

**'Champion mindset'  
as Pant-inspired Delhi  
hammer Gujarat in IPL**

Pant's sharp glove-work and Mukesh Kumar's 3-14 help Delhi Capitals crush Gujarat Titans by 6 wickets | P12

WORLD 6 Dubai reels from floods chaos after record rains

THE DAILY **tribune**



Keanu Reeves lends voice to Shadow in Sonic the Hedgehog 3

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS

5

Tamkeen and UpGradelle partner for training engineering and ICT students

**HRH Prince Salman  
orders assessment,  
compensation for  
rainwater damage**



HRH Prince Salman  
TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has issued directives to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Works to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the resulting damages from recent rainfall and provide compensation to affected individuals.

HRH Prince Salman instructed the identification of areas affected by rainwater accumulation for inclusion in infrastructure development initiatives.

**Urgent probe  
launched into  
'gas' odor**

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for the Environment has initiated an immediate investigation, in collaboration with Civil Defense and Bapco Energies, to determine the cause of a noticeable "gas" odor detected in several areas across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Assuring the public, the Supreme Council for the Environment disclosed that preliminary findings indicate the odor detected in the atmosphere stems from routine operational emissions, falling within standard procedure thresholds and posing no cause for alarm.

220 fils (includes VAT)



**Bahrain affirms closer ties with Egypt and Jordan**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain discussed means of enhancing political, economic and security cooperation with Egypt and Jordan and reviewed current regional and international issues.

This came as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visited the two countries and held talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi and His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom.

During their meetings, they asserted the importance of creating a conducive environment for security, stability, and prosperity for all in the region, and supporting joint Arab action in confronting foreign interference and security threats.

At Al Ittihadiya Palace in Cairo, HM the King and President Al Sisi emphasised the importance of unity and joint visions in ad-



HM the King  
dressing regional and international issues and to uphold Arab security and peace.

They affirmed the need for finding diplomatic solutions to resolve disputes and conflicts and the utmost importance of remedying the tragic situation in Gaza.

The two leaders called for



HM King Abdullah II  
ensuring the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and rejected any plans for further violence and displacement, underlining their commitment to supporting Arab peace and security and working together to achieve this goal in the region.

HM King Hamad and President Al Sisi urged the Secu-



President Al Sisi  
rity Council to take decisive measures to address regional conflicts, which include implementing resolutions on a ceasefire in Gaza and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

They stressed the need for a political track leading to fair and lasting peace in the region, on the basis of a two-state solu-

tion and accepting Palestine as a member with full membership rights in the United Nations.

**Humanitarian aid**

HM the King and HM King Abdullah II underscored the importance of protecting civilians, ensuring the safe delivery of humanitarian aid in Gaza, and preventing further escalation of the crisis.

They emphasised their rejection of any actions that lead to escalating war, ground attacks on Rafah, or the displacement of Palestinians from their land.

Their Majesties reiterated the importance of respecting the historical and legal status of Jerusalem, and to stop Israeli attacks on religious sites. They also condemned the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, which is a violation of international law.

**'We'll decide'**

Israel weighs response to Iran attack as world leaders urge caution

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday his country would decide for itself how to respond to Iran's unprecedented attack, with world leaders urging restraint.

Meanwhile, the war in Gaza that has sent regional tensions soaring continued unabated with efforts at a truce appearing to flounder, as key mediator Qatar said it was re-evaluating its role in the stalling negotiations.

The Israeli military has vowed to respond to Iran's missile and drone attack last weekend, prompting a diplomatic flurry aimed at calming the Middle East.

Washington and Brussels have pledged to ramp up sanctions against Iran, while British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock became the first Western envoys to visit Israel since the attack.

Netanyahu told the visiting



Delegates observe a minute of silence to honour all humanitarian workers who lost their lives in the line of duty in Gaza at the start of a United Nations Security Council meeting at UN headquarters yesterday. (AFP)

ministers that Israel "will reserve the right to protect itself," his office said.

The pair offered "all kinds of suggestions and advice" during a meeting, Netanyahu said. "However, I would also like to clarify: we will make our decisions ourselves."

**Anxious**

For his part, Cameron said "we're very anxious to avoid es-

calation and to say to our friends in Israel: It's a time to think with head as well as heart."

Baerbock emphasised that "the region must not slide into a situation whose outcome is completely unpredictable."

Tehran has vowed to hit back if its arch-foe Israel responds to the Saturday attack, which itself was launched in retaliation to a deadly strike on Iran's Damascus consulate building earlier

this month.

Iran-backed Hamas called the attack on Israel a "legitimate and deserved" response to the Damascus strike.

**Warning**

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi warned after the attack of "a fierce and severe response" to any retaliation, and on Wednesday his country celebrated its annual Army Day with a parade



**The war in Gaza continued unabated with efforts at a truce appearing to flounder, as key mediator Qatar said it was re-evaluating its role in the stalling negotiations.**

featuring various attack drones and long-range missiles.

In the large-scale assault late Saturday, Iran and allied groups launched over 300 missiles and drones carrying a combined payload of 85 tonnes at Israel, according to the Israeli army, almost all of which were intercepted by Israel and its partners.

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# Entrepreneurship key to prosperity

THMC recognises Bahrain's top entrepreneurs at annual awards ceremony



H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro



“Celebrating the achievements of distinguished entrepreneurs demonstrates a steadfast commitment to supporting and enhancing a conducive environment to enable emerging companies to develop.”

- H.E. ABDULLAH BIN ADEL FAKHRO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

The Entrepreneurship Award was hailed as the cornerstone of Bahrain's economic development and prosperity by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, His Excellency Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, at the Thattai Hindu Merchants Community (THMC) awards night held at Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa sea & spa.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Fakhro, who is also Chairman of the SMEs Development Board, honoured the winners of the Entrepreneurship Award 2024.

The award ceremony was organised by the THMC, in the presence of a number of minis-



H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro with Bahrain's top entrepreneurs

## Lifetime Achievement

- Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed - Chairman - YK Almoayyed & Sons
- Lalchand Chaturbhuj - Chairman - Chaturbhuj Mulchand & Sons
- L.R Gajria - Chairman - Gajria Holdings W.L.L
- Vasdev Bhatia - Chairman - Khushaldas Valabdas & Sons W.L.L.
- Navin Megchiani - Chairman - Megchiani International
- Indukumar P. Bhatia - Chairman - Kumar's Group
- Vithal Karani - Chairman & Managing Director - D.K. KARANI & Bros

ters, senior officials, and guests, and Mukesh Kavalani, President of the THMC.

### Royal support

In his speech, the Minister emphasised the support of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Min-

ister for providing an attractive environment for innovative ideas and transforming them into projects that contribute to enhancing economic development.

He said that entrepreneurship was the basis of economic development and prosperity in the

## Bahrain's Top Entrepreneurs

1. The award for Women in STEM - PLAYBOOK- the EdTech platform
2. The winner for the Innovation & Tech Business of the Year category - PROCURAL- a B2B (Business to Business) cloud-based tendering platform.
3. The award for Entrepreneur of the Year - Founder of LUMOFY - a learning experience platform
4. The award for Startup of the Year - AlKem Health & Wellness - An integrative health and wellness center located at Bahrain City Centre.

kingdom, adding that celebrating the achievements of distinguished entrepreneurs demonstrates a steadfast commitment to supporting and enhancing a conducive environment to enable emerging companies to develop. Team Bahrain is actively en-

gaged in enhancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the kingdom through institutions that support entrepreneurship by adopting innovative initiatives within the framework of the SMEs Development Board, the minister said.



Mukesh Kavalani



“Bahrain is a prime example of how entrepreneurship will propel us towards achieving our 2030 economic goals. Our journey doesn't end here; this will lead to a continuous progress and sustainable growth.”

- MUKESH KAVALANI, PRESIDENT OF THATTAI HINDU MERCHANTS COMMUNITY (THMC)

### Commitment

He affirmed Bahrain's commitment to promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and creating an encouraging environment for businesses by providing supportive programmes and advanced infrastructure.

“Bahrain is a prime example of how entrepreneurship will propel us towards achieving our 2030 economic goals,” Kavalani told The Daily Tribune. “Our journey doesn't end here; this will lead to a continuous progress and sustainable growth.”

The award's categories cover women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; the best startup company; the entrepreneur of the year; and the best innovation and technology business of the year.

# A significant step forward in Bahrain-US partnership

## US Embassy celebrates 248th Independence Day

TDT | Manama

His Excellency US Ambassador Steven C. Bondy emphasised significant milestones in bilateral relations with Bahrain, notably the signing of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement between His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and US Secretary of State Blinken in September.

In his remarks at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel to mark the 248th anniversary of the United States' independence, Ambassador Bondy said: “The United States is a nation that seeks to advance, improve, and innovate



Ambassador Bondy delivers a speech

– striving to move forward. In reviewing developments over the past year in our relationship with Bahrain, I can say that together, we are on a journey of discovery, traveling farther than ever before. In a historic highlight, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister signed the Comprehensive

Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement in September with Secretary Blinken.”

