Angeles

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson recently got candid about his personal life.

During an appearance on The Pivot podcast, the Black Adam actor opened up about his battles with depression. He explained that he first felt depressed when he was at the University of Miami, and he injured his shoulder, which kept him from being able to play on the football team, The Hollywood Reporter reported.

"I didn't want to go to school," he said. "I was ready to leave. I left school. I didn't take any midterms, and I just left. But the interesting thing, at that time, is I just didn't know what it was. I didn't know what mental health was. I didn't know what depression was. I just knew I didn't want to be there, wasn't going to any of the team meetings, wasn't participating in anything."

He also explained that he couldn't work out due to his injury, which made what he was going through even tougher as an athlete.

"Years later, I went through it again when I got a divorce. Didn't know what it was," he continued. "Years later, around 2017 or so, went through a little bit. I knew what it was at that time, and luckily, at that time, I had some friends who I could lean on, and say, 'You know, I'm feeling a little wobbly now. Got a little struggle happening. I'm seeing a little grey and not the blue.'"

The actor said that his "saving grace" during his bouts of depression has been his three daughters and "being a girl dad," sharing, "You look at them, and you realize, 'Well, I mean, really, this is what it's all about.'"

Dwayne Johnson



Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner's kids prefer his movies to hers

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Jennifer Garner's children would rather watch actor Ben Affleck's movies.

The 51-year-old actress, who shares children Violet, 17, Seraphina, 14, and Samuel, 11, with Ben, has opened up that her kids don't enjoy watching her movies and that they much prefer to see her ex-husband on screen, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"They don't mind watching their dad, but they kind of want me to be their mom. They don't want to see me upset and women cry more in what we do. And they don't really want to see me in a romantic thing," Jennifer - who has starred in films such as 'Dallas Buyers Club' and 'Yes Day' - told *Allure* magazine.

Jennifer - who was mar-



Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner

ried to Ben between 2005 and 2018 - loves the challenge of motherhood. The actress always dreamed of having children, even if that meant having to adopt or becoming a foster parent.

She shared: "Being a moth-

er was one thing I knew I was going to be. I really could have been a mother in any way. I could have adopted, I could have fostered, but there was no doubt I was going to be a mom.

"I mean, I was the kid with the doll everywhere I went. And I had a babysitting company with my friend Carrie - C and J's Babysitting - from, like, seventh or eighth grade."

Jennifer has even confessed to being a little overbearing with her own kids. The Hollywood star said: "I have a lot of faith in my kids. I don't love every behaviour all the time, always. It's gnarly growing up. 'We didn't have the eyes on us that our kids have.'"

Jackie Chan to star in action sequel 'A Legend'

ANI | Washington

Jackie Chan has come on board to act in a sequel to his 2005 martial arts fantasy-adventure hit 'The Myth'.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the movie will be directed by Chan's longtime collaborator Stanley Tong (Rumble in the Bronx). The movie is titled 'A Legend'.

The sequel will have a budget of USD 50 million, which is considered to be a large amount for the Chinese film industry.

Yixing Zhang (Kung Fu Yoga) and Coulee Nazha (Police Story 2013) will star alongside Jackie Chan in 'A Legend'.

Jackie Chan



Shakira says love ripped her apart in year of 'seismic change'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Shakira declared she was "ripped apart" by love in a year of "seismic change".

The 46-year-old pop star gave a moving speech about love and music as she accepted Billboard's Woman of the Year award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala at the Watsco Center in Miami, Florida - insisting she poured her heartache over her split from former footballer Gerard Pique into her songs.

During the event Shakira told the audience: "This has been a year of seismic change in my life where I've felt more than ever and very personally what it is to be a woman. And what it means. 'It's been a year where I've realised we women are stronger than we think, braver than we believed,

more independent than we were taught to be.

"Because what woman hasn't at some time in her life forgotten herself because she's seeking the attention and love of someone else?"

"It happened to me, more than once. But there comes a time in the life of every woman where she no longer depends on someone else to love and accept herself just as she is.

"A time when the search for someone else is replaced by the search for oneself. A time when the desire to be perfect is replaced by the desire to be authentic, and where

"This has been a year of seismic change in my life where I've felt more than ever and very personally what it is to be a woman. And what it means

SHAKIRA



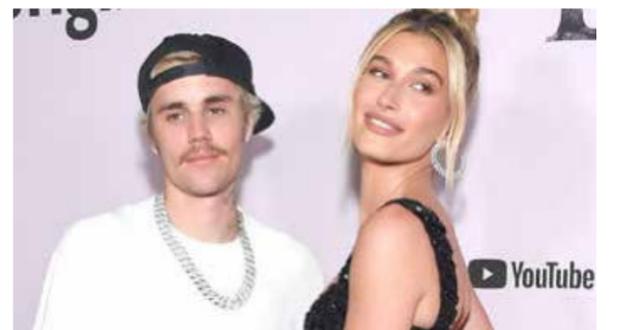
finding someone who is faithful is less important than being faithful to ourselves."

She went on to say: "It's true that when I felt most lost, music put me in the road back to myself.

"But the most important lessons I learned from other women, and for them I wrote what I wrote and I sang what I sang. Because only a woman can love until she's ripped apart; can speak with the most brutal honesty; can sing with anger; dance in ecstasy and be brought to tears with emotion. Only a woman

Shakira

Hailey Bieber explains why she's 'scared' to start a family with Justin Bieber



Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber

Fox | Los Angeles

Hailey Baldwin Bieber is sharing how she really feels about starting a family with husband, Justin Bieber.

