

Israel Targets Hezbollah

Israel vowed to strike Hezbollah again if threatened after Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon killed 11 people, including children | **P6-7**

Gaza Peace Plan Faces Fresh Hurdles

Seef bow out in Singapore quarter-finals

SPORT

Alba Reinforces Bahrainisation with Key Managerial Appointments

Kuwait Sports Minister Visits Bahrain



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, received Kuwait's Minister of State for Youth and Sports, Dr. Tariq Hamad Al-Jalalma. The meeting reviewed ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise in youth and sports.

Shaikh Isa highlighted the longstanding ties between Bahrain and Kuwait and stressed the importance of expanding sports cooperation and supporting programmes that develop young people's skills. He also praised Kuwait's sporting achievements at the GCC and Arab levels.

RHF Receives Donation



Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation Engineer Ebrahim Dalhan Aldoseri received Bahrain Credit CEO Abdullah Abdulrazzaq Bukhowa, who presented a financial donation to support the Foundation's initiatives marking its 25th anniversary.

The meeting also discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation and future partnerships in humanitarian work.

The donation reflects Bahrain Credit's commitment to corporate social responsibility and support for humanitarian initiatives benefiting orphans and widows.

Humidity to Drop Starting Wednesday

The Meteorological Directorate said Bahrain will continue to experience hot and humid weather in the coming days, with light and variable winds.

From Wednesday, August 19, northwesterly winds are expected to increase to moderate to fresh speeds, occasionally becoming strong. The change is expected to lower humidity and bring relative improvement, particularly at night and during the early morning.

“Gadeha Junior Camp Earns Praise for Nation-Building Mission”



Dr. Ramzan received a briefing on Gadeha Junior's training programs and field activities during his visit to the camp.

TDI | Manama

Two of Bahrain's most senior officials visited the inaugural “Gadeha Junior” training camp, lending high-level endorsement to a program they described as a model for investing in the Kingdom's next generation. The camp, held at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, was established under the directives of His Highness Lieutenant General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Commander of the Royal Guard.

Minister of Information Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al-Noaimi and Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, each toured the camp independently. They observed training sessions, met with organisers, and engaged with participants as they worked through an array of physical and mental challenges.

“Nurturing Bahrain's youth and instilling in them a love for their homeland begins in childhood,” said Dr. Ramzan, who underlined that initiatives refining character and building self-confidence are foundational to producing citizens who understand their responsibilities to their country and society.

Dr. Al-Rumaihi echoed that view, pointing to the program's combination of physical challenge, values-based education, and character development as its defining strength. “Participants acquire skills and values that will benefit them



The BIPD Chairman toured the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre venue



long after the camp ends,” he said, singling out commitment, discipline, teamwork, and the confidence to face adversity as outcomes that would shape participants' academic and personal lives alike.

They credited the camp's creation to HH Shaikh Nasser's personal vision. Dr. Al-Rumaihi described it as a direct expression of His Highness's commitment to discovering and developing the talents of Bahraini youth. Dr. Ramzan

added that the directive to establish Gadeha Junior reflects the recognition that preparing future generations is a strategic national priority, not merely a youth activity.

The camp's programs span physical training, field exercises, and educational content designed to reinforce values of loyalty, belonging, perseverance, and national identity — themes both visitors said should be introduced early and reinforced consistently.

Who Blinks First? Gaza Peace at an Impasse

● **Hamas Says Ready to Disarm - If Israel Commits**

● **Gaza Deadlock: Netanyahu Digs In as Hamas Signals Flexibility**

● **Weapons, Withdrawal, and a Stalled Peace Plan**



Displaced Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of an alleged Israeli strike on a tent in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

for postwar Gaza, hours after a Hamas delegation held separate talks with Cairo's intelligence chief.

The parallel diplomatic activity in the Mediterranean city under-

scored the fragile state of efforts to move beyond a ceasefire declared last October between Israel and Hamas—an agreement that slowed but never fully stopped Israeli mil-

itary operations in the territory.

Presidential spokesperson Mohamed El-Shennawy said the Kushner-Sisi meeting stressed the need for all parties to meet their obligations under the Gaza ceasefire. Kushner is expected to travel next to Israel, which has publicly rejected a 15-point roadmap that forms the core of the next phase of Trump's postwar vision.

The roadmap, announced by Trump's Board of Peace, lays out two particularly contentious demands: the disarmament of Hamas and a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Both conditions have become the central fault lines in an impasse that has resisted months of diplomatic pressure.

Read more on page 09.

Leaders Congratulate Indonesian President



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent congratulations to Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Indonesia's Independence Day, wishing him continued health and happiness and the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also sent a congratulatory cable to President Prabowo. He additionally sent greetings to Indonesian Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka on the occasion.

Pakistan Strengthen Economic Ties



Minister of Industry and Commerce Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro received Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain, Thaqib Rauf. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and opportunities to strengthen cooperation, particularly in industry and trade.

Fakhro highlighted the strong ties between Bahrain and Pakistan and the mutual interest in expanding cooperation in various fields to serve common interests. The meeting also addressed matters of mutual interest.

Yemen Reaffirms Support for Bahrain



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh received Yemen's Ambassador to Bahrain, Dr. Ali Hassan Al-Ahmadi, and praised the longstanding relations between the two countries and their continued development.

Al Saleh commended Yemen's solidarity with Bahrain and its support for the Kingdom's measures to protect its security and stability. The Yemeni ambassador reaffirmed his country's support for Bahrain and praised the Kingdom's positions towards Yemen.



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Youth Central to Bahrain’s Future

Lawmakers say the King’s Youth City visit reinforces trust in young Bahrainis and their role in national development

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

● More than 9,000 young people have participated in Youth City 2030

His Majesty King Hamad’s visit to Youth City 2030 sent a strong message that young Bahrainis are central to the country’s future, MPs have said.

Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam said the visit showed the King’s wish to meet young people face to face, hear from them and keep youth at the core of Bahrain’s development.

More than 9,000 young men and women have taken part in Youth City 2030, with training, skills schemes and opportunities offered through local and overseas partnerships.

Mr Al Musallam said the HM the King’s praise for the scheme’s record and the scale of youth turnout would spur further work. He also welcomed the King’s call to keep giving young Bahrainis the skills and chances needed to take on leading roles.

Parliament, he said, would continue to support laws and schemes that give young people room to learn, create and take



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visited Youth City 2030 on 15 August.



“The visit reflects the trust placed in Bahrain’s youth.”

- AHMED BIN SALMAN AL MUSALLAM, COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER



“The visit reflects the trust placed in Bahrain’s youth.”

“YOUNG BAHRAINIS ARE EAGER TO BUILD THEIR SKILLS AND FUTURES.” - HASSAN EBRAHIM, MP



“Parliament will continue supporting opportunities for young Bahrainis.”

- MARYAM AL SAYEGH, MP

part in public life.

MP Hassan Ebrahim said the royal visit showed the trust placed in Bahrain’s youth.

Meeting young people and hearing about their hopes and work, he said, would give them added drive to succeed and raise Bahrain’s standing in different fields.

He pointed to the 9,000-plus turnout as proof of the appetite among young Bahrainis to gain skills and prepare for work and future roles.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh said the visit carried an equally clear message: youth empowerment is a first-order choice for Bahrain’s future.

She said the King’s talks with participants, his interest in their projects and his words to them had left a strong mark.

Youth City 2030, she added, is offering more than 324 training programmes and 10,000 training opportunities aimed at building skills, leadership and a stronger sense of citizenship.

The MPs also praised the support given to young Bahrainis by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and General Sports Authority chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Ms Al Sayegh also thanked Youth Affairs Minister Rawan Tawfiqi, staff and volunteers for their work on this year’s Youth City.

MPs pledged continued parliamentary support for laws and schemes giving young Bahrainis greater opportunities in training, work and public life.

FROM THE COURT | TDT | Manama Rehab Mohammad

Restaurant worker robbed at knifepoint; suspect remanded

Public Prosecution says suspect admitted to the robbery and other similar incidents

An African man has been remanded in custody pending investigation after robbing a restaurant worker in the Capital Governorate under threat.

The worker reported the incident to Hooria Police Station, prompting police investigations that led to the suspect’s arrest.



The Public Prosecution questioned the suspect and presented surveillance footage as evidence. He reportedly admitted to the robbery and confessed to other similar incidents.

The suspect remains in custody as investigations continue before the case is referred to court.

Driver accused of slapping co-worker, causing hearing loss Court sets September 15 for verdict in assault case

A 37-year-old driver stands accused of assaulting his 42-year-old co-worker during an argument, causing permanent hearing impairment.

According to case records, the dispute began while the two men were travelling in a company truck and later escalated at a traffic light and the company parking area.

The victim said the defend-



ant struck him on the cheek and left ear before later slapping both ears with both hands.