He added: “Our two countries, standing together in multilateral coalitions, aim to protect the safe transit of maritime trade, reinforce freedom of navigation, and ensure ships carrying essential products can go about their



The US Ambassador with guests at the cake-cutting ceremony

business. “We believe in a principled path as the only reasonable response to those who sow instability in the region and the world. The United States works with Bahrain, in friendship and respect, to reinforce the international rules-based order that supports peace and prosperity,

our common values and interests, and our essential humanity.”

Guests from various sectors including ministers, government officials, diplomats, members of the National Assembly, business leaders, academics, journalists, and Bahraini citizens gathered to commemorate the important

event, underscoring the enduring strength and promise of the US-Bahraini partnership.

Themed “A Road Trip Across America,” the event evoked the imagery and energy of the open American road, featuring iconic cars and motorcycles that have captivated generations of people around the world.

## Four Asians punished for illegal fishing

● Vessel confiscated; deportation to follow

TDT | Manama

The Sixth Minor Criminal Court has sentenced four defendants of Asian nationality to a 10-day imprisonment and permanent deportation from the Kingdom of Bahrain for illegal fishing.

This was announced by the Chief Prosecutor of Ministries and Public Entities.

The court also ordered the confiscation of their vessel, the "Banush," along with the seized catch and prohibited nets used for fishing. These nets, known as drift nets or "Al-Hayali," are legally prohibited for fishing operations due to their detrimental impact on marine life and resources.

The incident came to light following a report received by the Public Prosecution from the Coast Guard Command, indicating the arrest of the defendants aboard the ship "Banush" while engaged in fishing using drift nets.

During the arrest, authorities seized 245 kilograms of fish from their possession. Upon interrogation by the Public Prosecution, the defendants confessed to the accusations leveled against them.

### Regulations

Emphasising the importance of upholding the regulations outlined in the Law Regulating Fishing, Exploitation, and Protection of Marine Wealth, as well as relevant ministerial decisions, the Chief Prosecutor underscored the paramountcy of safeguarding marine resources and wildlife.

# Key to better living

Council of Representatives passes law for housing crisis relief

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives, spearheaded by the Committee on Public Utilities and Environment, has unanimously approved a draft law to address the pressing housing crisis.

This progressive legislation, now pending governmental approval to be codified into law, will make residents earning up to BD1,200 per month eligible for a 300-square-metre housing unit. For those with a monthly income exceeding that, a 400-square-metre unit will be available.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, MP Mohammed Al Maarafi emphasised that this law transcends the mere provision of housing units.

It also introduces the opportunity for citizens listed for housing to obtain building loans, significantly alleviating the fi-



ancial burdens of construction and supporting them in realising their housing aspirations.

"The significance of this legislation cannot be overstated," asserted MP Al Maarafi. "It has the potential to invigorate the local construction industry, thereby advancing economic growth and generating employment opportunities. This initiative is expected to drive the kingdom's development and cater to the broader interests of its citizens."

### Strategic intent

The Council's strategic intent in pushing this legislation is not only to offer immediate housing and financial aid but also to cultivate long-term stability and elevate living standards in Bahrain.

By reflecting the vision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the legislation demonstrates a commitment to fair housing



"This legislation has the potential to invigorate the local construction industry, thereby advancing economic growth and generating employment opportunities. This is expected to drive the kingdom's development and cater to the broader interests of its citizens."

- MP MOHAMMED AL MAARAFI

access and economic prosperity, reinforcing the government's steadfast commitment to the flourishing and welfare of Bahraini citizens.

This landmark legislation resembles a robustly constructed house; sturdy, visionary, and built to last. By merging housing aid with financial support, with this law, the MPs are not merely erecting structures; they are crafting dreams, ambitions, and a more prosperous nation.

## 10 company officials fined BD1,000 for illegal fish export

TDT | Manama

The Minor Criminal Court has convicted 10 officials from various companies for illegally exporting fish and marine wealth without proper approval, and imposing fines totaling BD1,000 in accordance with legal provisions.

This was announced by the Chief Prosecutor of Ministries and Public Entities yesterday.

The case stemmed from a report received by the Public

Prosecution from the Anti-Corruption Crimes Department of the General Administration for Combating Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security.

The report highlighted instances of companies exporting marine items without the necessary approvals. Subsequently, the Public Prosecution initiated investigations, gathering statements from relevant public officials and issuing directives to inventory export operations and related documents.

Upon scrutiny, it was found that the companies failed to meet the legal requirements stipulated in the decree law governing the fishing, exploitation, and protection of marine wealth.

### Approvals

Specifically, they had not obtained approvals from the Protection Department for developing fish stocks, as mandated by law. Consequently, the defendants were deemed responsible for conducting ex-

port operations in violation of legal provisions, leading to their referral to criminal trial.

In presenting its case before the judiciary, the Public Prosecution underscored the legislative intent behind Decree Law No. 20 of 2002, which aims to protect Bahrain's marine wealth.

The law prohibits the export of marine resources without approval, ensuring the preservation of marine biodiversity and fish stocks.

## Four Asians face trial for narcotics trafficking

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for April 22 to consider the arguments of four Asian individuals accused of trafficking in narcotic substances.

The defendants have been nabbed after the anti-drug department at the Ministry of Interior received a tip-off revealing that the first defendant was involved in the sale and abuse of narcotics. Based on this information, the Public Prosecution obtained a warrant to arrest and search the defendant's residence.

He was apprehended at his residence, accompanied by the third accused, who appeared to be in an abnormal condition. A search of the residence led to the discovery of approximately one kilogram of cannabis oil, as well as quantities of narcotic substances, narcotic pills, and materials used in drug sales.

During their investigation, authorities learned that the first accused had received a portion of the cannabis oil from the second and fourth defendants. In an effort to capture the second accused, the first defendant cooperated with the police. Under police supervision, the first accused contacted the second accused and arranged a meeting to deliver the previously received cannabis oil.

The second accused, who was also in an abnormal condition, was arrested after opening his apartment door. A search of the apartment revealed rolling papers and two boxes suspected to contain narcotic cannabis oil.

## Delivery riders brave flooding to serve customers



Delivery drivers wade through floods to ensure food reaches their customers

Zahra Ayaz  
TDT | Manama

In the face of severe rainwater flooding and road blockages, Bahrain's delivery drivers demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience by ensuring timely food deliveries to people in need.

The recent heavy rainfall resulted in the closure of numerous restaurants and food stores,

leaving many individuals with limited options for their meals.

With homes and flats being inundated by rainwater, cooking became an impractical task for residents. As a result, a significant number of people turned to online food delivery applications to order their meals.

Delivery riders, undeterred by the adverse weather conditions, ventured through flooded

streets to fulfill these orders and meet the needs of their customers.

Amidst the challenging circumstances, the online community has taken to social media platforms, such as X, to express their gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of these delivery drivers.

Many users have suggested that food delivery apps in Bahrain should consider offering

bonuses and incentives to recognise and reward the drivers who worked tirelessly during this difficult period when few were willing to venture outside their homes.

However, some social media users have raised a valid concern. While they understand that certain individuals may be unable to cook or lack food and groceries during such emergencies, they urge restraint when it

comes to ordering food during floods.

They emphasise that placing delivery orders in these situations can further burden the lives of delivery drivers, who are already working hard to make ends meet.

The efforts of the Kingdom's delivery drivers in ensuring the delivery of essential goods during challenging times are undoubtedly commendable.

## Capital Governor inspects affected houses due to heavy rainfall

TDT | Manama

Following the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Excellency Capital Governor Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa inspected a number of affected houses due to the bad weather conditions and heavy rainfall.

Present were Deputy Capital Governor Hasan Abdulla Al Madani and Director-General of Capital Municipality Eng. Mohammed bin Saad Al Sehli.

HE Capital Governor asserted the direct follow-up of His Excellency Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, noting that the governorate was keen to follow up with government authorities, civil society institutions, members of the legislative authority, and the Capital Municipality Council to provide the best services to citizens.

# BD3,000 fine for reckless jet skiing

Court orders Gulf national to pay compensation for causing accident

TDI | Manama

A Civil Court has ordered a Gulf national to pay over BD3,000 in compensation after he caused an accident with another jet ski due to reckless driving.

The defendant, who rented the jet ski from the plaintiff, failed to follow instructions and exceeded the permitted speed limit, resulting in a collision that damaged both jet skis.

The plaintiff, represented by lawyer Abeer Abbas, presented evidence showing that the defendant ignored safety



Image used for illustrative purposes only

guidelines and engaged in dangerous maneuvers, leading to the accident. A court-appointed expert as-

sessed the damage to both jet skis, estimating the repair cost at BD1,300.