In an interview with The Sunday Times, the 26-year-old socialite said, "I literally cry about this all the time."

"I want kids so bad but I get scared," Hailey continued. "It's enough that people say things about my husband or my friends. I can't imagine having to confront people saying things about a child."

She continued, "We can only do the best we can to raise them, as long as they feel loved

and safe."

Hailey has opened up about starting a family with her pop star husband in the past.

In August, the Rhode founder told Harper's Bazaar that their marriage takes "effort" and so would having children.

"He's still the person that I wanna be rushing back to," she said at the time. "I might fly somewhere and go do a job, but I can't wait to come back and hang out."

"I feel like that's because of the effort that's been put in on both sides. At the end of the day, like, he's my best friend, but it still does take a lot of work to make it work," she continued.

SUDOKU

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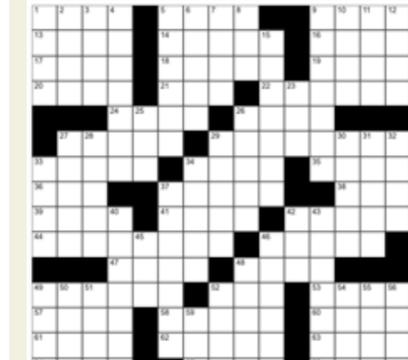
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Mil. addresses; 5- Wyo. neighbor; 9- London gallery; 13- Burt's ex; 14- Role model; 16- Some TVs; 17- On the ocean; 18- Slack-jawed; 19- Donations to the poor; 20- Ersatz; 21- 100 yrs; 22- Allego; 24- Islamic ruler; 26- Fighting; 27- Boatwain; 29- Sailing vessel; 33- Managed; 34- Poker pot starter; 35- Harangue; 36- Boiling; 37- Elevator stop; 38- Suffix with meteor; 39- Pinza of "South Pacific"; 41- Smell or fragrance; 42- Roof overhangs; 44- Recollected; 46- Effluent system; 47- Bridle strap; 48- Scrabble piece; 49- First name in aviation; 52- Fannie; 53- Actress Ward; 57- Farm structure; 58- Toothed wheels; 60- Foreboding; 61- Novelist Waugh; 62- Prurlock's creator; 63- Pit; 64- Mont. neighbor; 65- Numbers to crunch; 66- Coup d'...

Down

1- Melodramatic cry; 2- Ritzy; 3- Fit for service; 4- Like some cats; 5- Nicotinic acid; 6- Trimming tool; 7- Pinto or lima; 8- Knock vigorously; 9- Farm vehicle; 10- Legal rights org.; 11- Highland hats; 12- "quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 15- Skin of animal; 23- AFL partner; 25- Mire; 26- Bogie, e.g.; 27- Alcoholic drink; 28- Pertaining to the eye; 29- Headband; 30- Green; 31- Computer key; 32- Hwys; 33- "Believe" singer; 34- Pilgrim John; 37- Leafage; 40- Pivot for a paddle; 42- Serpentine swimmer; 43- Inspiring amazement; 45- Circle of flowers; 46- Midday nap; 48- Fortune-telling cards; 49- Slippery; 50- Slippery; 50- Temperate; 51- Zeno's home; 52- Mother of Hermes; 54- Send forth; 55- Actress Olin; 56- Work without; 59- Antiquity, old-style;

Yesterday's solution

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

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Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

Sayed Kadhem aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39334023 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468574 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajjinath@urbaser.com

Art Vision for Building Services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33700224 or ISAMAHDI.BH@GMAIL.COM

I AND G CLEANING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39155054 or IMATAR86@HOTMAIL.COM

FINE FOODS has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729595 or sakina@hnm-group.com

SOLARTRONIC EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36088335 or SOLARTRONIC@MAIL.COM

ALMATOOQ CONSTRUCTIONS EST has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32133133 or amirmatooq@cloud.com

GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or hussain.almajed@gulfhotelgroup.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (SITE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MSC@MCSWLL.COM

REVIRA HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729222 or admin@inventhouse.net

KPMG/FAKHRO. has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224807 or ebrahimahmed@kpmg.com

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

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

SENGER GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441020 or AENGINEER@LIVE.COM

SHARIF STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33439339 or POPCORNERE@GMAIL.COM

ALOSTA AUTO SERVICE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39511159 or ADEL.SHARAF55@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN JEWELLERY CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17520052 or hr@bjc.com.bh

MOHAMMED ASHOOR ALSHEGHEL ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39458852 or alshughul@gmail.com

VITOL BAHRAIN E.C has a vacancy for the occupation of ANALYST(MARKETING RESEARCH), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33755090 or MAA@VITOL.COM

ALMUFEED TYRE & AUTO ELECTRICAL ESTABLIS has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILES MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39696149 or ALMUFEEDAUTOCOM@GMAIL.COM

AWAL PALACE CERAMICA has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39026287 or ba7r6565@hotmail.com

ALPHA PROPERTIES & RENT OF ESTAT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 33320001 or ALMALAKYAUTO@HOTMAIL.COM

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667181 or mjmh69@hotmail.com

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

Sayed Kadhem aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39334023 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

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

Saleh Abdulla Kameshki & Sons B.S.C (c) has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38311663 or admin01@kameshki.com

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY B.S.C. (DIPLOMAT HOTEL) has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530838 or zalajawi@nhcbahrain.com

Sayed Kadhem aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39334023 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