A forensic examination found perforated eardrums

and mild hearing loss in both ears, with the injuries assessed as causing 5% permanent disability.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with assault resulting in permanent disability without intent to cause it.

The High Criminal Court has set September 15 for the verdict.

Bahraini woman wins case over Mercedes Court orders seller to refund BD9,500 after vehicle was found to have hidden US crash history

A Bahraini woman has secured a court ruling cancelling the purchase of a 2017 Mercedes-Benz C300 after discovering three years later that the vehicle had been imported from the United States and previously suffered major accident damage.

The woman purchased the car for BD12,500 after being told it was a Gulf-spec vehicle with no recorded accidents.

A later inspection found extensive damage to the front



and both sides, along with replaced parts. Further checks showed the vehicle had been involved in a major accident in Miami.

A court-appointed expert found that the defects were hidden and that repairs were insufficient. The vehicle was valued at BD9,300 at the time of purchase, while estimated repairs would cost BD3,850.

The High Civil Court of Appeal upheld the ruling to rescind the sale contract. The seller was ordered to refund BD9,500 after deducting BD3,000 for the woman’s three years of use; she must return the vehicle.

BD15 Transport Allowance Proposed for Private Workers

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposed change to Bahrain’s labour law would guarantee private-sector workers at least BD15 a month for travel to work, unless their employer already provides transport.

MP Jalal Kadhem has put forward the amendment to the Labour Law for the Private Sector, arguing that workers are being squeezed by higher fuel and travel costs while many wages have barely moved for years.

His proposal would amend Article 10 of Law No. 36 of 2012 and require employers to pay a monthly transport allowance of no less than BD15.

Workers whose companies provide transport to and from the workplace would not receive the payment.

Kadhem said the measure would ease pressure on household budgets and help close the gap between private and government jobs. Government-sector workers receive a transport allowance of at least BD20, according to the proposal.

He said many private-sector wages no longer stretch far enough to cover basic household needs, with fuel and transport bills taking a growing share of workers’ pay.

The monthly payment, he argued, would leave workers with more of their basic salary and help make private-sector jobs more attractive to Bahrainis.

The law now requires employers to provide suitable transport for workers in areas named by a ministerial decision. Kadhem’s amendment would keep that duty while adding the BD15 payment for workers who are not given



“The allowance would ease household pressure and make private-sector jobs more attractive to Bahrainis”

- JALAL KADHEM, MP

transport by their employer.

He said the change would give private-sector staff greater protection from rising living costs and bring their workplace benefits closer to those offered in government jobs.

Kadhem said he also wants private firms to offer fairer terms that can draw more Bahrainis into private-sector work.

NHRA Organizes First National Dental Assistant Licensing Exam

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) has organized the first national dental assistant licensing examination, developed and prepared entirely by the Authority’s national experts in line with approved standards and best practices.

NHRA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Ansari said the examination, which is a licensing requirement, was developed by the Authority’s specialized technical teams to ensure it meets the requirements for practicing the profession in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

He said the exam also aims to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the professional assessment and licensing system.

Dr. Al-Ansari noted that the initiative reflects the NHRA’s

commitment to continuously developing professional assessment and licensing mechanisms and applying high standards of quality and efficiency in regulating health professions.

He added that ensuring applicants meet the required scientific and professional standards will contribute to patient safety and improve the quality of healthcare services.

The NHRA CEO said the Authority will continue investing in the development of national professional assessment and testing tools by leveraging national expertise and competencies. This, he said, will support the sustainability and efficiency of the professional licensing system and strengthen Bahrain’s position in regulating health professions



and services.

The organization of the examination falls within the NHRA’s mandate to regulate and license health professions and verify that practitioners meet approved professional requirements before granting them licenses to practice.

The process contributes to improving the quality of healthcare services and enhancing the efficiency of Bahrain’s health sector.

As the Kingdom's First-of-Its-Kind,

Al Salam Bank Launches Flexi Auto Finance with Guaranteed Showroom BuyBack



TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank has announced the launch of Flexi Auto Finance, a new financing solution that offers clients a more flexible way to drive their new cars through a guaranteed showroom BuyBack after three years, an all-inclusive, hassle-free monthly instalment during the same period, and the option to move into a newer car or continue with their existing finance.

Flexi Auto Finance is being



introduced for the first time in partnership with Al Haddad Motors, one of the leading automotive distributors in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the sole agent for Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the Kingdom. Through this collaboration, clients purchasing eligible Mercedes-Benz vehicles can benefit from a guaranteed BuyBack option agreed with the showroom from the start of the finance period.

Through this solution, clients can drive their new cars with no down payment and benefit from an all-inclusive, hassle-free

monthly instalment for three years, covering insurance, vehicle registration, and maintenance during the first three years. This provides clients with a simpler ownership experience and greater clarity over the costs associated with their vehicle, subject to eligibility criteria and the applicable terms and conditions. At the end of the three-year period, clients can return their vehicle to Al Haddad Motors, after which the showroom will purchase the vehicle and settle the outstanding finance amount. This gives clients the flexibility to move into a newer car. Alternatively, they may choose to continue

with their existing finance and retain the vehicle.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Mohammed Buhijji – Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: “We are pleased to launch Flexi Auto Finance, which provides our clients with a smarter and more flexible way to drive their new cars by agreeing on the vehicle’s BuyBack plan with the participating showroom from the start, clients have greater clarity regarding their next step after three years, whether they choose to move into a newer car or continue with their existing finance.

This solution forms part of our ongoing efforts to develop practical banking products that respond to the evolving needs and lifestyles of our clients. The all-inclusive, hassle-free monthly instalment, together with no down payment and the inclusion of insurance, registration, and maintenance during the first three years, contributes to a simpler and more transparent car ownership experience”.

For his part, Mr. David Lord – General Sales Manager – AlHaddad Motors, said: ““In partnership with Al Salam Bank, we are thrilled to launch Flexi Auto Finance for Mercedes-Benz clients in Bahrain. This premium solu-

tion elevates vehicle ownership by offering an upfront, guaranteed BuyBack plan for ultimate clarity and confidence. By blending the luxury of Mercedes-Benz with Al Salam Bank’s flexible financing, clients can drive their dream car today, with the freedom to upgrade to a newer model or extend their existing plan in three years.”

Al Haddad Motors is the first automotive partner to join Flexi Auto Finance, with Al Salam Bank set to announce additional partnerships with participating automotive showrooms and dealers in the coming period.

Through a Partnership with BENEFIT to Expand Access to Sharia’a-Compliant Financing Solutions

BisB Becomes First Bank to Offer Sharia’a-Compliant Financing through the Consumer Lending Marketplace on BenefitPay



TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has joined the Consumer Lending Marketplace on BenefitPay, becoming the first bank in the Kingdom to offer Sharia’a-compliant financing solutions through the digital platform.

The development follows a cooperation agreement between BisB and The BENEFIT Company, Bahrain’s leading innovator in fintech and electronic financial transactions. Built on the Data Driven Infrastructure, the Consumer Lending Marketplace provides a digital environment through which customers can explore tailored financing options and submit applications using the BenefitPay app.

Under the agreement, BisB will retain full and independent responsibility for evaluating applications, making financing and approval decisions, and managing subsequent customer relationships, in accordance with the Bank’s internal policies and applicable regulatory require-

ments. BENEFIT will provide the technical infrastructure, support the customer-facing digital journey, and facilitate the processing of financing applications.

Commenting on the partnership, Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB, affirmed: “This partnership marks an important step in our journey to strengthen digital banking solutions, giving our customers easier and more flexible access to Sharia’a-compliant financing. By leveraging modern technology, we continue to enhance the banking experience in line with evolving customer expectations and the rapid development of the financial services sector.”

She added, “This collaboration reflects our commitment to digital innovation and our support for national efforts to build a more inclusive and advanced financial ecosystem. We will continue investing in initiatives that deliver practical and effective solutions for our customers, while contributing to the Kingdom’s progress towards a sophisticated digital economy.”

For his part, Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi, Chief Executive of The BENEFIT Company, expressed, “We are pleased to welcome BisB to the Consumer Lending Marketplace through BenefitPay, reflecting our commitment to expanding Bahrain’s digital financial services ecosystem. Through the platform, we continue enabling financial institutions to reach a wider customer base through an integrated and seamless experience that simplifies access to financing solutions, supports innovation, and accelerates financial-sector transformation in line with the national vision for a more prosperous economy.”

By becoming the first bank to offer this type of financing through the Consumer Lending Marketplace, BisB further strengthened its position as a digital-first institution focused on using technology to simplify customer interactions, broaden the reach of Sharia’a compliant financing solutions, and contribute to the ongoing development of Islamic banking in Bahrain.

LuLu Exchange Bahrain Partners with The Indian School to Facilitate Convenient School Fee Payments



TDT | Manama

LuLu Exchange, one of the leading names in cross-border payments and foreign exchange services, has signed an agreement with The Indian School, Bahrain, enabling parents to pay school fees securely and conveniently through LuLu Exchange’s branch network nationwide and the LuLu Money app.