The court, after reviewing the evidence and expert report, concluded that the defendant was solely responsible for the accident, stating that his actions constituted a breach of the rental agreement and caused significant financial loss to the plaintiff.

As a result, the court ordered him to pay BD1,558,700 for repairs, BD600 for lost rental income, and over BD3,000 for expert fees, legal fees, and court expenses.

## GCC endorses Bahrain's ethical framework for AI

● Values and principles

TDI | Manama

The Public Representatives and Prosecutors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have endorsed an ethical framework for artificial intelligence (AI), spearheaded by the Public Prosecution of Bahrain.

This framework outlines the values and principles to guide member states' AI endeavors.

Dr. Ali Al-Buainain, the Attorney General, has issued Resolution No. 13 of 2024, mandating the integration of this AI Ethics Document into the operations of the Public Prosecutions across the GCC. This resolution ensures that AI applications adhere to the ethical standards outlined in the document.

Aligned with the ongoing digital transformation, the Bahraini Public Prosecution proposed the creation of a document encapsulating principles for ethical AI usage within Public Prosecution tasks.

The proposal aims to gradually integrate AI and its techniques into judicial processes, ensuring outcome integrity and compliance with local and international rights and freedoms.

The AI ethics document comprises 19 legal articles and highlights eight core principles. These principles emphasize the need for justice and fairness in AI deployment,

oversight of AI-generated decisions and verdicts, and transparency in decision-making processes.

**Clear communication**

The document advocates for clear communication regarding AI decision-making, infusion of human values into AI systems to uphold the rule of law and human rights, and stringent security and confidentiality measures for data.

It also calls for ongoing system evaluation and development, considering energy efficiency and sustainable usage, while balancing privacy, individual rights, and innovation.

Previously, the Public Prosecutor established a team dedicated to integrating AI into Public Prosecution operations.

Led by Mr. Mohammed Al-Zubari and vice-chaired by Ms. Noura Al-Mualla, the team includes Public Prosecution members and IT experts.

**Best practices**

Their mandate involves assessing local and global AI advancements, determining best practices for AI in judicial and administrative functions, and organizing training through conferences and programs.

A significant outcome of this team's efforts is the drafting of the AI ethics document, serving as a foundational guideline for AI application development.

This initiative led Bahrain's Public Prosecution to present the document as a directive for the GCC countries.

## Ministry employees under investigation for misconduct

TDI | Manama

The Public Prosecution has received a concerning report from the Anti-Corruption Department of the General Administration for Combating Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security alleging misconduct by employees of the Ministry of Social Development.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Chief of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution.

According to the report, the employees are accused of issuing false statements to members

of the Productive Home Program "Khutwa," falsely claiming they work from home.

The investigation stems from an audit conducted by the Office of Financial and Administrative Oversight on the Productive Home Program "Khutwa."

**False statements**

The audit revealed that defendants employed by the Ministry of Social Development provided false statements to program members, indicating they were working from home to fraudulently extend their periods of service.

This allowed them to benefit from additional periods of actual work recorded by the General Authority for Social Insurance and receive retirement benefits.

Following the receipt of the report, the Public Prosecution swiftly issued orders for the arrest of the accused individuals. Subsequent interrogations revealed admissions of wrongdoing, with the first accused admitting to adopting false statements without verification and the third accused confessing to forgery of an official document.

The third accused obtained a statement from the Ministry

of Social Development falsely asserting participation in the "Khutwa" program while concurrently being assigned as a program trainer by the Ministry.

Pending further investigation, the Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of the accused individuals.

Investigation procedures include gathering testimonies from relevant witnesses, including the Auditor of the Board of Financial Supervision. Upon completion of the investigation, the accused and any accomplices will be referred to criminal trial.

## Stage set for second GEDEX Bahrain 2024



The successful inaugural edition of the event last year

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, recipient of the prestigious "Best New Exhibition and Conference Center in the World 2023" Award, is set to welcome the second edition of the Global Higher Education Exhibition (GEDEX Bahrain 2024) from April 21 to 22.

Organised by the Arab Research House, the exhibition is poised to draw thousands of attendees, including school and university students, parents, academics, and higher education experts.

Over 100 exhibitors from around the world, representing more than 70 educational institutions, are expected to participate in this dynamic event.

Building upon the success of its inaugural edition in 2023,

held at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, this year's edition will feature the International Conference on Academic Guidance and Career Counseling.

Targeting educational institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the conference will focus on leveraging technology in higher education and career guidance, implementing best practices, and offering insights into future job prospects for students.

Day two of the exhibition will host the International Conference for Heads of Human Resources, covering topics such as leadership and management training, emotional intelligence development, preparing the local workforce for modern technology jobs, and effective project planning and management strategies.

## BACA honours renowned artist Asghar Ismail with solo exhibition



Asghar Ismail's brilliant artwork on display at the event

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) pays tribute to the artistic legacy of Bahraini artist Asghar Ismail, as the Arts Center proudly presents his solo exhibition titled "Sixty Years in the Studio."

The exhibition, which commenced on April 15, offers an immersive journey into Ismail's extensive artistic career.

Running until April 29, the exhibition welcomes visitors daily from 9am until 8pm.

It serves as a retrospective of Ismail's artistic evolution, showcasing a blend of his classic and contemporary works. Through this visual experience, attendees gain insight into the pivotal moments and transformations that have shaped Is-



mail's remarkable career.

**Artistic journey**

As one of the pioneering figures of the Bahraini art scene, Ismail started his artistic journey in the 1970s. He played a

foundational role in the establishment of the "Family of Art Amateurs," the Kingdom's first artistic collective.

Ismail's contributions have significantly influenced Bahrain's cultural landscape, earn-

ing him recognition as a member of esteemed organisations such as the Contemporary Art Society and the Bahrain Fine Arts Society.

**Diverse mediums**

His portfolio encompasses a diverse range of mediums, with a focus on graphic art, woodwork, and stone carving.

Ismail's artworks often reflect themes of daily life, heritage, maritime scenes, and the role of women in society. His depictions celebrate the rich cultural tapestry of Bahrain, capturing the essence of its people and traditions.

Through "Sixty Years in the Studio," BACA celebrates the enduring artistic legacy of Ismail, inviting audiences to explore the profound impact of his work on Bahraini art and culture.

# Tamkeen and UpGradelle partner for training engineering and ICT students

Tamkeen will cover the costs of the programme and expenses related to the on-the-job training

● 10 Bahraini students from local universities will launch their engineering and ICT careers through specialized and on-the-job training.

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund Tamkeen signed a partnership agreement with UpGradelle Cs, a French consulting cabinet focusing on digital transformations particularly in systems engineering and enterprise architecture for industrial fields, to provide Tech-Based training and international professional internship opportunities for Bahrainis at UpGradelle-AMVALOR R&D unit in France.

As part of Tamkeen's Global Ready Talent programme, 10 Bahraini students from local universities will launch their



Officials following the deal signing

engineering and ICT careers through specialized and on-the-job training.

Young Bahrainis participating in this programme will immerse themselves in Industry 4.0 innovation, tackling projects that encompass process automation, cyber-physical system design, digital twin mock-up

creation, and AR/VR modeling for the aerospace, automotive, and energy sectors. Under the expert guidance of UpGradelle and AMVALOR teams, participants will refine their skills and contribute to groundbreaking advancements in their respective fields. Tamkeen will cover the costs of the programme and

expenses related to the on-the-job training period in France for the students who qualify.

Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Tamkeen's Chief Executive stated: "This collaboration bridges the gap between theoretical education and the practical application of engineering best practices, providing the trainees

with the advanced skills they need to excel in international job markets."

She continued: "Participants will get exposure to international best practices applied within their field of expertise, expand their professional networks, and gain the required knowledge to become specialized in their

fields." UpGradelle Co-founder and CEO, Nesrine Beldi Miro Padovani added: "Tamkeen's support offers young Bahrainis a unique opportunity to acquire new and emerging skills, allowing them stay up to date with the latest international trends in their respective fields."



Since its inception to date, Tamkeen's Global Ready Talent programme has supported more than 90 Bahrainis with on-the-job training at leading companies worldwide across a range of sectors.

## Gulf Hotels Group promotes Amid Yazji as Cluster General Manager

TDT | Manama

Gulf Hotels Group has announced the promotion of Amid Yazji as Cluster General Manager, overseeing the management of Gulf Hotel, Novotel Al Dana Resort, Gulf Executive Residences Juffair & Bahrain Airport Hotel. Amid brings with him over 25 years of experience in hospitality management and a proven track record of success.

Amid, has spent over a decade in Bahrain leading hospitality operations at Novotel Bahrain Al Dana Resort. He contributed immensely to the hotel's profitability by successfully implementing strategies to optimize revenue generation, streamline



Amid Yazji operations, and foster a culture of service excellence. Prior to that Amid has led a number of

hospitality teams across GCC, Levant and Russia. He has also been part of several pre and post-opening operational roles within leading operators including Accor, Marriott, Hyatt, Four Seasons and Hilton.