ALHASSANAIN B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERINTENDENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17559999 or JAAFAR@ALHASSANAINCO.COM

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BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/ PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokhedha@bas.com.bh

TEA TIME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or HASH2H2@GMAIL.COM

DORAR TAMMAM FOR TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33001108 or nader@dtc.sa

AL NAFEEES SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33048775 or JAVEDBH4@GMAIL.COM

JAAFAR HASAN JAWAD HASAN (ANWAR ALMUHARAQ / 2410) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39152229 or LUMINASS3410@HOTMAIL.COM

National Readymix Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or HASHIM.ALI@NCCBAHRAIN.COM

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

NOOR ALDAAR TRADING AND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33226221 or Jassimshamlooh@gmail.com

A. A. K CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291853 or aak5862@yahoo.com

MILLENUM STUDIO has a vacancy for the occupation of PHOTOGRAPHER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33161039 or haleemaa246@gmail.com

KARAK HOUSE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34560035 or MOHAMEDALNAWAF22@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

SAMIR SANILARY WARE AND ELECTRICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699862 or SAMEERJAFAR999@GMAIL.COM

AL DIYAR TREE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241014 or ALSAMMAK999@HOTMAIL.COM

AIRTECH W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of INSULATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675599 or admin@airtech.com.bh

AHLI UNITED BANK B.S.C. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585778 or girish.menon@ahliunited.com

Pricewaterhousecoopers m.e limited has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17118800 or elias.abinakhoul@pwc.com

ALMOAYYED SCAFFOLDING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

UNICORP COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3841180 or REZA@UNICORPWLL.COM

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLANT / UNIT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

ATLAS FISH COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39276090 or SADIQ_Y5_65@HOTMAIL.COM

ARMAN HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39655474 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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PRIME LINE SHIPPING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245552 or Y3MK22@GMAIL.COM

Sayed Kadhem aldurazi & sons B.S.c. close has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MOBILE-CRANE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39334023 or sayedshubbar@skaldurazi.com

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

SAHARI STUDIO has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699611 or mohamed6@batelco.com.bh

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17636363 or ahmed@jazayani.com

SMALCO CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33040002 or smalco.bh@hotmail.com

AFAAQ ALKALIJ EXCAVATION & BUILDING EQUIPMENTS RENTAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13642444 or afaaalkhalij@gmail.com

RABEEH HAMAD TOWN PHARMACY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17600732 or NISARASHRAF@YMAIL.COM

TAILOR LOOK FOR BETTER has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39722719 or TOFALREZA@GMAIL.COM

FATI GLOW BEAUTY LOUNGE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33444552 or AQLANAAS1@GMAIL.COM

Seventy Seven For Sale-Trade of Electrical Machinery WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33433238 or HARDEEPSARA1980@GMAIL.COM

FIVE STAR CAR SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33844468 or FAISAL1663@YAHOO.COM

Eikheshen for Creative Solutions W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLIC RELATIONS CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33203007 or gulfsigma92@gmail.com

Classifieds



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email: advt@newsofbahrain.com

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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JANATHA MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077630 or JANATHAGARAGEWLL@GMAIL.COM

City Point Hotel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500794 or ayman@sevenleisure.net

GEAR5 FITNESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330846 or CAROLINA@GEAR5FITNESS.COM

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or VIJESH.NAIR@HAJIHASSAN.COM

DELMA TRADING AND CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17611997 or DELMASER@GMAIL.COM

BABAL BURJ SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36345062 or BALJINDERGULF1981@GMAIL.COM

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

AHMED OMAR TRADING & CONTRACTING EST. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TILES FIXER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258545 or admin@ahmedomer.com

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

WADI ALSAIL GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367000 or info@wadialsailgate.com

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

HALA CAFE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39684338 or H.F.OBAID@GMAIL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

17717730 or ALAZZAMGROUP@YAHOO.COM

BAHRAIN BAYAN SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77122255 or ZAINAB.SHABAN@BAYANSCHOOL.EDU.BH

SAHARI STUDIO has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699611 or mohamed6@batalco.com.bh

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

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

AHMED OMAR TRADING & CONTRACTING EST. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TILES FIXER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or admin@ahmedomer.com

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

AL MOHAWALAH INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34194457 or rimshanrahim@gmail.com

TWO CORNERS CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

33939913 or ATTOOLY@HOTMAIL.COM

BOMBO SHAWARMA CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000342 or BAMIN@DIVIDENDGATECAPITAL.COM

THY Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33655884 or THY.SOLUTION123@GMAIL.COM

RASMALAI RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36366888 or BAMIN@DIVIDENDGATECAPITAL.COM

GRILLE TECH METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36691460 or INFO@GRILLETECHBAHRAIN.COM

MEHNA MARKETING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR ACCOUNTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77992124 or ACC.ACURAL@GMAIL.COM

DOWNTOWN ROTANA HOTEL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17110196 or Adel@banaderhotels.com

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39405504 or WORLDSERVICES1988@GMAIL.COM

LEVISH CARGO HANDLING CO. - BAHRAINI

PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36428158 or LEVISH820@GMAIL.COM

GBL GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36003001 or zainab@gbi-group.co

SPARKTECH INDUSTRIAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33228707 or ARSALEEM31@GMAIL.COM

THE GROVE RESORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16033105 or HRGROUP.BH@GMAIL.COM

FASHION SENSE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33860711 or YAYA_GHULAM@YAHOO.COM

THE COTTAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38884333 or THECOTTAGEBAKEHOUSE.BH@GMAIL.COM