Parents and guardians of students enrolled at The Indian School can now settle school fees at any LuLu Exchange customer engagement centre in Bahrain or remotely through the LuLu Money app the digital app

The Indian School, Bahrain, is one of the largest expatriate schools serving a diverse student community. The partnership is expected to significantly ease the fee payment process for thousands of families by offering convenient access through 16 strategically located LuLu Exchange branches and the LuLu Money mobile application. With its secure, embedded eKYC solution, the app enables users to register seamlessly from any-

where in Bahrain, anytime, ensuring a fast, safe, and hassle-free experience.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Edison Fernandez, General Manager, LuLu Exchange Bahrain, said:

“The Indian School has been an educational institution of trust for generations of families in Bahrain and we are honoured to support that legacy by leveraging our payment infrastructure. Paying school fees is another responsibility in an already demanding month for many parents. Bringing this service to our branches and the LuLu Money app, we are giving them the freedom to complete it wherever and whenever it suits them, on a weekend, on a lunch break or from home. This agreement reflects our belief that financial services should adapt to people’s lives, not the other way around.”

Welcoming the partnership, Mr. Binu Mannil Varughese the Chairman of The Indian School, Bahrain, said:

“We are pleased to partner with LuLu Exchange to provide our parents with a more convenient and accessible way to pay

school fees. This collaboration reflects our continued commitment to improving the services available to our school community. By offering both branch-based and digital payment options with LuLu Exchange, we aim to make the fee-payment process simpler, safer and more flexible for families across Bahrain.”

The tie-up builds on LuLu Exchange’s growing portfolio through which the company leverages its physical branch presence and digital infrastructure to simplify payments for communities across the region. With a strong footprint in Bahrain and a customer base that includes a large segment of the Kingdom’s Indian expatriate community, LuLu Exchange is well positioned to serve the school’s parent body through channels they already know and trust.

The partnership underscores LuLu Exchange’s broader commitment to community-centric financial services in Bahrain, connecting everyday needs from remittances and currency exchange to bill and fee payments under one accessible network.

Alba Reinforces Bahrainisation with Key Managerial Appointments

TDТ | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the world’s largest aluminium smelter on one site, is pleased to announce the recent promotions of S. Abbas S. Baqer to Manager Calciner & Marine and Ali Aseeri to Manager Engineering & Projects.

Since joining Alba in 1989 as a Vocational Trainee, S. Abbas S. Baqer has built an accomplished career across engineering, maintenance and marine operations. He has held a number of senior leadership positions and was instrumental in the successful delivery of Alba’s Port Upgrade Project, a key enabler of the Line 6 Expansion Project and the Company’s long-term growth ambitions.

Ali brings over two decades of engineering expertise to this role. He started his career in Alba’s Engineering Depart-



Mr. S. Abbas S. Baqer

ment in 2005, following which he held several key positions, including those of Senior Engineer and Superintendent of Engineering. Throughout his tenure, Ali has played a pivotal role in delivering transformative capacity enhancement projects such as Lines 4 & 6 Anode Enlargement Projects and the Upgrades of Gas Treatment Centres 1 through 4.

Commenting on these appointments, Alba’s Chief Ex-



Mr. Ali Aseeri

ecutive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, said:

“The promotions of S. Abbas S. Baqer and Ali Aseeri reflect Alba’s commitment to developing national talent and building a strong leadership pipeline from within. Their appointments demonstrate the depth of capability we’ve cultivated across the organisation through continuous learning, targeted development and meaningful growth



Ali Al Baqali, Chief Executive Officer

opportunities. As Alba continues to strengthen its position as a global industry leader and expand its international footprint, the ability to develop and empower high-calibre Bahraini talent remains a strategic priority. Both have built distinguished careers at Alba, consistently demonstrating strong performance, leadership and a commitment to excellence.

I’m confident that their experience, expertise and dedi-



cation will play a pivotal role in advancing Alba’s strategic ambitions and supporting its global growth journey.”

S. Abbas holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Huddersfield, UK, graduating with First Class Honours (Distinction), and several professional certifications such as Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Certified Maintenance Planner, and Port Facility Security

Officer (PFSO) under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Ali holds a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Arabian Gulf University, and a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Al Baraka Islamic Bank Announces Barakat August Draw Winners:

JASIM ABDULNABI Wins Barakat August totalling \$120,000, While Two Customers Receive \$25,000 “Barakat Plus” Special Prizes Each

TDТ | Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently announced the completion of the Barakat August draw under alBarakat Account Prizes Scheme. The draw resulted in customer Jasim Abdulnabi Ali winning the monthly salary prize of USD10,000 per month for an entire year, with a total value of USD 120,000, in addition to two other customers winning two special prizes under Barakat Plus special raffle draw category, valued at USD25,000 each.

The draw comes as part of Al Baraka Islamic Bank’s ongoing commitment to rewarding its customers and promoting a culture of savings in accordance with the principles of Islamic Shari’a through innovative savings and investment schemes that provide customers with continuous opportunities to win valuable prizes throughout the year, supporting their financial aspirations and enhancing their banking experience. Customer Jasim Abdulnabi won the monthly salary prize, while Abdulrahman Jassim Khamis and Layla Mohammed Abdulwahab won the Barakat Plus special raffle.

The Al Barakat Prize Programme is among the Bank’s leading savings programmes, aiming to encourage customers to grow their savings while benefiting from a wide range of cash prizes. The programme complements the Bank’s integrated banking solutions, which combine flexibility, rewarding returns, and a trusted banking experience.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said: “We congratulate all of our Barakat



August draw. alBarakat draws always reflects our continued commitment to rewarding our customers by offering distinguished prizes that deliver real value, while encouraging them to adopt a culture of disciplined savings in accordance with the principles of Islamic Shari’a.”

He added: “alBarakat Scheme continues to strengthen its position as one of the Kingdom’s leading savings schemes by offering a diverse range of opportunities and rewarding prizes that support our customers’ aspirations and enhance their banking experience. We also look forward to announcing the details of the new scheme soon, which will introduce additional features and exciting opportunities, reaffirming our ongoing commitment to developing our solutions and delivering an even more



rewarding and valuable savings experience to our valued customers.”

Al Baraka Islamic Bank is among the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Since its establishment in 1984, the Bank has achieved outstanding results in providing banking services to both individuals and corporates. It has a strong track record of innovation and delivering Shari’a-compliant investment and financing solutions. The Bank also continues to play a pioneering role in supporting social responsibility and sustainability initiatives, maintaining



Mr Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank

a prominent position among Islamic banking institutions serving customers worldwide.

For more information about Al Barakat scheme, please visit Al Baraka Islamic Bank’s website at www.AlBaraka.bh, check out the bank’s verified Instagram page, or call 13300400.

BENEFIT Announces Departure of Chief Financial Officer Layla Al Qassab



Mrs. Layla Al Qassab

Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi, Chief Executive

TDТ | Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom’s leading company in fintech and electronic financial transaction services, announced that Mrs. Layla Al Qassab will leave the organization as Chief Financial Officer. Her final working day will be 13th August 2026.

During her tenure, Mrs. Al Qassab served as a member of BENEFIT’s executive management team and oversaw the company’s finance function, contributing to the development of its operations and advancing its performance in line with BENEFIT’s corporate objectives.

Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi, Chief Executive of BENEFIT, commented: “We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Layla Al Qassab for her dedication and valuable contributions throughout her tenure at BENEFIT. Her expertise has contributed significantly to advancing the financial department and improving its operational effectiveness. We are equally

grateful for the commitment and collaborative spirit she has consistently demonstrated and wish her continued success in the next stage of her career.”

Mrs. Layla Al Qassab said: “I am proud of what we have accomplished during my tenure at BENEFIT and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a talented and experienced team. It has been a privilege to contribute to the progress of a company that plays a pivotal role in Bahrain’s fintech and electronic financial transactions sector. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the executive management team and all my colleagues for their cooperation throughout my tenure, and I wish BENEFIT continued growth and success.”



NOTICE

With regard to license cancellation

of “Philippine National Bank”

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (29) of 2026 pertaining to the cancellation of the Representative Office license of “Philippine National Bank” issued on 30 Safar 1448H, corresponding to 13th August 2026, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Representative office license of “Philippine National Bank” issued on 24th March 2019, registered under commercial registration No. 18762 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

More than 700 aid trucks enter Afghanistan from Pakistan



AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

More than 700 trucks carrying international humanitarian aid arrived in Afghanistan via Pakistan despite a near-total closure of the land border between the two countries following clashes in October, the United Nations said Sunday.

The convoy was carrying “food and other critical humanitarian items,” Olga Cherevko, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordi-

nation of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Afghanistan, told AFP.

United Nations Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan Mo Yahya said on X that “seven hundred and twenty four trucks of humanitarian cargo have crossed into Afghanistan through Torkham, reaching families who need it most”.