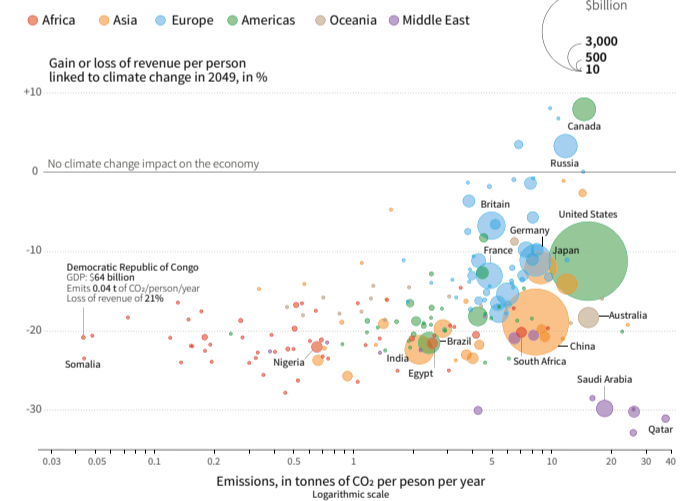
In his new role, Amid will oversee the strategic direction and operational management of Gulf Hotel Bahrain along with the other hotels in scope ensuring the highest standards of service delivery and guest satisfaction. With a strong focus on innovation and guest-centric approaches, he aims to enhance the hotel's reputation as a premier destination for upscale hospitality experiences.

Commenting on his appointment, Amid expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "I look forward to collaborating with the talented team here to elevate the guest experience and drive continued success for the hotel."

Ahmed Janahi, Group CEO, Gulf Hotels Group commented: "Amid's appointment reflects our commitment to deploy top talent within the group and reinforcing our hotel's position as a leading hospitality destination in Bahrain. Being the General Manager for Novotel Al Dana Resort, Amid has successfully positioned the hotel as a market leader and a preferred choice for both business and leisure travellers."

## Climate impacts set to cut 2050 global GDP by nearly a fifth

Poor countries the smallest emitters but the most vulnerable to climate change



Source: Kotz, Levermann and Wenz in Nature (2024), GDP from World Bank and emissions from the Global Carbon Project, latest available data

AFP

## NBB hosts Ghabga for Bahrain Paralympic Team



In pictures, participants at the Ghabga organised by NBB for Bahrain Paralympic team

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently hosted a Ghabga in honour of the Bahrain Paralympic team at the Four Seasons Hotel.

NBB team members welcomed the Bahrain Paralympic Committee's management and the athletes along with their families to the celebratory

event.

The Ghabga served as a recognition of the team's successful participation in the 4th Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou, China where Bahraini athletes joined over 3,000 participants from across Asia and competed valiantly in various events including discus throw, 100m and 400m races, shot put, and more.



Paris, France

Climate change caused by CO2 emissions already in the atmosphere will shrink global GDP in 2050 by about \$38 trillion, or almost a fifth, no matter how aggressively humanity cuts carbon pollution, researchers said Wednesday.

But slashing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible remains crucial to avoid even more devastating economic impacts after mid-century, they reported in the journal Nature.

Economic fallout from climate change, the study shows, could increase tens of trillions of dollars per year by 2100 if the planet were to warm significantly beyond two degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels.

Earth's average surface temperature has already climbed 1.2C above that benchmark, enough to amplify heatwaves, droughts, flooding and tropical storms made more destructive by rising seas. Annual investment needed to cap global

warming below 2C -- the cornerstone goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement -- is a small fraction of the damages that would be avoided, the researchers found. Staying under the 2C threshold "could limit average regional income loss to 20 percent compared to 60 percent" in a high-emissions scenario, lead author Max Kotz, an expert in complexity science at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), told AFP.

Economists disagree on how much should be spent to avoid climate damages. Some call for massive investment now, while others argue it would be more cost-effective to wait until societies are richer and technology more advanced.

Mostly tropical nations -- many with economies already shrinking due to climate damages -- will be hit hardest, the study found.

Rich countries will not be spared either: Germany and the United States are forecast to see income shrivel by 11 percent by 2050, and France by 13 percent.

QUOTE OF THE DAY  
SPREAD LOVE EVERYWHERE YOU GO. LET NO ONE EVER COME TO YOU WITHOUT LEAVING HAPPIER MOTHER TERESA

TODAY IN HISTORY

1025

Boleslaw Chrobry is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the first King of Poland



1506

The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid in the Vatican by Pope Julius II

1775

Paul Revere and William Dawes ride from Charlestown to Lexington warning "the regulars are coming!"

1954

Egyptian Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser seizes power and appoints himself Prime Minister

News in brief

◆ A volcano erupted several times in Indonesia's outermost region overnight yesterday, forcing hundreds of people to be evacuated after it spewed lava and a column of smoke more than a mile into the sky. Mount Ruang, a stratovolcano in North Sulawesi Province, first erupted at 9:45 pm on Tuesday (13:45 GMT) and twice again in the early hours of Wednesday, the country's volcanology and geological agencies said. There were no reports of any deaths or injuries but more than 800 people were evacuated from two villages on Ruang island to the nearby island of Tagulandang, state news agency Antara reported. The first eruption pushed an ash column two kilometres (1.2 miles) into the sky, with the second eruption pushing it to 2.5 kilometres. Muhammad Waifid, head of the geological agency said in a statement.



Volcano erupts in Indonesia's outermost region, hundreds evacuated

◆ Saudi Arabia will host fresh peace talks within the next three weeks on the war in Sudan, the United States said, calling Tuesday for both sides to "negotiate in good faith toward a ceasefire." The discussions, which will be held in Saudi Arabia's port city of Jeddah, were announced on Monday at a France-backed international conference in Paris that raised more than two million euros for Sudan. For over a year, the northeast African country has been ravaged by conflict between the Sudanese army and paramilitary forces, causing what the United Nations has called "one of the worst humanitarian disasters in recent memory." "Given the urgency of peace, we welcome the decision of Saudi Arabia to restart Jeddah talks within the next three weeks," Tom Perriello, US special envoy for Sudan, wrote on X on Monday.

◆ Saudi Arabia to host Sudan peace talks in next three weeks: US



◆ A Pakistan High Court yesterday said the government must restore social media platform X within one week, a lawyer said, after more than two months of disruption ordered by the interior ministry. The platform, formerly known as Twitter, has been rarely accessible since February 17, when jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party called for protests against a government official's admission of vote manipulation in February's election. Pakistan's communications authority later admitted in court papers that it was ordered by the Interior Ministry to shut down the site. "The Sindh High Court has given the government one week to withdraw the letter, failing which, on the next date, they will pass appropriate orders," Moiz Jaafari, a lawyer challenging the ban, told AFP.

Pakistan High Court orders government to restore X in one week: lawyer



Iran rescues 21 Sri Lankan crew from sinking ship: media

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranian emergency services rescued 21 Sri Lankan crew of a ship that capsized in heavy storms in the Gulf of Oman, state media reported yesterday.

The Cook Islands-flagged vessel carrying oil went down about 50 kilometres (30 miles) off the southern city of Jask, said the official IRNA news agency.

"A rescue vessel was dispatched to the area and 21 crew were saved," Mohammad Amin Amani, director of Jask Ports and Maritime Administration, was quoted as saying.

"Five people who needed medical attention" were treated by Jask emergency services "and the physical condition of these sailors is good," he added. Torrential rains have battered the Strait of Hormuz, Oman and the United Arab Emirates since Monday, and floods killed at least 18 people in Oman.

Netanyahu tells UK, German FMs Israel has 'right to protect itself'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday told the visiting British and German foreign ministers that Israel "will reserve the right to protect itself," his office said.

Netanyahu's comments to Britain's David Cameron and Germany's Annalena Baerbock came days after Iran carried out an unprecedented attack on Israel by launching hundreds of drones, missiles and ballistic missiles.

After meeting the two visiting diplomats, Netanyahu addressed the cabinet where he said that he had been given "all kinds of suggestions and advice" by the country's allies.

"However, I would also like to clarify: we will make our decisions ourselves," he said, according to a statement issued by his office.

70 killed as Afghanistan hit by heavy rains

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

Around 70 people have been killed by heavy rains lashing Afghanistan over the past five days, the government's disaster management department said yesterday.

Disaster management spokesman Janan Sayeq said "approximately 70 people lost their lives" as a result of rains between Saturday and Wednesday.

Dubai reels from floods chaos after record rains

Passengers were warned not to come to Dubai airport

Dubai's flagship Emirates airline cancelled all check-ins

The storms hit the UAE and Bahrain overnight Monday and on Tuesday after lashing Oman

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai's giant highways were clogged by flooding and airport passengers were urged to stay away yesterday as the glitzy financial centre



A man crosses a flooded street following heavy rains in Sharjah on April 17, 2024. Dubai, the Middle East's financial centre, has been paralysed by the torrential rain that caused floods across the UAE and Bahrain and left 18 dead in Oman on April 14 and 15.