ROBAMAT SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39101140 or BRITISH.D.C.SERVICES@GMAIL.COM

JEHLUM SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38398065 or

shabangujar3002@gmail.com

OBRAS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32223315 or OBRAS.CMS3@GMAIL.COM

ZANGUL CAFETERIA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38151111 or ZANGULTECHNOLOGY@GMAIL.COM

EJAZ SUPER BLUE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35142724 or IJAZRANA009@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN QUIZ SERVICES RESTAURANTS MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39066719 or PRO@BUKHOWA.COM

DILAWAR AIR CONDITIONING WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33175399 or IQRATARIQ937@GMAIL.COM

Gracefully Marketing and Promotion Bahraini Partnership Company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38020009 or AMBITIONBH@GMAIL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or ALAZZAMGROUP@YAHOO.COM

It's snow joke -- Giro d'Italia cancels highest climb of race



Riders cycles towards the start of the tenth stage

AFP | Viareggio

This year's Giro d'Italia has been robbed of its most challenging climb as organisers said yesterday that there is too much snow covering the Great-Saint-Bernard Pass.

The cyclists were due to tackle the 2,469 metres mount on Friday's 13th stage but instead will ride through the tunnel which is 600 metres lower down on the way to the finish in the Swiss municipality of Crans-Montana.

The 2,304m Tre Cime di Lavaredo -- where the 19th stage reaches a climax on May 26 -- takes over the mantle of 'Cima Coppi' (named in honour of the legendary five-time champion Fausto Coppi) as the highest climb of this year's edition.

The Giro's scheduling in May makes it especially vulnerable to the variable moods of the weather.

The heavy snowfalls in the Alps in recent days will make the third and final week of the race particularly challenging as it is dominated by climbs.

The penultimate stage could be of special concern to race chiefs -- a time-trial on a narrow road climbing to a finish at Monte Lussari some 1,766 metres high.

This comes as a second blow in a matter of days for Giro organisers with overall leader and race favourite Remco Evenepoel withdrawing on Sunday due to a positive test

YOU
KNOW WHAT

The heavy snowfalls in the Alps in recent days will make the third and final week of the race particularly challenging as it is dominated by climbs

for Covid.

The Belgian was not obliged to withdraw due to a positive test -- it is at the team's discretion whether a rider carries on or not as the Covid health protocol has been dropped.

Others, though, followed suit in pulling out yesterday due to Covid -- Italian Domenico Pozzovivo and his Israel PT team-mate Mads Wurtz, even though the latter tested negative he did not feel well enough to continue.

Intermarche's Norwegian rider Sven Erik Bystrom also failed to make the start line for the 10th stage as although cleared by the International Cycling Union's (UCI) medical staff he developed further symptoms overnight.

"He was withdrawn as a precautionary measure, and with the desire to care for his health," said the team.

BFA announces relegation play-off dates

● **Three match dates to be played to determine final two spots available for next season in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League**

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Football Association (BFA) announced yesterday the dates of the four-team relegation play-offs, which will determine the final two clubs that will play in next season's Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

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)

are scheduled to take place on Monday and Friday next week, as well as on May 30.

To date, only the two second division teams of A'ali and Buri are confirmed for the play-offs.

Second division champions Al Najma and runners-up Busait-een have already secured their place in the Kingdom's top flight for next season, while they are hoping to be joined by A'ali and Buri, who were third and fourth, respectively, on their standings.

Budaiya, meanwhile, are already assured of relegation from the top-tier league, while three teams are still waiting to avoid automatic relegation and compete in the play-offs.

Those are East Riffa, Al Hala and Bahrain Club, all of whom will be in action tomorrow night.

Bahrain Club will face title-chasing Al Khaldiya, who, with a win or draw, will claim the coveted crown, while East Riffa and Hala face off.

Both games are scheduled to kick off at 7pm at separate venues, and they will determine the final table for the season.

A loss for Khaldiya by two goals or less will also seal them the championship, as they currently hold a super goal difference of three over Manama on the standings. Both contenders are on 41 points apiece.

Arsenal's Balogun switches from England to United States - FIFA

AFP | London

Arsenal striker Folarin Balogun has switched national team allegiances from England to the United States, FIFA said yesterday.

"The change of association of the player Folarin Jolaoluwa Balogun from England to the USA has been approved," a FIFA spokesperson said.

The New York-born Balogun, who moved to England as a two-year-old, could have represented the United States, England and Nigeria, the country of his parents' birth.

Although Balogun has played youth football for the United States, most of his representative career has been with England where he has been part of the Under-21 team.

FIFA rules allow players to switch nationality before they have played a full, competitive game for the senior national team.

Interest from the United States has intensified this season as the 21-year-old has impressed during a loan spell with French Ligue 1 club Reims, netting 19 goals in 34 appearances.

In March, Balogun was spotted in Florida where the US was preparing for a CONCACAF Nations League game, further fuelling speculation of a switch.

The US's interim coach An-



Reims' English forward Folarin Balogun (L) and Marseille's French midfielder Jordan Veretout (R) fight for the ball

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Although Balogun has played youth football for the United States, most of his representative career has been with England where he has been part of the Under-21 team

thony Hudson, confirmed that

It is up to the player to weigh up where his heart feels. Is he prepared to wait a little bit for an opportunity if he backs himself and feels he can push his way into our squad? Because anybody who has followed us will know that we will give young players a chance. So, we cannot go and give first-team call-ups to someone just because we don't want them to go somewhere else

GARETH SOUTHGATE, THE ENGLAND MANAGER

19

goals have been scored by Folarin Balogun in 34 appearances during a loan spell with French Ligue 1 club Reims

Balogun had met with federation officials to discuss his future.