He also thanked Islamabad and “all those who made it possible to keep the humanitarian lifeline open”.

Renaissance paintings stolen from Italian museum



AFP | Rome, Italy

Four works “of extraordinary value” by Renaissance artist Antonello da Messina have been stolen from a museum in Sicily, Italy’s culture ministry said Sunday.

The theft, which includes three panels of the 15th century San Gregorio Polpytych, occurred late Saturday at a museum in Messina, the religious painter’s hometown.

The theft comes just months after the Italian state bought a work called “Ecce Homo” by Antonello da Messina at a New York auction for nearly

\$15 million (13 million euros).

Messina mayor Federico Basile called the theft “deeply reprehensible”, saying it was “even more painful” as it took place during traditional city celebrations in honour of the Virgin Mary.

Art thefts are frequent in Italy.

Italian police two days ago said they had recovered three paintings by Renoir, Cezanne and Matisse worth over nine million euros (\$10.4 million) that had been stolen from a museum near Parma in northern Italy in March, allegedly by a gang of Moldovans.

Chinese ship sets off for Europe through Arctic, halving travel time

AFP | Beijing, China

A Chinese container vessel has set sail for Europe through the Arctic, part of new weekly service on a route that cuts shipment times in half but which environmental groups warn could speed up the melting of polar ice.

The “Dubai Tower” left the eastern port city of Ningbo on Saturday evening heading north, where it will pass through the Bering Strait, then turn west through the frigid waters along Russia’s northern coast.

It is expected to reach Felixstowe in the United Kingdom on September 7, followed by stops in Hamburg, Germany and Gdynia, Poland later that week, according to a timetable

published by Sea Legend.

The Northern Sea Route (NSR) from China to Europe is significantly faster than that through the Suez Canal and allows vessels to avoid the Red Sea, where shipping has been targeted by Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen.

But the route is only accessible during the time of the year when the ice is melted enough to allow transits without icebreakers.

Global shipping is heavily disrupted by war in the Middle East, sparked by US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Other shipping companies have transited the Arctic passage before, with Denmark’s Maersk the first to do so in 2018.

Strikes kill 16 in Russia and Ukraine

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Strikes killed 16 people in Russia and Ukraine, authorities said Sunday, as waves of drones and missiles pummelled civilian infrastructure on both sides.

With fighting at the front at a near standstill and talks frozen, the warring countries have significantly stepped up long-range attacks deep behind each other’s lines, pushing the civilian death



A woman carries salvaged items from the burned-out book market as Ukrainian rescuers work to extinguish a fire following a Russian strike in Kyiv

toll to its highest levels since the war’s first months in 2022.

In Russia, swarms of Ukrainian drones killed five people in a residential area of the southern Rostov region, regional governor Yuri Slusar said. Three more people were killed in the Belgorod, Kursk and Moscow regions, along with three others in parts of Ukraine occupied by Russia.

Moscow’s regional governor Andrey Vorobyov described

the assault as “one of the most massive drone attacks in recent memory”. Russia’s defence ministry said it had intercepted 822 drones across the country overnight.

In Ukraine, a barrage of Russian drones and missiles killed two people and wounded 14 at ArcelorMittal’s steel plant in Kryvyi Rih, President Volodymyr Zelensky’s hometown. The plant, one of Ukraine’s biggest

steel producers, said it partially halted operations after the strike damaged its core production facilities.

Strikes also hit other regions, killing two people in the south-eastern Zaporizhzhia region and one in the border region of Sumy.

In Kyiv, a popular outdoor book market at Pochaina, long the place to find rare and antiquarian volumes, was struck. Bookseller Dmytro Semenukha saw all four of his stalls burn to the ground.

“There used to be a store. And books, and flags of all the countries, all the countries. Tons of everything. And that’s it,” the 45-year-old told AFP.

In a social media post on the overnight raid, Zelensky said that “wherever the Russians can reach with their ballistic missiles, they strike civilian infrastructure”.

Over the past week, he said, Ukrainian cities had been pummelled by “more than 1,550 attack drones, nearly 1,560 guided aerial bombs, and 62 missiles”, as he renewed his appeal to allies for more air defence.

Israel vows to go after Hezbollah

● Israeli strikes on Saturday killed 11 people in southern Lebanon

● Israel said the strikes were a response to Hezbollah setting off explosive drones

● The Israeli military identified one of those killed on Saturday as Abu Hassan Alaa

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel vowed yesterday it would hit Hezbollah again if threatened, as it identified what it described as a commander killed in strikes a day earlier that also left several children dead.

Israeli strikes on Saturday killed 11 people in southern Lebanon, according to authorities, in the deadliest attacks since a deal was reached in June aimed at ending hostilities.

Israel said the strikes were a response to Hezbollah setting off explosive drones inside a so-called “security zone” in south-



Heavy machinery, first aid responders and residents search the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a neighbourhood in the southern Lebanese village of Deir al-Zahrani

ern Lebanon, seriously injuring three Israeli troops including an officer.

“No score will be left unsettled in any arena. We’ll defend our soldiers and our civilians with full power,” Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X.

The Israeli military identified one of those killed on Satur-

day as Abu Hassan Alaa, saying he was a senior commander of Hezbollah’s Badr unit who had been involved in firing drones at Israeli troops. Israel earlier said that the strike killed a commander in Hezbollah’s elite Radwan Force, Ali Samir Al-Haj Hassan.

The Israeli military acknowl-

edged that Hassan’s family was present but defended the strike by saying they were not the target. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said a “whole family” had been killed in the strike in the village of Ansar, with Lebanon’s health ministry reporting that three children and two women died.

Saudi authorities issue warning for Jazan province

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Saudi civil defence agency issued an alert yesterday

warning of “potential danger” in southern Jazan province along the border with Yemen that has been targeted by Yemeni rebels

recently. “A warning has been issued by the National Early Warning Platform in the Jazan Province to alert of a potential

danger,” read the statement by the agency, with similar alerts usually issued ahead of potential strikes targeting an area.

1903

Joseph Pulitzer donates \$1 million to Columbia University and begins the Pulitzer Prizes in the United States

1945

Korea is divided into North and South Korea along the 38th parallel



Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declare Indonesia (formerly the Dutch East Indies) independent from the Netherlands

1945

1947

The Radcliffe Line is revealed, setting the border between Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I renew my appeal for an end to the ongoing violence against the Palestinian civilian population in the West Bank, and I urgently call on the international community to work toward advancing the two-state solution, for a just and lasting peace

@Pontifex

02



Holding the tiny hands of my grandchildren on our weekend walk, I deeply enjoy watching them marvel at the simplest things. It fills my heart, but also turns my thoughts to our world. My deepest wish is for true world peace, so that all children can grow up in a safe, fair and loving world.

@DrTedros

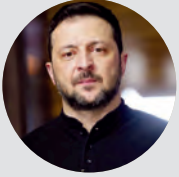
03



Thank you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, for your warm wishes. May the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership grow even stronger, unlocking new opportunities and forging deeper people-to-people connections between our nations.

@narendramodi

04



Emergency services are working at the sites of the Russian strikes that took place this morning and last night. In Kyiv, the fires were quickly extinguished, and emergency work is now ongoing.

@ZelenskyyUA

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

Iran offers \$30,000 bounty for killing, capturing US soldiers

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's military announced on Sunday that it was offering a bounty equivalent to \$30,000 for killing or capturing US soldiers, with the reward doubled if carried out by a woman.

Army chief Amir Hatami said the plan had been drawn up following a "large number of requests" to participate, according to the IRNA state news agency. There has been no known deployment of US ground forces in Iran during the Middle East war, with the exception of a

Hatami did not provide any details on where or when the killing or capturing of US soldiers was expected to take place.

rescue mission in April for a downed American airman.

Hatami did not provide any details on where or when the killing or capturing of US soldiers was expected to take place.

"Anyone who kills or captures and hands over an invading American military personnel

will receive a reward equivalent to \$30,000 or 5 billion tomans from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army," Hatami said, using an informal unit equivalent to 10,000 Iranian rials.

"Courageous Iranian women who carry out such an action will receive double the reward," he added.

Farmers, helicopters help battle record Belgian wildfire



AFP | Belgium

Military helicopters backed by tractors on the ground hauled water Sunday to help firefighters tame Belgium's largest modern-day wildfire, which mushroomed in size since breaking out two days earlier in a hard-to-access nature reserve.

Local farmers have poured in to help battle the blaze in the High Fens park near the German border, an area of fragile peatlands and pine forests popular with hikers, joining several hundred firefighters and emergency workers.

Near the blaze's edge in Baelen, a ballet of tractors were pulling in tankers of water drawn from Robertville lake a few miles north -- with water-bearing Chinook helicopters flown in from the Netherlands to spearhead the effort.