Huge tailbacks snaked along six-lane expressways after up to 254 millimetres of rain -- about two years' worth -- fell on the desert United Arab Emirates on Tuesday. At least one person was killed

after a 70-year-old man was swept away in his car in Ras Al-Khaimah, one of the country's seven emirates, police said.

Passengers were warned not to come to Dubai airport, the world's busiest by international traffic, "unless absolutely necessary", an official said.

"Flights continue to be delayed and diverted... We are working hard to recover operations as quickly as possible in very challenging conditions," a Dubai Airports spokesperson said.

Dubai's flagship Emirates airline cancelled all check-ins yesterday as staff and passengers struggled to arrive and leave, with access roads flooded and some metro services suspended.

At the airport, long taxi queues formed and delayed passengers milled around. Scores of flights were also delayed, cancelled and diverted during Tuesday's tor-

BETTER YOU KNOW  
Official media said it was the highest rainfall since records began in 1949, before the formation of the UAE in 1971.

Nurse defrauds French state of \$1.6 m

AFP | Marseille, France

A French court yesterday condemned a nurse to two years under house arrest for stealing more than \$1.6 million from the national health insurance through claims for bogus appointments.

The court in the southern town of Marseille found the 67-year-old guilty of a "large-scale scam" that notably exploited the details of vulnerable migrants.

From 2017 to 2020, she billed the national health insurance for 81,449 imaginary services, using the data of people eligible for fully refundable healthcare, including acquaintances and migrants on a charity list.



Representative picture

This allowed her to claim up to 1,524,538 euros (\$1,622,603) from more than 30 regional national health insurance funds.

The court seized eight real estate properties she had acquired with the proceeds, as well as some mon-

EU court rejects Pablo Escobar trademark case

AFP | Luxembourg, Luxembourg

A European court rejected yesterday a company's bid to use the name of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar to sell a range of products and services.

The European Court of Justice ruled in favour of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) which refused a 2021 application to register "Pablo Escobar" as a trademark for a company called Escobar Inc.

Russian troop losses in Ukraine hit 50,000: BBC



Ukrainian rescuers clear the rubble at a destroyed building following a missile attack in Chernihiv

AFP | London, United Kingdom

More than 50,000 Russian military personnel have died during the Ukraine conflict, the BBC reported yesterday, citing its own reporters, independent media group Mediazona and volunteers.

They found that more than 27,300 Russian soldiers died during the second year of the war, a 25-percent increase on the first year.

BBC Russian, Mediazona and volunteers have been counting deaths since February 2022, using open-source information from official reports and the media, as

The public would associate the name with "drug trafficking and narco-terrorism and with the crimes and suffering resulting therefrom", a statement from the Luxembourg-based court said.

The European agency rejected the application on the grounds that it was "contrary to public policy and to accepted principles of morality" which led Escobar Inc., to challenge the decision.

well as using satellite images of Russian cemeteries to estimate the number of new graves.

The figure of more than 50,000 is eight times higher than the official toll acknowledged by Moscow in September 2022. It does not include deaths of militia in Donetsk and Lugansk in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine said in February that it had lost 31,000 soldiers, but that figure is also likely to be significantly lower than the true toll.

Russian losses spiked in January 2023 as it launched a large-scale offensive in Donetsk and again months later last year during the battle for the city of Bakhmut.

Remains of 500 horses found on Australian property

AFP | Sydney, Australia

The remains of more than 500 horses have been found at a property in rural Australia, officials said yesterday, prompting a wide-ranging investigation by police, environmental protection and health authorities.

The gruesome discovery was made near the town of Wagga Wagga, five hours' drive west of Sydney, and was triggered by neighbours complaining about the smell.

After an initial investigation, horse remains were found at several sites across the property and they appear to have been dumped over a long period.

"Some of these carcasses were no more than skeletal remains while others were killed relatively recently", the Wagga Wagga City Council said in a



Representative picture

statement. "Numerous separate dumps of carcasses were discovered at locations throughout the property. It is estimated that there are in excess of 500 horse carcasses," the council said.

Several other agencies are

now involved in the probe, including food authorities and the state horseracing body.

"The matter remains a current investigation. No further comment will be made at this time," the council said.

Snake on a train delays Japanese bullet service

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Even small delays in Japan's much-vaunted bullet trains are rare, and more unusual still are snakes on board holding up the speedy "shinkansen" services.

On Tuesday evening, a passenger alerted security to a 40-centimetre (nearly 16-inch) serpent lurking on a train between Nagoya and Tokyo, resulting in a 17-minute hold-up.

It was unclear whether the cold-blooded commuter was venomous or how it ended up on the train, and there was no injury or panic among passengers, a spokesman for Central Japan Railway Company told AFP.

Shinkansen customers can bring small dogs, cats and other animals, including pigeons on board -- but not snakes.

"It's difficult to imagine wild snakes somehow climbing onto the train at one of the stations. We have rules against bringing



Passengers wait on the platform as a Kodama bullet train, or "shinkansen" service to the city of Nagoya arrives to pick up passengers at Tokyo station in central Tokyo

snakes into the shinkansen," the spokesman told AFP.

"But we don't check passengers' baggage," he said.

The train was originally scheduled to go on to Osaka, but the company decided to use a different train for the trip,

causing a delay of about 17 minutes, he said.

Patrols by uniformed security guards onboard bullet trains were scaled up after a fatal stabbing in 2018 on a shinkansen that shocked normally ultra-safe Japan.

NASA Mars helicopter sends last message to Earth

AFP | Washington, United States

NASA's Ingenuity Mars helicopter has transmitted its final message to Earth and will now serve as an immobile data-gathering unit on the red planet's surface, the space agency said on Tuesday.

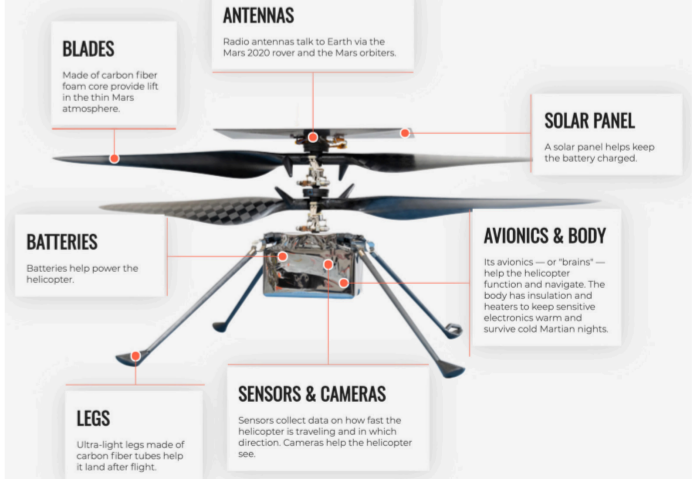
The tissue box-sized aircraft made history by achieving the first powered flight on another planet after hitching a ride under the belly of the Perseverance rover, which first lifted off the surface on April 19, 2021.

"A long goodbye," NASA said on social media site X.

"Ingenuity's team received their final message from the #MarsHelicopter, which will now serve as a stationary test-bed, collecting data that could benefit future explorers of the Red Planet."

Originally intended only to prove flight was possible in the ultra-thin Martian atmosphere through five test runs, Ingenuity defied all expectations.

It was deployed a total of 72 times, logging more than two hours of flight time in short hops, overcoming dust storms, treacherous terrain, a dead sen-



son and frigid conditions. Its mission evolved to act as an aerial scout to assist its wheeled companion in searching for signs of ancient microbial life from billions of years ago when Mars was much wetter and warmer than today.

Designed to operate in springtime, its solar-powered heating system was unable to remain on throughout the night in winter. That led to the flight computer freezing over and forced engineers to devise new protocols.

NASA said on Monday it was attempting to bring Martian rocks collected by the Perseverance rover back to Earth faster and more cheaply, with the agency facing mounting criticism for going massively over budget.

The effort comes as China is making progress towards a simpler "grab-and-go" sample return mission to the red planet "around 2030," according to state media, which would make it the first nation to achieve the feat.

SPOTLIGHT

Paediatricians urge gov't to outlaw smacking kids in England, N.Ireland

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Paediatricians yesterday urged the UK government to follow devolved governments in Scotland and Wales and outlaw smacking children in England and Northern Ireland, arguing the move was "long overdue".

One government minister insisted however that the existing laws were adequate.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) said in a new report that current law in England and Northern Ireland had created "grey areas" that sometimes provided a defence for physical punishment.

Wales made any type of corporal punishment -- including smacking, hitting, slapping and shaking -- illegal in March 2022, while Scotland introduced a similar ban in November 2020.

However, the RCPCH argues a 2004 law for England and 2006 legislation for Northern Ireland covering this area needed amending to remove a possible "reasonable punishment" defence.