Balogun had pulled out of England Under-21 duty before making that trip and Gareth Southgate, the England manager,

er, had said the eventual choice was entirely down to the player.

"It is up to the player to weigh up where his heart feels. Is he prepared to wait a little bit for an opportunity if he backs himself and feels he can push his way into our squad?"

"Because anybody who has followed us will know that we will give young players a chance. So, we cannot go and give first-team call-ups to someone just because we don't want them to go somewhere else," he said.

My legacy is exceptional, says Guardiola

Pep Guardiola eyes Champions League flourish to 'exceptional' Manchester City legacy

● **Guardiola ridicules claim he must win Champions League at Man City**

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola says his legacy as Manchester City boss is already "exceptional" as the English champions aim to finally turn their domestic dominance into European glory.

City host Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final on Wednesday with the tie delicately poised at 1-1.

Victory over the Spanish giants would put Guardiola's men in prime position to become just the second side ever to win the treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in the same season.

City need just one win from their final three Premier League games to guarantee a fifth title in six seasons under Guardiola but they have never been crowned



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (3L) gives his players a pep talk during a match against Arsenal (file photo)

European champions.

They may never have a better chance as the winners of their clash with Madrid will be strong favourites to beat either AC Milan or Inter Milan in next month's final in Istanbul.

Legacy

"My legacy, our legacy is exceptional already," Guardiola said at his pre-match press conference yesterday.

ference yesterday.

"We are not stupid (not) to know how important is tomorrow's game. It's one of the most important since we are together here.

"We cannot deny that, for the competition, for the rival, for many things. I said to the players 'live it like a huge opportunity, enjoy the moment'.

"How fortunate we are. We are

”
My legacy, our legacy is exceptional already. We are not stupid (not) to know how important is tomorrow's game. It's one of the most important since we are together here. We cannot deny that, for the competition, for the rival, for many things. I said to the players 'live it like a huge opportunity, enjoy the moment'

PEP GUARDIOLA

incredibly lucky to be here. It's in our hands, it depends on us, we don't have to do something exceptional, just be ourselves and win one game to reach a final."

City's dreams were shattered by a stunning late Madrid fight-back when the sides met in last season's semi-final.

YOU KNOW WHAT
City have not lost at home in the Champions League for five years and have won all 14 games on home soil in 2023

But this time Guardiola's men crucially have home advantage in the second leg and boast a formidable record at the Etihad. City have not lost at home in the Champions League for five years and have won all 14 games on home soil in 2023.

"It's a dream come true to be here," added Guardiola, who twice won the competition as Barcelona coach.

"We arrive really good for the fact we are in the FA Cup final, one game away to win the Premier League and semi-final of

the Champions League, but at the same time we have to play much better than the Madrid (away) game."

City meet Manchester United -- the only side to have completed the treble -- in the FA Cup final at Wembley on June 3.

As influential as Guardiola has been during his seven years in charge, the transformation in City's fortunes came long before the Catalan's arrival, when the club was taken over by Emirati royal Sheikh Mansour in 2008.

Billions of pounds have been poured in on and off the pitch to make City the dominant force in English football.

Defender Kyle Walker said the players owe it to the club's owners to deliver the Champions League title.

"The club is missing that one," said the England international, whose head-to-head with Madrid star Vinicius Junior will be one of the key tussles in the second leg.

"For the owners, the amount of money they've pumped into this club, we owe that to them. We owe it to ourselves as well."

England paceman Archer out of Ashes with elbow injury



Jofra Archer of England bowls during a nets session (file photo)

AFP | London

Fast bowler Jofra Archer was yesterday ruled out of the Ashes with a stress fracture to his right elbow as England announced their Test squad to face Ireland next month.

The 28-year-old Sussex quick, who was recently in action in the Indian Premier League, will not play again "for the rest of the summer", the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement.

"Recent scans revealed he has sustained a recurrence of a stress fracture to his right elbow," the ECB said.

England play Ireland in a one-off Test starting at Lord's on June 1, which will be their final preparation for the Ashes series against Australia, beginning later in the month.

Yorkshire wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow is back with England for the first time since last August after recovering from breaking his left leg and dislocating his ankle during a round of golf.

Bairstow, whose return comes at the expense of fellow wicketkeeper Ben Foakes, smashed six centuries last year before suffering his freak injury.

James Anderson, 40, the most successful fast bowler

YOU KNOW WHAT
England play Ireland in a one-off Test starting at Lord's on June 1, which will be their final preparation for the Ashes series against Australia, beginning later in the month

in Test history with 685 wickets, was named in the 15-man squad despite suffering a groin injury while playing for Lancashire last week.

Warwickshire seamer Chris Woakes returns while Durham fast bowler Mark Wood is back after taking a break from the tour of New Zealand.

Surrey batsman Ollie Pope has been officially confirmed as England's vice-captain with immediate effect.

Paceman Archer, who has not played a Test since February 2021, has been dogged by elbow and back injuries in recent years -- he has only played 13 Tests in total.

76ers fire coach Rivers after playoff exit

AFP | Miami

The Philadelphia 76ers have fired head coach Doc Rivers after their exit from the NBA playoffs at the hands of the Boston Celtics.

The 76ers' President of Basketball Operations Daryl Morey said the decision came after a review of the season.