"Right now there are about 15 tractors queuing to fill up," Jean-Pierre Robert, who manages a lakeside hotel, told AFP.



MHN Air Tractor AT-802F Fire Boss loads water from the Vesdre Dam, or Eupen Lake

"We moved our cows, and opened up all our fences to give them access," said the 54-year-old.

Authorities described the conditions Sunday as still "challenging", but two of the fire fronts -- heading towards the localities of Jalhay and Monschau -- were now "under control", according to Interior Minister Bernard Quintin.

From 80 hectares (200 acres) burned on Friday, the day the fire started for reasons still unknown, the area affected jumped to 850 hectares Saturday morning -- and by early Sunday had spread to

3,000 hectares.

The blaze broke out in an area that was ravaged by massive fires in 1911, during a similar period of heatwaves and drought -- and is the country's largest wildfire since then.

The entire area has been blanketed by a thick plume of yellowish smoke, prompting the partial evacuation of two villages close by. Around 20 people spent the night in a local sports hall, the Liege governor's office said, with others believed to have found shelter with friends and family -- or in some cases ignored evacuation orders to stay home.

Bangladesh says PM will not visit India until Hasina extradited

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh said yesterday that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would not visit India until New Delhi extradited Sheikh Hasina, the Bangladeshi former premier who fled during a 2024 uprising.

She faces the death penalty in Bangladesh after being

convicted of crimes against humanity, and Dhaka has repeatedly requested her extradition.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, foreign ministry official A.K.M. Shahidul Karim played down media speculation about a possible trip by Rahman to India next week.

Death toll in Zimbabwe ferry capsizing rises to 80: police

AFP | Harare, Zimbabwe

Another eight bodies were retrieved from Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba on Sunday to take the death toll from this week's ferry capsizing to 80, police said.

The overloaded passenger ferry run by the government's Rural Infrastructure Devel-

opment Agency (RIDA) overturned in choppy waters on Tuesday in a rare accident on the vast lake on the border with Zambia.

"The Kariba RIDA boat accident death toll is now 80 following the recovery of eight more bodies on 16th August 2026," the police said in a statement.

Deadly horse-drawn carriage accident in Switzerland

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A horse-drawn carriage carrying tourists ran out of control in a Swiss resort killing one person and injuring 12, police said yesterday.

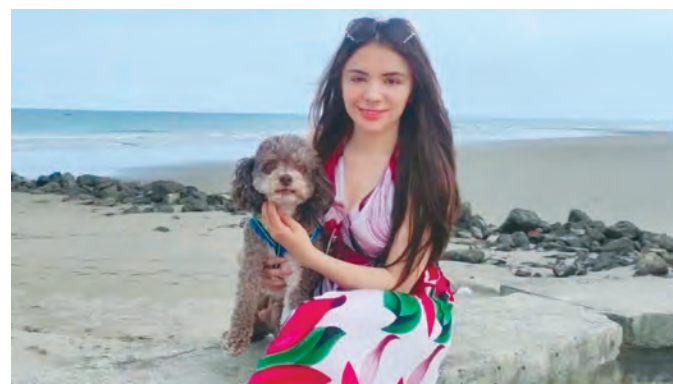
About 40 people were on two carriages in woods in Val Roseg, near the border with Italy, on Saturday when the driver lost control, police said. A 73-year-old woman was killed and two of the injured were in

serious condition.

"On a sloping stretch of the route, the driver realized the braking power was insufficient and attempted to steer his three-horse carriage toward flatter ground to slow down," said a police statement.

One of the horses fell and the driver lost control of the carriage which hit a tree ejecting some passengers from the vehicle, it added. Police said they had launched an investigation.

Colombian woman dies saving dog from earthquake



AFP | Pasto, Colombia

Holding little Salomon in his arms, Michael Ruiz recounted how he found the pet next to his sister's body among the rubble after Colombia's devastating earthquake.

The 7.4-magnitude earthquake, which struck the western parts of the South American country on Monday, has killed at least 294 people and injured nearly 4,000 others, authorities said.

Ruiz said his sister Lenny, who worked as a lawyer, sacrificed herself to save the dog by shielding it with her body when their building collapsed in Cali, one of the cities hit hardest by the quake.

The story of Lenny and Salomon has gone viral on social media, as many remained desperate to locate their pets after the disaster.

"My sister gave her life for him because she was holding him against her chest, and the whole structure fell on top of her," Ruiz told AFP through tears in the city of Pasto.

"I see it as a love story, because obviously she loved that little animal... when you love something, you protect it," Ruiz said.

Salomon is 12 years old and suffers from epileptic seizures that have left him blind.

Ruiz and rescuers managed to find him after digging through the debris.

Jessica Florez, Lenny's sister-in-law, said the dog is sad over his owner's passing.

A video of Salomon on top of Lenny's coffin has been viewed tens of thousands of times on social media.

"I brought him close to her coffin so he could say goodbye," Florez said.

Classifieds



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.KHAN AL WARD KEFETERIA has a vacan-cy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36655269 or NEDHALY974@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

PRINTLAB ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vac-an-cy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37383095 or PRINTLAB.BAH@GMAIL.COM

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEAN-ER, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

UNIVERSAL INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacan-cy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13105585 or VENKATUV1995@GMAIL.COM

Lamasat Line Gents Salon has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36060001 or SMOHAMMED529@GMAIL.COM

MAKSIMO CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vac-an-cy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17668800 or CONSULTANCY@MAKSIMOBH.COM

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

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F M K SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33675055 or SALEEMJUTT5588@GMAIL.COM

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AL ARAB CAR MECHANICAL WORLD has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326455 or NADWICLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

Shri Shri Construction has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713199 or ERMAHE2001@GMAIL.COM

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CON-TRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

CLUB HAWAII BAHRAIN COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPER-VISOR OF MAINTENANCE, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 17561222 or SHADI.ALAAZZEH@EDAMAH.COM

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Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed) has a vacan-cy for the occupation of WAITER (GENER-AL), suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38755222 or info@jssbahrain.com

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ZAVIYAR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33060192 or ABDULREHMAN03224785897@GMAIL.COM

ALZAIN TRADING CO LTD WLL has a vacan-cy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPER-ATOR, suitably qualified applicants can con-tact 17212444 or hrd@alzainjewellery.com

DERATY AL BAHRAIN TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244305 or MOH_GOLOM@YAHOO.COM

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WIRES INTERNATIONAL CO WLL. has a vacancy for the occupation of WEAVERS AND RELATED WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702700 or hr@unitedenterprises.biz

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Punjabi Tadka Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qual-ified applicants can contact 39120524 or punjabi.tadka8388@gmail.com

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Classifieds

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BALA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33802366 or club88bah@yahoo.com

GREEN CITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313639 or info@gcs.bh

TOKAR MODERN BAKERIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38840205 or AAA019312@GMAIL.COM

AFAQ FOODSTUFF has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39402085 or AFAQ-FOODSTORE04@HOTMAIL.COM

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INTEGRATED FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyed-cg.com

Summit Safety equipment Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33296096 or SSEQUIPMENT-STRADING@GMAIL.COM

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DITA AND SALEEM SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38856123 or BASHIRKAMI786@GMAIL.COM

Shakeel Trading Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601873 or NAVLASHAKEEL.STC@GMAIL.COM

DEEKO BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17458999 or hr.recruitment@deekobahrain.com

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GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

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ARROW EXPRESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38787504 or ARROWEXPRESS.BH@GMAIL.COM

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SHEIKOS INTERIOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36368180 or HJAMEEL400@GMAIL.COM

DARMAN CARGO COMPANY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33328694 or DARMAN.CARGO@YAHOO.COM

HASNA USMAN SOLAIMAN HASAN (126431) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33473746 or BAIHAS-NA1456@GMAIL.COM

FAISAL AND BROTHERS INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33250275 or BBUTTFAISAL@GMAIL.COM

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SUBHAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66904153 or FATIHOORAB100@GMAIL.COM

RAPHEL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768537 or CONTACT@RAPHELMEDIA.COM

ASWAR GATE ALUMINIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39933474 or ASWAR.GATE1@GMAIL.COM

BUSY DAY INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(STAGE DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37981700 or MF2814567@GMAIL.COM

ZEENA FOR WOMENS TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32236588 or HUHUN888@YAHOO.COM

FALCON ISLAND CLEANING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33454414 or falcon-i@hotmail.com

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

HDFC BANK LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16577006 or rajeshs.nair@hdfc.bank.in

HOMETOWN CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33782837 or INFO.HOMETOWNSRVICES@GMAIL.COM

TEC MEC AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33751122 or LAMEES.AMAN10@GMAIL.COM

AMRITSAR PUNJABI DHABA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35398967 or surindersingh1304@gmail.com

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

CLOUD 5 CATERING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38974055 or JALEEL682003@GMAIL.COM

ICICI BANK LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17576161 or admin-bahrain@icicibank.com