Its report said that ahead of a general election expected later this year, all political parties should make "meaningful commitments on this important children's rights issue".

However, government minister Laura Trott insisted laws in England were clear and that

any abuse of children is "completely unacceptable", in comments to Sky News yesterday.

"They are very clearly set out in the Children Act, but it is for parents to discipline their children," she added.

But Andrew Rowland, a consultant paediatrician and RCPCH officer, criticised the situation in the two UK nations without recent changes.

"The laws around physical punishment as they stand are unjust and dangerously vague," he argued.

"They create a grey area in which some forms of physical punishment may be lawful, and some are not."

Rowland added he was "regularly faced with situations where it is alleged that physical punishment has been used against a child" but that the "vague nature of the laws make it extremely challenging" to respond.



TOP 4 TWEETS



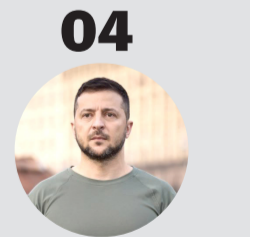
India's emphasis is on reform, perform and transform. Our approach to development is futuristic and is also aimed at building a better as well as more sustainable planet. @bjerde\_anna



I'm proud to have your support, @BernieSanders. Bernie's right--from workers' rights to women's rights, it's all on the line in November. We must defeat Donald Trump.



Earlier today I spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu and reiterated our support for Israel's security following Iran's reckless attack at the weekend. Further significant escalation will only deepen instability in the region. This is a moment for calm heads to prevail.



I am grateful to the Secretary General and NATO partners for their prompt response. Ukraine requires immediate steps to strengthen its air defense. I also informed the Secretary General of the morning missile strike by Russian occupiers on a hotel in Chernihiv, as well as the impact of Russian terror on Ukraine's energy system.

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

# CELEBS



## Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon 'are doing well in their relationship'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Brad Pitt feels "happy" to have Ines de Ramon "by his side".

The 60-year-old actor began dating the jewellery designer back in 2022, and Brad is still loving life with Ines.

A source told 'Entertainment Tonight': "Brad and Ines are doing well in their relationship."

"Brad is happy to have her by his side and is focused on the future."

Brad was previously married to fellow movie stars Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie. But he's moved on from his

Brad Pitt

past romances and is now firmly focused on his future.

The insider shared: "He's trying not to let any worries or issues from the past get to him and appreciates how much he has grown as a person and wants to continue to do so."

Earlier this month, a source claimed that Brad "finally feels happy again".

The insider told PEOPLE: "Although he's always been surrounded by trusted friends, he still had years when he felt very lonely."

"Sharing his life and living with Ines now makes his very happy. Ines is great. She doesn't come with any baggage and is

able to just support him."

Brad's close friends ultimately "just [want] him to be happy" with Ines.

The 'Meet Joe Black' star - who was married to Angelina between 2014 and 2019 - is now firmly focused on the future, rather than worrying about his past relationships.

The insider shared: "The long-drawn drama with Angelina used to really get to him, especially the custody drama and abuse allegations."

"It's been very stressful for him to have to defend over and over again. But since things don't seem to change, he's trying to move on with his life."

## Kate Hudson 'ready for criticism' as she announces huge career move

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kate Hudson is "ready to take the criticism" that may come with the launch of her music career.

The 44-year-old actress has been one of the biggest stars in Hollywood for decades but released her debut single 'Talk About Love' in March and ahead of launching an album, admitted that the shift has not actually been a "sudden thing" for her personally.

She told Britain's HELLO magazine: "It's actually not a sudden thing. I've been writing music my whole life. I just never shared it. I guess I was waiting for the right time to do that and this is it. I'm excited to share. It's vulnerable, but I feel ready to take the criticism. My hope is that it is received with the warmth that I created it with."

The 'Almost Famous' star - who is the daughter of Hollywood legend Goldie Hawn and singer Bill Hudson - has "always loved singing" because she finds it more personal than acting and feels "ready" to make the switch.

She said: "I had never sung in such an intimate space. It was very unforgiving, but also really good for me."

"I have always loved singing. It's way more personal [than acting]. It's the most vulnerable you can be to write and put out



It's actually not a sudden thing. I've been writing music my whole life. I just never shared it. I guess I was waiting for the right time to do that and this is it. I'm excited to share. It's vulnerable, but I feel ready to take the criticism. My hope is that it is received with the warmth that I created it with

KATE HUDSON



music that is all your words, your life experiences, little poetry songs, and then hope that people like it. But I feel ready to do it."

But Kate - who is 20 and with ex-husband Chris Robinson as well as five-year-old Rani with partner Danny Fujikawa - assured fans she will "never" give up acting entirely and still likes to believe she has a "normal life" after all these years in show business.

Kate Hudson

## Keanu Reeves lends voice to Shadow in Sonic the Hedgehog 3

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Keanu Reeves is to voice Shadow in 'Sonic the Hedgehog 3'.

The 59-year-old star has joined the cast of the film series based on Sega's successful video game franchise and is to feature alongside Ben Schwartz, James Marsden and Jim Carrey.

The first footage from 'Sonic 3', slated for release in December, was revealed at CinemaCon last week and disclosed that the villainous Dr. Robotnik (Carrey) was depressed after the events of the second film but recaptures his mojo with the creation of Shadow the Hedgehog.

The character was first introduced in the 2001 video game 'Sonic Adventure 2' and has ex-

traordinary speed and Chaos Control powers that allow him to manipulate both space and time.

He is initially seen as the anti-Sonic but later becomes an ally to the blue protagonist in the games.

The 'Sonic the Hedgehog' franchise launched with a successful flick in 2020 - which was then surpassed by the 2022 sequel - and producer Toby Ascher recently revealed that he wants new releases of the movies to become "Avengers-level events".

Ascher, who has co-created the new Paramount+ TV spin-off series 'Knuckles', told Paste: "We got really excited about the idea of expanding our charac-

ters in our world into television, specifically, because it gives us a platform to really do character studies.

"We knew that, with Shadow coming into 'Sonic 3' and some of the bigger things that we want to do, the 'Sonic' franchise on the movie side is going to be these Avengers-level events."

"They're going to be these big, exciting stories that have a lot of different characters."

"And so what television did for us is it gave us time to go into some of the more supporting characters in depth and really build them out in cool ways."



Keanu Reeves



Henry Cavill and Natalie Viscuso

## Henry Cavill expecting first child with girlfriend Natalie Viscuso

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Henry Cavill is "very excited" to be expecting his first child with girlfriend Natalie Viscuso.

The 40-year-old 'Man Of Steel' star shared his happy news at the premiere of his new film 'The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare' in New York City on Monday night (15.04.23) with the actor admitting he can't wait to be a first time dad.

He told Access Hollywood: "I'm very excited about it. Natalie and I are both very excited about it. I'm sure you'll see much more of that."

When told he will make a great father, Henry replied: "Thank you."

Henry and Natalie have been together for nearly three years. They went Instagram official back in 2021 when the actor shared a picture of them playing chess, and they later made their red carpet debut together at the 'Enola Holmes 2' premiere in 2022.

Natalie works behind the scenes in the movie industry and the pair are believed to have met when the crossed paths for work and their friendship blossomed into romance

during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A source told MailOnline: "Henry first connected with Natalie years ago, and while a romantic spark wasn't instant between them, they always kept in touch" an insider explained.

"Despite strict travel restrictions in place, Natalie flew from the States to the UK so she could be with Henry ... As a hugely famous actor, Henry is usually very discreet about his personal life and relationships but he's smitten with Natalie ..."

Henry previously admitted he worried about his advancing years because he wants to be a young and fit dad who is able to run around after his kids.

Speaking to Men's Health magazine back in 2017, he explained: "If I ever have kids one day, I want to be the dad who's running round after them."

"And if I do have kids, even now, it's starting to get quite late. But I want to be a fit and healthy dad, not hobbling round like, 'OK, I'm just going to catch a breather'."

### SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is 9x9. Numbers present: Row 1: 2, 5, 9, 3; Row 2: 3, 8, 7, 6; Row 3: 9, 2, 5; Row 4: 5, 2; Row 5: 9, 7, 4, 3, 6, 1; Row 6: 6, 9; Row 7: 6, 3, 9; Row 8: 1, 5, 9, 2; Row 9: 2, 8, 5, 6.

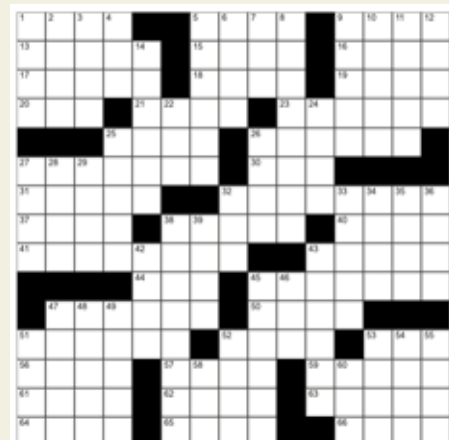
Yesterday's solution

Completed 9x9 Sudoku grid from the previous day's puzzle.