"Doc is one of the most successful coaches in NBA history, a future Hall of Famer, and someone I respect immensely. We're grateful for all he did in his three seasons here and thank him for the important impact he made on our franchise.

"After having the chance to reflect upon our season, we decided that certain changes are necessary to further our goals of competing for a championship," he said.

The decision comes after the



Head Coach Doc Rivers of the Philadelphia 76ers talks with James Harden #1 and Tyrese Maxey #0

112-88 loss to the Celtics in game seven of the Eastern Conference semi-finals on Sunday.

It was the third straight season that Philadelphia were eliminated a game short of the

conference finals.

Rivers fell to 6-10 in game sevens as a coach - the most game seven defeats of any NBA coach in history and he remains without a game-seven

YOU KNOW WHAT
Rivers fell to 6-10 in game sevens as a coach - the most game seven defeats of any NBA coach in history and he remains without a game-seven win on the road in his coaching career

win on the road in his coaching career.

Rivers joined the 76ers in 2020 after spells with the Los Angeles Clippers, the Celtics and the Orlando Magic.

Rivals City, Liverpool lead European giants visiting Asia

AFP | London

European giants Manchester City, Liverpool and Bayern Munich will all travel to Asia this summer, after a raft of fixtures around the continent were announced yesterday.

Pep Guardiola's City, who are on the cusp of retaining their Premier League crown, will play his former side Bayern and Japanese champions Yokohama F Marinos in friendlies in Tokyo.

City will face Marinos on July 23 before taking on Bayern three days later, with both games taking place at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Bayern will also play J-League side Kawasaki Frontale before travelling to Singapore to take on Liverpool on August 2.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool will play two games in the city state, also squaring off against Leicester on July 30.



Players shake hands on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Liverpool (file photo)

Tottenham Hotspur, who should have a new coach in by then, will travel to Australia, Thailand and Singapore.

Spurs, who are still searching for a full-time manager to re-

place Antonio Conte, will face West Ham in Perth on July 18, before travelling to Bangkok to play Leicester on July 23.

They round their tour off with a game against former coach

BETTER YOU KNOW
Manchester City will face Bayern Munich on July 26 in Tokyo

Jose Mourinho's Roma in Singapore on July 26.

Newly crowned Spanish champions Barcelona are also coming to Asia.

They face Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe in Tokyo on June 6, just days after they complete their league season.

Scottish champions Celtic also visit Japan this summer, taking on coach Ange Postecoglou's former team Marinos in Yokohama on July 19.

Ettihad aim to close out league semi-final against Muharraq

● Game two of Golden Square semi-finals in Zain Bahrain Basketball League scheduled for 7pm tip-off at Khalifa Sports City Arena

TDT | Manama

Al Ettihad will be looking to close out their Golden Square semi-final series against Muharraq tonight in the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ettihad won game one of their best-of-three match-up 96-82 and will be hoping for a repeat performance. Tonight's clash is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Muharraq will be hoping to extend their head-to-head to a decisive third game. If needed,



Ettihad players celebrate after their game one win

that rubber match will be held on Saturday.

The league's other Golden Square clash will be between heated rivals Manama and Al Ahli. Manama are the league's defending champions and will have to go through their long-

time nemesis in their hopes to retain their crown.

Game one is scheduled for tomorrow, after which game two will be held on May 25. Game three, if needed, will take place May 28.

Manama has already elimi-

nated Ahli from the Khalifa bin Salman Cup, and will be hoping to do the same in the league.

Manama will face Muharraq in the Khalifa bin Salman Cup final, which has yet to be scheduled by the Bahrain Basketball Association.

Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz re-elected uncontested as BTTA Chairperson

TDT | Manama

Incumbent Bahrain Table Tennis Association (BTTA) Chairperson Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa has been reelected uncontested for a new term.

Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz expressed her gratitude for the trust bestowed upon her by BTTA General Assembly.

7 out of the 13 candidates who ran for the election, won BTTA board membership.

The winners expressed their



Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz

thanks and appreciation to BTTA General Assembly, pledging to work hand in hand with the Chairperson in order to serve table tennis in Bahrain.

Milan's Bennacer out for six months after knee surgery

AFP | Milan

AC Milan midfielder Ismael Bennacer has been ruled out for at least six months after having surgery on his right knee, the Serie A club said on Tuesday.

Algeria international Bennacer, 25, was substituted in the 17th minute of his side's 2-0 Champions League semi-final first leg defeat by Inter Milan last week.

Milan said Bennacer had surgery in Lyon on Tuesday morning to repair the cartilage lesion in his right knee.

Bennacer has played 40 games in all competitions this season, registering three goals and two assists.

Milan take on Inter in the return leg of the semi-final at San Siro later on Tuesday. Manchester City host Real Madrid



AC Milan's Algerian defender Ismael Bennacer (L) and Inter Milan's Turkish midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu go for the ball

Bennacer has played 40 games in all competitions this season, registering three goals and two assists

in the other semi on Wednesday with their tie level at 1-1.

Injured Aussie star Kyrgios to miss French Open

AFP | Sydney

Australia's unpredictable tennis star Nick Kyrgios will miss the French Open due to a knee injury, the Grand Slam event organisers the French Tennis Federation (FFT) said yesterday.

The 28-year-old has never flourished on the Roland-Garros clay reaching the third round on just two of the five times he has played there.

The 2022 Wimbledon finalist -- ranked 26 in the world -- has not played in the French Open since a second-round exit in 2017.