HAVANA GARAGE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33470452 or HAVNAGARAGECO@GMAIL.COM

IKRA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35129241 or GIOBH786@GMAIL.COM

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or hrdept@circle.bh

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or lmra@mmetc.com

YOUNIS A. E. M. ZAINAL/NOOR ALBASHAY-ER-6825 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675062 or YOUNIS@GMAIL.COM

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

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

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

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Al Sahel Resort B.S.C. (Closed) has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561327 or hr@edamah.com

SRI SAI CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33023332 or MMAJED@AHLIA.EDU.BH

dolphin cargo logistic service has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17697455 or CARGO.DOLPHIN@YAHOO.COM

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOFITEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of INSTRUCTOR / COACH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

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FOOD VEST MANPOWER COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722171 or mail@foodvest-holding.com

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

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ALNASEEN CAMPING FOR OMRAH has

a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258996 or AHMEDRMK@LIVE.COM

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MOTOTECH CAR SERVICES CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17583359 or MOTOTECH@LIVE.COM

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Al baasit general trading has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33319714 or fk4876399@gmail.com

PENTACORE CONTRACTING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36108900 or INFO@PENTACORE-CONTRACTING.COM

KHURRAM MALO MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33580196 or KHURRAMMALO143@GMAIL.COM

HD CARS POLISHING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636061 or HDAUTOBH@GMAIL.COM

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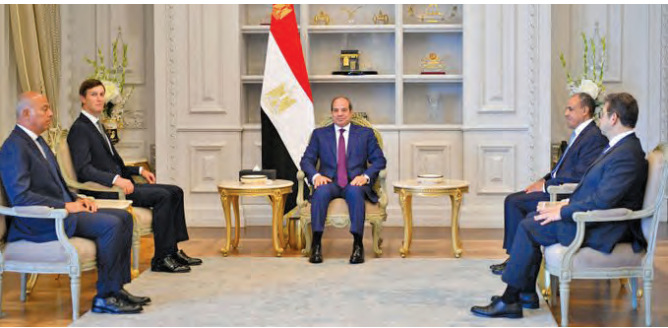
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region

Trump’s Gaza Vision Meets Reality Talks aim to address ceasefire implementation as mediators seek progress



AFP

Hamas officials said Sunday they expected to meet US envoy Jared Kushner in Egypt as Washington pushes to advance a Gaza peace plan that Israel has rejected.

Hamas delegation head Khalil al-Hayya travelled to El-Alamein, where he was due to meet Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad. A Hamas official said the delegation would brief Egyptian officials on what it described as Israeli ceasefire violations and reaffirm its readiness to implement the agreement if Israel demonstrates its commitment.

Kushner has held talks with Egyptian, Qatari and Turkish mediators, as well as Nickolay Mladenov, the Gaza high rep-

resentative of the US-backed Board of Peace. Discussions reportedly focus on issues including Hamas disarmament and the group’s withdrawal from governing Gaza. Hamas has said it is prepared to hand over its weapons to a new Palestinian governing body under the latest phase of the plan.

Mediators are seeking a broader meeting involving Hamas, Mladenov and US officials before Kushner travels to Jerusalem for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel has rejected the agreement, with Netanyahu questioning whether Hamas would fully surrender its weapons. The diplomatic efforts come amid growing frustration over limited progress in implementing the proposed roadmap.

Yemeni Armed Forces report 181 operations against Houthi sites

Yemen’s Armed Forces carried out 181 military operations targeting Houthi military positions over the past 24 hours, according to Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Majed Al-Nazili in a statement issued Sunday.

Al-Nazili said the operations resulted in dozens of Houthi fighters being killed or wounded and caused damage to military equipment and vehicles.

He said the operations targeted military positions, sources of fire and other capabilities allegedly being used to carry out hostile activities along the front lines.

Al-Nazili said the Yemeni Armed Forces remain capable of identifying and neutralising threats based on operational requirements and decisions made by the military leadership.

He added that the units in-



volved carried out the operations with what he described as a high level of efficiency and discipline, while complying with international humanitarian law and taking measures to minimise risks to civilians.

The Armed Forces also urged civilians to stay away from military sites, facilities and areas where Houthi fighters are gathered.

Al-Nazili said the Yemeni Armed Forces were prepared to take the initiative and alter the balance on the battlefield.

Saudi Arabia updates Hajj accommodation rules ahead of 2027 pilgrimage season

Saudi Arabia has approved updated regulations and classification standards for accommodation facilities serving pilgrims during the 2027 Hajj season, as part of efforts to improve hospitality services in Makkah and Madinah.

The Ministry of Tourism has also approved a schedule of violations for facilities accommodating pilgrims. Ministry spokesperson Nasr Alansari said the new rules aim to strengthen regulatory standards, improve facility readiness and ensure accommodation meets safety and service requirements.

The standards cover operational readiness, safety, maintenance, cleanliness, essential services and guest facilities. Accommodation will be classified into two categories —



economy and first class — with specific requirements for each.

A multi-stage inspection system will include checks before licensing, before operations begin and throughout the operating period to ensure compliance and service quality.

The ministry urged operators seeking licences for the 2027 Hajj season to begin preparations early, complete necessary maintenance and meet all requirements before submitting applications.



Meet the Lifestyler

A new pickup enters the big league

TDT | agencies

Indian carmaker Mahindra is stepping into the global lifestyle pickup market with the new Lifestyler, a rugged double-cab aimed at buyers looking for a mix of everyday practicality and off-road capability.

The vehicle is based on a ladder-frame platform and will be offered with a 2.2-litre turbo-diesel engine, four-wheel drive and a claimed towing capacity of up to 3,500kg. It is due to launch in India by April 2027 before expanding into international markets.

For Middle East buyers, the Lifestyler will enter a market already dominated by established pickups such as the Toyota Hilux and Isuzu D-Max.



Rather than competing purely as a workhorse, Mahindra is positioning it as a lifestyle vehicle, with a more premium cabin and

adventure-focused character.

On paper, its 2.2-litre diesel and up to 400Nm of torque put it in the same broad territory as the Hilux, although the Toyota's latest 2.8-litre diesel produces up to 500Nm.

The Lifestyler will be offered in three themed versions — Valley, Reef and Trail — reflecting its focus on different outdoor environments.

The big question for Gulf buyers will be whether Mahindra can combine its rugged credentials with competitive pricing and the reliability and after-sales support expected from established pickup brands.

If it can, the Lifestyler could bring a fresh challenger to one of the region's most competitive vehicle segments.



Toyota ex-chief Okuda, pioneer of the Prius, dead at 93



Tokyo, Japan

Former Toyota head Hiroshi Okuda, credited with championing the pioneering Prius hybrid and turning the Japanese automaker into a global titan, has died aged 93, the firm said Wednesday.

Okuda took the reins of the struggling firm in 1995 as the first person from outside the founding family in decades, and pushed innovative products such as the RAV4 and Prius.

At the time the viability of electric vehicles as a large market was a pipe dream and the Prius was the world's first mass-produced petrol and electric hybrid.



Five cars saying goodbye after 2026

TDT | agencies

Some familiar names are heading for the exit, with five notable cars set to disappear from US showrooms after the 2026 model year, according to automotive experts at Edmunds.

Among them is the Ford Escape, which is ending a 25-year run. The compact SUV has faced strong competition from models such as the Toyota RAV4 and Hyundai Tucson, but Edmunds says its comfortable ride, user-friendly controls and hybrid options still make it worth considering — particularly if dealers offer discounts to clear remaining stock.

The Volkswagen ID.4 is also heading out. One of Volkswagen's early

mainstream electric SUVs, it helped challenge the Tesla Model Y, but has increasingly faced tougher competition from newer EVs, including the Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Chevrolet Equinox EV.

For Jaguar, the departure is more significant. The F-Pace will be the brand's last new model powered by an internal-combustion engine, as Jaguar moves towards becoming an all-electric luxury marque. The F-Pace will not receive a direct replacement.

Sports-car enthusiasts will also lose the Toyota GR Supra. Its end is linked less to weak demand than to the conclusion of Toyota's manufacturing partnership with BMW, which

also produces the related Z4. With production of the Z4 ending, keeping the Supra alive is no longer straightforward.

And then there is the Tesla Model S, one of the cars that helped establish Tesla as a serious force in luxury electric vehicles. Along with the Model X, it is leaving the market as Tesla increasingly focuses on its higher-volume Model 3 and Model Y.

For buyers, the departures could create opportunities. Dealers may be keen to discount remaining examples — while some of these cars could eventually become sought-after collectibles.



Mideast war supercharges electric car sales: IEA

AFP | Paris, France

Soaring fuel prices due to the Mideast war have supercharged sales of electric cars in the second quarter, the International Energy Agency said.

Electric vehicle (EV) sales jumped 35 percent in the second quarter from the first three months of this year, hitting records in 50 countries, the IEA said in a new report.