#### How to play

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

### CROSSWORD



#### Across

1- go brag; 5- Departs; 9- Over-50 org.; 13- Pave over; 15- Part of A.D.; 16- Woody plant; 17- Sun-dried brick; 18- Coral habitat; 19- Neighbor of Sask.; 20- Craggy hill; 21- Triumphs; 23- Clawed; 25- dancing is popular with cowboys; 26- Refluent; 27- Initially; 30- Chinese "way"; 31- As such; 32- Levy on deals; 37- Leak slowly; 38- In any way; 40- Bristol baby carriage; 41- Unequal; 43- Hi hi; 44- Buck's mate; 45- Austrian composer; 47- Mistakes; 50- Mother of Jesus; 51- by Starlight; 52- Sneaky guy; 53- Process leather; 56- Crescent-shaped figure; 57- Ringing instrument; 59- Stagnant; 61- Contributes; 62- Booty; 63- Exhausted; 64- Pigsty; 65- Tolkien tree creatures; 66- Falls behind;

#### Down

1- QED middle; 2- Overhaul; 3- Like not; 4- Capture; 5- January birthstone; 6- Till bills; 7- Vane dir.; 8- Form of baseball; 9- Maker of Pong; 10- Senator Specter; 11- Put a new price on; 12- moss; 14- Replace the electrical conduits; 22- and outs; 24- It's blown among the reeds; 25- Has "5" trouble; 26- List ender; 27- Lhasa; 28- High schooler; 29- At liberty; 32- In a funk; 33- Spread apart; 34- Drop (moon); 35- Contented sighs; 36- Dec. holiday; 38- Awww! Cute!; 39- Golf pegs, northern English river; 42- Billy had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 43- Take into custody; 45- Separates metal from ore; 46- Tit for; 47- Chopin composition; 48- Tears apart; 49- Like non-oyster months; 51- Close with force; 52- Story line; 53- Skater Lipinski; 54- Shake (hurry); 55- Sparks and Beatty; 58- Long, long time; 60- Up to, in ads;

Yesterday's solution

Completed crossword puzzle grid from the previous day's puzzle.

# Classifieds



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email : advt@newsfbahrain.com

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# Mbappe's PSG punish 10-man Barca to reach Champions League semis

PSG overturned Barcelona's lead to win 4-1 in the second leg of Champions League quarter final

● **Barcelona's grip weakened after defender's early exit**

AFP | Barcelona

**K**ylilan Mbappe struck twice as Paris Saint-Germain battled back to beat 10-man Barcelona 4-1 and book a place in the Champions League semi-finals with a 6-4 aggregate triumph on Tuesday.

Raphinha fired Barcelona ahead early on but Ronald Araujo's 29th-minute red card turned the tide in PSG's favour, despite the Spanish champions leading by two goals following a 3-2 quarter-final first-leg win.

Ousmane Dembele and Vitinha levelled the tie for PSG and the deadly Mbappe hit a brace to put them into the final four for the first time since 2021, setting up another meeting with Borussia Dortmund, who they played twice in the group stage.

"Hats off to Kylian, look at how he pressed, that's how you lead a team," said PSG coach Luis Enrique, noting the striker's all-round contribution.

"When Kylian can give that we are much, much better."

The French champions have never won the trophy despite huge investment but demonstrated they have the attacking



**Barcelona's defeat marks their fourth consecutive year without a semi-final appearance**



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #07 Kylian Mbappe scores his second goal

the relentless Bradley Barcola undermined their grip on the tie.

It became another in a series of European nightmares for the Catalans, who last won the trophy in 2015, with Xavi blaming the referee.

"With 11 against 10 it's practically impossible," said the coach.

"I think the red card is not necessary, it's unfair and needless."

The visitors started with determination and penned Barcelona back in their own territory, but it was the hosts who took the lead.

Explosive 16-year-old starlet Lamine Yamal ripped past Nuno Mendes and crossed to the near post where Raphinha turned

home his third goal in the tie.

The other PSG forwards found the net but it was Barcola who tilted the match in PSG's favour.

The winger teed up Mbappe but Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen denied him well, before Araujo was sent off for bringing him down.

The Uruguayan centre-back pulled Barcola back as he burst into the area, leaving Barca with 10 men.

Dembele struck after 40 minutes from another Barcola cross, which raked across the area to the back post where he was arriving to fire into the roof of the net.

Barcelona sacrificed Yamal for defender Inigo Martinez after

**“**I dream of winning the Champions League with Paris, it's another step overcome against a great team. We're going to try and go to Wembley

KYLIAN MBAPPE

Araujo's red card and it left them with few outlets in attack.

**No escape**

With PSG controlling the game Barcelona soon paid the price. Vitinha was given far too much space on the edge of the box and he drilled into the bottom corner to put PSG ahead on the night.

Ilkay Gundogan hit the post at the other end for Barcelona before their coach Xavi was sent off for a show of dissent on the touchline.

"Since I've been here we're not getting any refereeing decisions, they've all been bad for us," added Xavi.

"The refereeing was very strange."

Despite the finger-pointing the Catalans were losing their heads and Joao Cancelo clumsily fouled Dembele to hand PSG a penalty.

Mbappe, who had been kept quiet in the first leg, hammered it into the top corner for his 40th

**40**

goals have been scored by Kylian Mbappe across all competitions this season

goal across all competitions.

The striker's future may lie in Spain, with Real Madrid aiming to sign him in the summer at the end of his contract, and he made no friends in Barcelona by hopping the advertising hoardings and running towards fans to celebrate.

Another member of Barcelona's backroom staff was dismissed after Gundogan had a penalty appeal waved away and it became clear the hosts had no response.

Mbappe wrapped up the win in the 89th minute after a fine Ter Stegen double save, leaving Barcelona the victims of another bitterly disappointing night in Europe.

"In Europe playing with 10 you know you are going to suffer," Barcelona midfielder Frankie de Jong told Movistar.

"We tried and we fought to be in the semi-finals, it's a tough blow because we were convinced we could get through."

## Powell 'whispering in Narine's ears' for T20 World Cup return



Sunil Narine of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot

AFP | Kolkata

**W**est Indies skipper Rovman Powell is trying to convince fellow IPL star Sunil Narine to come out of international retirement for their home T20 World Cup.

All-rounder Narine smashed his first T20 century on Tuesday and took two wickets for Kolkata Knight Riders as they went down to Rajasthan Royals.

The 35-year-old announced his international retirement in 2023, four years after he last played a T20 for the West Indies.

But with the World Cup in June hosted by the West Indies, together with the United States, Powell hopes his countryman will have a change of

heart.

"For the last 12 months I've been whispering in his ears, he's blocked out everyone," Powell, who plays for Rajasthan, said.

Powell hopes that Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo and Nicholas Pooran, fellow West Indians in the IPL, "can crack his code".

Pollard and Bravo are coaches while Pooran plays for Lucknow and is a key member of the West Indies team.

Narine, usually a middle or lower-order left-handed batsman, was promoted to open the Kolkata innings this season.

He has responded with 276 runs including 109 off 56 deliveries at Eden Gardens stadium on Tuesday.

## Curry's Warriors out of NBA playoff contention after Kings defeat

AFP | Sacramento

**T**he Sacramento Kings ended the playoff hopes of Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday, routing the 2022 champions 118-94 in the NBA Play-in tournament.

The Warriors had finished 10th in the Western Conference and needed a win against the ninth-ranked Kings to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Instead the Kings will play the New Orleans Pelicans on Friday for the eighth and final playoff berth in the West.

The last three regular-season games between the Northern California rivals had been decided by one point.



Golden State star Stephen Curry wipes his face during the game

But the Kings dominated this one, the Warriors never leading

after the opening minutes in Sacramento.

Keegan Murray led the Kings' scoring with 32 points. De'Aaron Fox added 24 and Domantas Sabonis had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Sacramento as the Warriors offense struggled.

Curry shook off a slow start that saw him score just five points in the first half to finish with 22. But Klay Thompson failed to score a point as he missed all 10 of his shots.

The resounding defeat is bound to raise questions about the future of the Warriors' star trio of Curry, Thompson and Draymond Green, the pillars of the dynasty that won titles in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2022.

## LeBron, Curry, Durant head US Olympic 'Dream team'

AFP | Los Angeles

**L**eBron James, Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant will spearhead a star-studded United States Olympic basketball squad chasing a fifth straight gold medal at this summer's Paris Games, officials announced.

USA Basketball confirmed a formidable 12-man roster bristling with NBA talent that also includes reigning Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid along with Boston Celtics standouts Jayson Tatum and Jrue Holiday.