Kyrgios has had a troubled



Nick Kyrgios leaves the magistrate's court in Canberra on Feb. 3 (file photo)

year after undergoing knee surgery in January to repair a

Kyrgios has had a troubled year after undergoing knee surgery in January to repair a torn left meniscus following his withdrawal from the Australian Open

torn left meniscus following his withdrawal from the Australian Open.

He also pleaded guilty in February to assaulting a former girlfriend, but avoided a conviction for what the magistrate called a "single act of stupidity".

Djokovic sees off Norrie to reach Italian Open quarter-finals

● Cameron Norrie leaves his mark on Novak Djokovic in second-set incident

AFP | Rome

Novak Djokovic eased into the Italian Open quarter-finals yesterday after breezing past Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4, although there was tension with the Briton after the top seed was hit by a smash.

The Serb has reached the last eight in each of his previous 16 appearances in the Italian capital and he did again yesterday, getting past Norrie on centre court to set up a clash with Holger Rune.

It will be a rematch of last year's Paris Masters final, when the young Dane won his first Masters 1000 title by beating Djokovic in a thrilling match.

"Even though he's really young, I know his game quite well. He's been on the tour now for last few years playing some great tennis, particularly in the



Cameron Norrie (L) and Novak Djokovic shake hands after the match

last I would say six to eight months," said Djokovic.

"He's in very good form and I look forward to a challenge. I think it's going to be a very physical match."

Djokovic is gunning for a seventh title on clay in Rome and his chances have been made a little bit easier by the shock elimination of Carlos Alcaraz on Monday.

Alcaraz, who won two consecutive tournaments at Barcelona and Madrid, will take

world number one spot from Djokovic on May 22 but it is the 22-time Grand Slam champion who could go into Roland Garros with yet another title under his belt.

Djokovic won the first three games against Norrie and closed out the first set with little fuss, without needing to be at his best.

The 35-year-old then took the second set to 2-1 with a break, but in the next game Norrie broke back while angering Djokovic with a smash which hit him

"Even though he's really young, I know his game quite well. He's been on the tour now for last few years playing some great tennis, particularly in the last I would say six to eight months. He's in very good form and I look forward to a challenge. I think it's going to be a very physical match

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

on the back of his left leg.

Norrie had the whole court to put the ball away as Djokovic had given up on the point and was walking back to the service line.

Bringing the fire

Norrie raised his hand to apologise but at the changeover after the Briton moved to 3-2 Djokovic gave him another long beady-eyed stare as he passed him.

And after Djokovic sealed vic-



Djokovic later explained that he had been irritated by Norrie's on-court behaviour since the start of the match, doing "things that we players know in the locker room it's not fair play"

tory with his second match point he gave Norrie a cursory handshake at the net, while avoiding eye contact and exchanging no words with his dispatched opponent.

Djokovic later explained that he had been irritated by Norrie's on-court behaviour since the start of the match, doing "things that we players know in the locker room it's not fair play".

"He's very nice guy off the court, so I don't understand this kind of attitude on the court, to be honest. But it is what it is. He brought the fire, and I responded to that," said Djokovic.

"I'm not going to allow someone behaving like this just bending my head. I'm going to respond to that.

"That's all it is. What happens on the court, we leave it on the court, and we move on."

Fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Lorenzo Sonego 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) in a third-round match which was suspended on Monday due to the rain, and will take on another Italian in Lorenzo Musetti in the last 16 yesterday night.

Iga Swiatek took her Rome winning streak to 14 matches with a 6-3, 6-4 success over Donna Vekic.

World number one Swiatek will take on Elena Rybakina in the quarter-finals after coming through the toughest match of her tournament so far.

Her bid for a third title in as many years has been boosted by seeds two to six all being eliminated.

Elite eight set, Ahli bow out

Quarter-final and consolation pools confirmed for Asian clubs volleyball in Kingdom

● Advancing to top eight include clubs from Japan, South Korea, Iran, Qatar, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mongolia and Iraq

● Down to consolation pools are teams from Bahrain, Australia, Thailand, Yemen, Chinese-Taipei, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong

TDT | Manama

The quarter-final pools were confirmed last night, with Bahrain's Al Ahli narrowly missing out, in the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, being hosted this week by the Kingdom.

Top contenders the Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, South Korea's Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club, Shahdab Yazd of Iran and Police Sporting Club of Qatar—all of whom had already secured their qualification to the next phase prior to Tuesday's play—were joined in the elite eight by Indonesia's Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi, Kuwait Sporting Club of Kuwait, Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC from Mongolia and South Gas Sports Club of Iraq.

Hosts Ahli were unceremoniously eliminated from further title contention despite winning their final assignment of the preliminary round against the Canberra Heat.

Jakarta Bhayangkara sealed the hosts' fate with a stunning victory against the Jumbos, which also earned the Indonesians first place in Pool A.

Shahdab topped Pool B, the Sunbirds were first in Pool C and Police led Pool D.

Wednesday is a rest day and action in the quarter-final and consolation pools begins Thursday.

The Sunbirds and Bayankhongor are in quarter-final Pool E along with Jakarta Bhayangkara and Jumbos; while Pool F features Shahdab, South Gas, Police and Kuwait.

The remaining eight sides are Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force of Thailand, Khaypil Sports Club of Yemen, Ahli and Canberra in consolation Pool G; along with Taichung Bank of Chinese-Taipei, Kam Air of Afghanistan, Atyrau VC of Kazakhstan and Aspiring Volleyball



Al Ahli's Gabriel Candido looks to hit a spike against Canberra Heat



Kam Air's Mohammad Wardak hits a spike against Iraq's South Gas

Team from Hong Kong in consolation Pool H.