"Despite a challenging backdrop for the global car market, sales of electric cars surged in the second quarter of this year as the energy crisis sparked by the war in the Middle East brought fuel price volatility back into sharp focus," it said.

"Today, electric vehicles are in the spotlight as part of potential policy responses, thanks to the opportunity they present to enhance energy security for oil-importing countries while at the same time shielding consumers and businesses from price fluctuations," the IEA said.

Building on the momentum from the second quarter as well as government support for buying EVs in Latin America, Southeast Asia and Europe,



the IEA said that it expects electric car sales will grow 10 percent this year and account for 29 percent of total car sales.

The overall car market is expected to decline in 2026.

Sales of electric vehicles plummeted in the first quarter of the year, mostly due to China and the United States.

While the removal of subsidies hurt sales in the US, the struggling economy held back Chinese buyers, especially as it cut back subsidies as well.

With China being the biggest market for EVs, a decline there masks strong growth elsewhere in overall figures.

The IEA said Europe recorded the strongest growth in EV sales in the first half of this year, climbing by more than 30 percent



Classic cars are raced during the Grand Prix Centenary event at Brooklands Museum and race circuit, in Weybridge, south-west of London. 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Britain's first Grand Prix, held at the Brooklands race circuit.

Porsche to pull the plug on Taycan EV

Frankfurt, Germany

German sports car maker Porsche plans to end production of the Taycan, its flagship fully electric model, by 2030 after steadily dwindling sales.

The manufacturer announced last year a major rollback of its electric vehicle (EV) plans due to weaker-than-expected demand, adding to challenges that range from falling sales in China to penalising US tariffs.

Launched in 2019, the Taycan was supposed to underscore the Stuttgart-based group's embarkment on a major shift away from combustion engines.

But sales have been declining, from nearly 41,000 in 2023 to just 16,000 last year, and only 6,000 in the first half of 2026.

German business weekly WirtschaftsWoche reported that Porsche's works council, which represents staff interests, had agreed in principle with management to end Taycan production.

"The company has decided to phase it out by 2030," the magazine said, citing company sources.

The Taycan is one of Porsche's two fully electric models currently on sale, alongside the Macan Electric SUV launched in 2024.



Asian hopes **hinge** on Syria clash



Bahrain's youth men's basketball team

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will look to secure their place in the next stage of the Fiba U18 Asia Cup when they face Syria in their final Group B game today in Ahmedabad, India.

The kingdom's youth men's basketball team enter the 5pm contest third in the group with a 1-1 record, level on three points with second-placed Syria, setting up a crucial encounter at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium.

New Zealand lead the standings with two wins from two and four points, while Lebanon

sit bottom after losing both of their opening games.

Bahrain began their campaign with an impressive 74-68 victory over Lebanon before suffering a heavy 86-42 defeat to New Zealand on Saturday.

Salman Ramadhan's side struggled from the outset against the Junior Tall Blacks, falling behind 25-9 after the opening quarter and 43-15 by half-time.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi provided Bahrain's main bright spot in the defeat, recording 16 points, 17 rebounds and six blocks, while Hassan Abdulkadir added nine points and eight boards.



Syria's youth men's basketball team

The pair had also been influential in the opening win over Lebanon, with Abdulkadir producing 19 points and 14 rebounds and Onoduenyi contributing 14 points and 18 boards.

Syria, meanwhile, will enter the contest buoyed by a 72-64 upset of Lebanon, which ended their 14-year wait for a victory at the continental championship.

The Syrians had opened their campaign with a 67-58 defeat to New Zealand before responding in impressive fashion, racing to the first nine points and holding off a late comeback to secure the win.

Yusuf Takriti led Syria's offence with 15 points, while Ye-

hia Kassas added 14 points and seven rebounds. Antwan Antwan scored 12, with Majak Majak contributing a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Bahrain will need a much-improved performance as they seek to extend their campaign beyond the group stage.

Group winners advance directly to the quarter-finals, while the second and third-placed teams must contest a qualification play-off on Thursday for the remaining four places in the last eight. Quarter-final action follows on Friday, with the four winners also securing qualification for the Fiba U19 Basketball World Cup 2027.

Seef denied by Shanghai in last eight



Ajukwa leads the attack with Dragovic in support

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Seef saw their Singapore Challenger 2026 campaign come to an end yesterday following a 21-11 quarter-final defeat to Shanghai.

The kingdom's representatives had advanced to the last eight of the Fiba 3x3 World Tour event after splitting their two pool games, but were unable to overcome their Chinese opponents in the knockout stage.

Seef made a bright start, with Bogdan Dragovic sinking a two-pointer to open the scoring before Austin Ajukwa put them 3-1 ahead.

Shanghai responded to level the contest at 3-3, but Dragovic restored Seef's advantage before the two sides were locked at 5-5.

The Chinese outfit then began to gain the upper hand, with Karlis Lasmanis scoring from beyond the arc to help establish an 8-5 lead.

Seef remained within striking distance as Ajukwa converted a two-pointer to cut the deficit to 8-7 and later struck again from long range to make it 13-10.

Shanghai, however, pulled away decisively from there.

Lasmanis made it 15-10 with another two-pointer and, after Uros Ilic briefly responded for Seef, Shanghai reeled off six unanswered points to reach the 21-point target and end the contest with three minutes still on the clock.

Pengcheng Lu was instrumental in the closing stretch, scoring five of those final six points before Yuanbo Zhu delivered the game-winning basket.

Ajukwa led Seef with six points, while Dragovic contributed four and Ilic added one. Elias Younes was held scoreless.

Lasmanis paced Shanghai with eight points and three rebounds, with Lu adding seven points and Zhu finishing with four points and five boards.

Shanghai went on to reach the semi-finals, where their run was ended by Hangzhou Jingwei in an 18-16 overtime defeat.

In the other semi-final, Toulouse defeated Amsterdam Rabobank 17-14 to set up a title showdown with Hangzhou.

The French side then produced a commanding performance in the final, beating Hangzhou 21-12 to capture the Singapore Challenger crown.

The result also meant Toulouse, Hangzhou and Shanghai secured the three qualification places on offer for the Malaga Masters in Spain, scheduled for October 10 and 11.

Seef had reached the quarter-finals after recovering from a 21-13 defeat to Amsterdam Rabobank in their Pool A opener to edge hosts Singapore 17-16 in dramatic fashion.

Their Singapore appearance followed their triumph in the Bahrain Summer Tour 2026 and continued the club's involvement on the Fiba 3x3 international circuit for a second successive campaign.

Bahrain, meanwhile, has also established itself as a regular host of major 3x3 events, staging the Manama Masters in 2023 and 2024 before hosting the Fiba 3x3 World Tour Final for the first time last year.

The Manama Masters is set to return for its third edition on November 20 and 21.

Arsenal rout Man City in Community Shield masterclass

AFP | London

Arsenal powered to a 3-0 win against Manchester City in the Community Shield yesterday, delivering a swaggering statement of intent ahead of their Premier League title defence.

Mikel Arteta's side used the annual curtain raiser to the English top-flight season as an opportunity to prove their long-awaited title triumph has done nothing to sate their appetite for success.

The Gunners took just 24 seconds to show new City boss Enzo Maresca the standard required to keep up with the champions.

Riccardo Calafiori's quick-fire opening goal was followed by a clinical Kai Havertz header before half-time.

Arsenal overwhelmed sloppy City with their trademark intensity and Martin Odegaard netted after the interval to cap a resounding victory.

The glamour friendly at Cardiff's Principality Stadium also allowed Arteta to parade Arsenal's close-season recruits.

Bruno Guimaraes, signed



Arsenal's Norwegian midfielder #08 Martin Odegaard (L) celebrates with Arsenal's German midfielder #29 Kai Havertz (R) after scoring

from Newcastle for £75 million (\$101 million), slotted into midfield with ease, while Christos Tzolis, lured from Club Brugge for £34 million, gave a lively display including two assists.

The north Londoners will start a campaign as champions for the first time since the 2004-05 season.

Already installed as favourites to win their first succes-

sive English titles since the 1930s, Arsenal look primed for a sustained spell as the Premier League's preeminent force.

Their vibrant performance was the perfect warm-up before promoted Coventry visit the Emirates Stadium for the opening game of the Premier League season on August 21.

It was a dispiriting wake-up call for Maresca, who will have noted how much more dynam-

24

seconds was all it took for Riccardo Calafiori to score the fastest Community Shield goal since 1968, setting Arsenal on course for a 3-0 victory

ic and cohesive Arsenal looked compared to his spluttering team.

Pep Guardiola won 20 trophies in a glorious decade in Manchester, including the FA Cup and League Cup in his farewell season, but City haven't won the title since 2024 and finished seven points behind Arsenal in second place last term.

Hand-picked to succeed Guardiola after quitting Chelsea in January following a turbulent reign lasting less than two seasons, Maresca now knows it will take a huge effort to close the gap on Arsenal, starting with City's opener at home to Bournemouth on August 23.

India's Padikkal steals the show with 167 in first Sri Lanka Test

AFP | Galle

Comeback star Devdutt Padikkal hit a polished 167 as India scored 460-9 on a rainy second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday.

Only 43 overs were possible at the picturesque venue, with the morning session completely washed out by the weather.

Padikkal, recalled to the side after almost two years as an injury replacement for Sai

Sudharsan, impressed the most among the batsmen.

His knock was the fourth-highest Test score by an Indian in Sri Lanka behind Sachin Tendulkar (203), Virender Sehwag (201 not out) and Shikhar Dhawan (190).

Padikkal, playing just his third Test match, looked solid as he struck elegant drives during his 230-ball knock that lasted more than five hours.

His innings contained 15 fours and a six.



India's Devdutt Padikkal (C) celebrates after scoring 150 runs as teammate Dhruv Jurel (R) watches

"It was a super knock by Padikkal," Indian batsman Dhruv Jurel told reporters after the day's play.

"He is making his comeback to the side, and he made it count. He played the spinners and seamers really well."

When play resumed in the afternoon, Sri Lanka took the new ball and got the much-needed breakthroughs. Their spinners managed to get more purchase off the surface, picking three quick wickets.

Rampant Bangladesh make **history** with first-ever Test win in Australia

AFP | Darwin

Astunned hosts Australia to win the first Test by nine wickets in Darwin yesterday for a historic maiden Test victory on Australian soil.

After bowling Australia out for 284 and needing 57 to win, the visitors cruised past the total when Mominul Haque slashed Beau Webster to the backward point boundary.

Bangladesh dominated Australia throughout the match and the margin of victory will send shockwaves through the cricketing world.

After bowling Australia out for 198 in the first innings, the visitors always looked the more likely to win. They kept the pressure on throughout yesterday and didn't panic when Cameron Green (104) brought up his third Test century after lunch on day four.

Green was offered no real support from his teammates and the Bangladeshis kept taking vital scalps to leave Australia on the ropes, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz taking 5-66.

The visitors went into the match with most observers giving them no chance of winning.

EXCLUSIVE

Youngsters Team Take Arab U17 Volleyball Silver

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The young Bahrain volleyball side saw their flawless run end one match short of the Arab crown on Sunday as Egypt beat the hosts 3-1 in Riffa, leaving them with a second straight Under-17 silver medal.

Egypt won 25-22, 18-25, 25-22, 25-21 at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena after Bahrain had won their first four matches without losing a set.

Both sides came into the last round with four wins from four. Neither had dropped a set. Although the championship was played as a round-robin contest, their meeting became a straight fight for gold.

Egypt struck first, taking the opener 25-22.

Bahrain hit back hard.

They put Egypt under pressure from the service line, ran away with the second set 25-18 and drew level at 1-1. It was the first set Egypt had lost all week.

The visitors then held their nerve when it mattered. They took the third 25-22 before finishing the job 25-21 in the fourth.

Bahrain coach Yusuf Khalifa said the difference lay in the big points and Egypt's greater experience.

'The players played a huge match across all four sets,' he said. 'They played above their level of experience when you compare them with Egypt, whose players have played in world tournaments and built up that experience.'

'Our players proved they are men. They showed courage and the will to play at a high level. The decisive points were the dif-



Bahrain attack in the Arab U17 title decider against Egypt

ference between us and Egypt.' Khalifa also pointed to Egypt's defence and physical strength, saying his side still needed the sort of match experience their opponents had already gained abroad.

'Egypt defended very well,' he said. 'Their experience showed, especially in the key points.'

Team manager Abdulla Al Mahroos said the players had kept the promise they made before the championship to fight until the final point.

'The boys gave everything and we are proud of them,' he said. 'They promised us they would fight until the last point and they kept their word.'

'We did what we could. We worked, we tried and the players gave everything. It was not written for us, but the future is ahead of them and, God willing, what comes next will be better.'

Al Mahroos said the squad had been focused from the first



Yusuf Khalifa – Bahrain Team Coach

day and felt only small details had stood between Bahrain and the title.

'They were serious from day one and wanted to show what they could do,' he said. 'There were small parts of the match where experience did not help us. Next time will be better.'

The defeat left some of Bahrain's players in tears.

Ahmed Alabbar said missed serves and errors in defence and



Abdulla Al Mahroos – Team Manager

blocking had hurt the side.

'There is always a winner and a loser,' he said. 'We missed some serves and had some problems in defence and blocking, but nobody fell short. The staff and the players were all one unit.'

'This is our first championship and, God willing, we will win the ones to come.'

Sayed Hasan Alabbar said the match turned on a handful of



Young stars receive their Arab U17 silver medals



Ahmed Al Abbar

mistakes.

'Congratulations to Egypt and hard luck to our team,' he said. 'There were small errors during the match, but they changed a lot and cost us.'

'The match was very close in most of the sets apart from the second, which we won comfortably. We put them under pressure with our serves and took our chances.'

'The third was much the same, but a few mistakes cost us.'

He said facing sides such as Egypt had given Bahrain's players a useful test as they move on with their clubs and the national side.

Bahrain reached Sunday's decider on a run of 12 straight set



Sayed Hasan Al Abbar

wins.

They opened by beating Jordan 25-14, 25-18, 25-9, then beat Algeria 25-13, 25-14, 25-19.

Kuwait followed. Bahrain won 25-14, survived a gruelling second set 35-33 and raced through the third 25-10.

A fourth 3-0 win, this time over Saudi Arabia, sent Bahrain into the Egypt match with a perfect record.

Egypt had matched them, beating Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Algeria without losing a set.

For Bahrain, silver brings a familiar sting. They also finished second in the first Arab Under-17 championship in 2024, when Saudi Arabia took gold.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Welcomes Tennis Professional Karina Crivtonencu, Bringing International Expertise and a Passion for Player Development

Manama

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is pleased to welcome Karina Crivtonencu as its new Tennis Coach, bringing a wealth of international playing and coaching experience to the resort's world-class leisure offering. With a lifelong passion for the sport and a commitment to developing players of all ages and abilities, Karina is set to inspire both hotel guests and Royal Beach Club members through personalized, results-driven coaching.

Karina's journey into tennis began at the age of six, when her mother introduced her and her sister to their very first tennis lesson. What started as a childhood passion soon became a lifelong passion. At just 12 years old, she moved to Spain to train at the prestigious Emilio Sánchez Academy, while simultaneously pursuing her studies at an American high school. Surrounded by internationally renowned coaches and an elite training environment, Karina developed not only her technical abilities but also a deep appreciation for the discipline, resilience, and dedication the sport demands.

Her tennis career continued in the United States, where she



competed for Christopher Newport University, representing one of the country's top-ranked NCAA Division III tennis programs in both singles and doubles competition. The experience of competing at collegiate level further strengthened her understanding of high-performance tennis and the transformative role of exceptional coaching.

'Having experienced world-class coaching from such a young age, I developed a profound appreciation for how transformative the right mentorship can be,' said Karina. 'Every lesson should have a purpose. I would like each guest or member to leave the court with stronger skills, greater

confidence, a deeper appreciation for the game, and the excitement to return and continue learning.'

'The experience at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is much more than coaching tennis,' she added. 'It is about creating memorable experiences where personalized athletic instruction meets genuine hospitality, allowing every guest to develop their game in an inspiring environment.'

Throughout her coaching career, Karina has found her greatest reward in helping young players achieve their potential. Before joining The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, she coached extensively in Romania, where many of her junior



students went on to win local tournaments. Even after relocating abroad, parents continued to share updates on their children's achievements—a reflection of the lasting relationships and positive impact she built through her coaching.

Beyond tennis, Karina has also embraced the rapidly growing sport of padel and is a certified coach for beginner and intermediate players, further expanding the range of racquet sports available to guests and members.

Inspired by Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal, Karina



credits his resilience and unwavering determination as a constant source of motivation.

'Rafael Nadal taught me that no matter how many challenges you face, if you have the desire, you find the will to keep moving forward. That philosophy has shaped not only my tennis career but also who I am as a person.'

For Karina, tennis is much more than a sport—it is a lifelong vehicle for personal growth, discipline, emotional resilience, strategic thinking, and meaningful human connection. Her advice to aspiring players is simple: 'Start with the fundamentals rather than perfection. Focus on consistency, enjoy the learning process,

and embrace both the physical and mental rewards that tennis brings.'

Looking ahead, Karina is excited to become an integral part of The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain tennis community, sharing her international experience with Royal Beach Club members and hotel guests while fostering a lifelong love for the sport.

With the addition of Karinato its Royal Beach Club team, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain continues to strengthen its reputation as one of the Kingdom's premier luxury lifestyle destinations, where exceptional coaching, personalized service, and unforgettable guest experiences come together on and off the court.

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