Resounding

Ahli completed their preliminary round campaign with a resounding 3-0 (25-21, 25-19, 25-20) victory over their Aussie rivals. The Bahrainis were in control from the opening serve and earned their second win of the tournament to go to five points on the Pool A standings, but it was not enough to send them through.

Brazilian Gabriel Candido scored 21 points to spearhead the Ahli cause, while Mohammed Yaqoob had eight and Ali Alsairafi seven. Kevin Phang and Trent O'Dea finished with nine points apiece to pace Canberra in their third straight defeat.

In Jakarta Bhayangkara's big win over Jumbos in Tuesday's other Pool A fixture, Farhan Halim put on an impressive 24-point effort to help lift his club against their heavily favoured oppo-

Today's match was very hard but we prepared very well last night. We were all fighting together and talking with each other, and that helped us understand each other well.

- BAYARSAIKHAN BATSUKH

nents. The Indonesians needed a win to ensure their spot in the next stage along with the Koreans, and they delivered superbly with a 3-1 (30-28, 25-17, 22-25, 25-21) result.

Mohammadjav Manavinezhad added 21 and Ugandan Daudi Okello scored 17 for Jakarta



Bayankhongor Crownd Geo players from Mongolia celebrate after their win

QUARTER-FINAL POOLS

POOL E: Suntory Sunbirds (Japan), Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC (Mongolia), Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi (Indonesia), Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club (South Korea)

POOL F: Shahdab Yazd (Iran), South Gas Sports Club (Iraq), Police Sports Team (Qatar), Kuwait Sporting Club (Kuwait)

CONSOLATION POOLS

POOL G: Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force (Thailand), Khaypil Sports Club (Yemen), Al Ahli (Bahrain), Canberra Heat (Australia)

POOL H: Taichung Bank (Chinese-Taipei), Kam Air (Afghanistan), Atyrau VC (Kazakhstan), Aspiring Volleyball Team (Hong Kong)

Bhayangkara, while Donghyeok Im finished with 21 to pace Jumbos.

Jakarta Bhayangkara's Chinese head coach Jiang Jie commented: "It was a very tough game. Korea are a very good team. We earned a good result and I am very happy that we are working very hard."

Mongolia's Bayankhongor secured a hard-earned berth in the quarter-final pools from Pool C following a stunning 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-15) sweep of Diamond Food of Thailand.

Bayankhongor came away with the full three points to add to the crucial point they previously earned in their five-set loss to Yemen's Khaypil Sports Club on Sunday. That was enough to put them through ahead of the Thais, who finished with three points from their lone victory and two straight-set losses.

Batsuuri Battur had a game-high 24 points to spearhead the Mongolians, while teammate Bayarsaikhan Batsukh added 13.

Batsukh commented post-game: "Today's match was very hard but we prepared very well last night. After our match with Japan yesterday, we trained again. We looked at the Thai



Jakarta Bhayangkara's Farhan Halim attacks the net against the Koreans

positions very well and that helped us.

"Today we were all fighting together and talking with each other, and that helped us understand each other well."

Sweep

Also in Pool C, Japan's Suntory Sunbirds, runners-up from last year's tournament, completed a clean sweep of the preliminaries with a resounding 3-0 (25-17, 25-17, 25-15) victory over Yemen's Khaypil. For the second straight game, the Japanese opted to rest some key players but were still dominant.

Chinese ace Shikun Peng and Kenshin Kuwada had 10 points apiece to pace the Sunbirds. Russian star Dmitriy Muserskiy added nine points in his limited time on the court. The Egyptian pair of Amr Elawwad and Essa Elhossiny scored 10 points apiece for Khaypil in the loss.

In Pool B, Iraq's South Gas secured their elite eight status

after defeating Kam Air VC of Afghanistan 3-0 (25-18, 25-22, 25-19). The Iraqis claimed their second win of this stage with one loss for six points, and they finished behind Shahdab on the group table.

Russian Aleksandr Petrov and Bulgarian Todor Skrimov scored 15 points apiece for the winners, while three players had 10 each for Kam Air, namely Mohammed Wardak, Ghulam Rasool Hidari and Sayed Habib Yousufi.

Shahdab completed their three-game sweep of Pool B with a commanding 3-0 (25-13, 25-19, 25-20) decision against Taichung Bank of Chinese-Taipei.



Bahrain's Ahli 'to keep fighting': Alsairafi

TDT | Manama

Al Ahli will not let the disappointment of not making it through to the quarter-final pools of the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship keep them down, as the tournament hosts will continue to give their maxi-

mum in order to claim the best final classification.

This was claimed yesterday by Ahli's veteran middle blocker and former Bahrain national team member Ali Alsairafi.

"We are disappointed, but thank God for this win tonight," Alsairafi

told TDT last night following Ahli's straight-sets triumph over Australia's Canberra Heat.

The result wasn't enough to put them through to the 16-team competition's elite eight, as they finished third in Pool A, two points behind their counterparts from Indonesia and one

from matching their Korean rivals.

"We were hoping to play in the semi-finals, but the results did not serve us," Alsairafi said. "We now need to continue to play hard so we can go for ninth place."

Alsairafi had a special mention for Ahli's fans, who still turned up to sup-

port the team despite already being eliminated from further title contention.

"Our fans support our team whether we win or lose," he said. "They come all the time. They love our team."