Los Angeles Lakers star James, the NBA's all-time lead-



LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers and Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors looks on during the game (file photo)

ing scorer, will be competing in his fourth Olympics after appearances at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Games.

Golden State star Curry -- whose season came to an end on Tuesday when the Warriors were eliminated from the NBA play-in tournament -- will be playing in his first Olympics.

Other star names in a squad which contains 12 NBA All-Stars, four NBA MVPs and six NBA champions include Phoenix's Devin Booker, the Lakers' Anthony Davis, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards and the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard.

# Nadal comeback ends in second round

Rafael Nadal Falls to Alex de Minaur in Barcelona Open Second Round

● **Defeat likely marks Nadal's final Barcelona appearance**

● **Second-set collapse raises concerns for Roland Garros**

AFP | Barcelona

Rafael Nadal suffered his first defeat on his return to tennis after injury as he fell 7-5, 6-1 against Alex de Minaur yesterday in the Barcelona Open second round.

The 22-time Grand Slam title winner, back on court this week after three months on the sidelines, battled well but eventually crumbled against the hard-working world number 11 from Australia.

Nadal, 37, who missed virtually all of the 2023 season, is hoping to compete at the French Open in May where he is the record 14-time champion.

"On a personal level, for what



Spain's Rafael Nadal (R) greets Australia's Alex De Minaur after the match

is to come, the 6-1 in the second set is what had to happen today," said Nadal, who explained he did not want to push himself too far.

"I had the chance to say goodbye here on court and that means a lot for me. A week ago I felt I was not able to play any more at this event, that would be painful, but at least I played and now it's the moment to keep going

RAFAEL NADAL

"That's the way I need to proceed today, to give me a chance to compete at Roland Garros," he added.

"I'll try to take a step further in Madrid, then in Rome, and if, in any tournament it's worth going out there to give everything and die, it's in Paris."

The Spaniard, who has won the Barcelona clay-court title on 12 occasions, had eased past Flavio Cobolli on Tuesday in his

first ATP Tour match since January, but said he was not favourite against De Minaur who has now won his last two clashes against the former world number one.

It proved a far tougher challenge and despite showing flashes of his supreme quality on the court named after him, Nadal came up short in what he said he believes is his final appearance at the tournament.

The Australian broke in the first game and tested Nadal with a series of brilliant drop shots which Nadal could not reach.

However Nadal hit back with a break of his own in the sixth game and consolidated with a fizzing backhand for a 4-3 lead.

De Minaur broke to love to take a 6-5 lead as Nadal went wide and sealed the first set when the Spaniard pushed a shot into the net, winning the final 10 points as Nadal started to struggle.

The 25-year-old Australian broke for a 2-1 lead in the second set when Nadal could not return a powerful passing shot, and secured another break for 4-1.



De Minaur wrapped up his emphatic second set performance with a third break when Nadal went long.

It marked what Nadal said was "realistically" his final appearance at a tournament he loves.

"I had the chance to say goodbye here on court and that means a lot for me," he added.

"A week ago I felt I was not able to play any more at this event, that would be painful, but at least I played and now it's the moment to keep going."

## Dortmund sink Atletico to reach Champions League semi-finals

AFP | Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund fought back to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 in their quarter-final second leg on Tuesday, securing a 5-4 aggregate victory and a first Champions League semi-final since 2013.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg, goals from Julian Brandt and Ian Maatsen had Dortmund 2-0 up at half-time.

Visiting coach Diego Simeone made three changes at half-time including bringing on Angel Correa and his energy told immediately, Mats Hummels conceding a poor own goal before the Argentine netted to put Atletico back ahead in the tie.

But those goals brought a sluggish Dortmund back to life, with Niclas Füllkrug and Marcel Sabitzer each scoring in a three-minute period to send the Bundesliga club through.

"It was magical. I try not to go overboard in interviews, but it was really magical. The stadium was on fire today," Füllkrug told DAZN.

Former winners Dortmund, fifth in the German top flight and struggling to qualify for next season's Champions League,



Dortmund's Dutch defender #22 Ian Maatsen and Atletico Madrid's Belgian midfielder #20 Axel Witsel vie for the ball

will next face Paris Saint-Germain for a place in the final at Wembley on June 1.

"We did give them chances and goals in the 15 minutes after half-time, we have to improve that for sure, but our response to it was sensational," said Brandt.

Atletico were bidding to reach the last four for the first time in seven years, but fell at the quarter-final stage for the third time in five seasons.

"It was tough," Atletico cap-

tain Koke told Movistar. "Their goals hurt a lot -- the fact that they got them so quickly after each other.

"We are angry because we wanted to get through. This is football and it can be cruel."

The home side should have been level in the tie after three minutes but Sabitzer took an extra touch with the goal beckoning, allowing Atletico to cover.

Just moments later, Atletico

"We did give them chances and goals in the 15 minutes after half-time, we have to improve that for sure, but our response to it was sensational

JULIAN BRANDT

had a major chance of their own, as Alvaro Morata raced through one-on-one with the goalkeeper but chipped the ball well wide of the post.

Buoyed by an 80,000-strong home crowd trying to one-up last week's atmosphere in the Spanish capital, Dortmund pushed and prodded, with Karim Adeyemi shooting straight at Jan Oblak.

Dortmund broke through on 34 minutes, Brandt collecting a Hummels chip and shooting on the turn, the ball bouncing through Oblak's hands.

The Germans were ahead in the tie just five minutes later, Maatsen threading in from an acute angle after he was given space to run in the Atletico box.

## Brazil football legend Romario announces come-back at 58

AFP | Rio De Janeiro

At 58, Brazilian football legend Romario has quite a resume: World Cup winner, senator, president of his favorite club, America of Rio de Janeiro.

Now, 15 years after hanging up his boots, the iconic striker has decided to add another entry to his CV, coming out of retirement to rejoin America as a player.

The 1994 World Cup winner announced yesterday he has officially registered to play again for struggling America, who are currently playing in the second division of the Rio state championship and fighting to return to the top-flight.

"I'm ready to try to give my beloved America a little help," Romario wrote on Instagram.

"Thank you everyone for your support!"

It will be a family affair: Romario's son Romarinho, 30, also plays as a forward for the club.

"It will be dream come true to share the pitch with my son," Romario wrote.



Romario

In an earlier post Tuesday, Romario said he did not plan to play the entire state championship.

"I just want to play some matches with my beloved team and realize the dream of playing alongside my son," he wrote.

Romario grew up cheering for America, his late father's favourite club.

But he started his professional career with their local rivals, Vasco, and soon transferred to Europe, where he shone with PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona.

Along the way, he was an integral member of the Brazil side that won the 1994 World Cup in the United States, winning the FIFA World Player of the Year award the same year.

## LeBron's Lakers edge Pelicans to book playoff clash with Nuggets

AFP | Los Angeles

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers held off a furious late rally to beat the New Orleans Pelicans 110-106 on Tuesday and book a first-round NBA playoff clash with the defending champion Denver Nuggets.

Four-time NBA champion James scored 23 points with nine rebounds, nine assists and three steals to lead the Lakers in the play-in game victory that secured the seventh seed in the Western Conference.

The 39-year-old superstar is in the playoffs for the 17th time in 21 seasons and will get another shot at Nikola Jokic and the Nug-

"We understood after how we had played the last game that they were going to give us everything they had -- the whole kitchen sink and the toolbox -- and they did that

LEBRON JAMES

gets, who swept the Lakers in the Western Conference finals on their way to the title last season.

Zion Williamson scored 40 points and keyed the Pelicans' rally from an 18-point third-quar-

ter deficit.

He threw down an alley-oop dunk to tie it at 93-93 then tied it at 95-95 with a driving basket in the lane with 3:19 remaining, but appeared to land awkwardly and was soon out of the game.

He threw a towel in disgust as he headed to the locker room for good.

The Pelicans kept the pressure on without him. They tied it twice more, but D'Angelo Russell's three-pointer with 51.3 seconds remaining pushed the Lakers lead to four points and Los Angeles, with a timely rebound and a pair of free throws

from Anthony Davis, held on for the win.

Russell drilled five of the Lakers' 14 three-pointers on the way to 21 points. Davis scored 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in the victory, which followed the Lakers' win over the Pelicans on the final day of the regular season on Sunday.

"We understood after how we had played the last game that they were going to give us everything they had -- the whole kitchen sink and the toolbox -- and they did that," said James.

"So it was a gritty win for us and we punched our ticket to the post-season."



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers shoots as Zion Williamson defends

# 'Champion mindset' as Pant-inspired Delhi hammer Gujarat in IPL

Pant's sharp glovework and Mukesh Kumar's 3-14 help Delhi Capitals crush Gujarat Titans by 6 wickets

● Delhi reached the target of 90 runs in 8.5 overs

● Delhi jump to 6th in IPL standings

AFP | Ahmedabad

Sharp glovework by skipper Rishabh Pant and some inspired bowling set up a crushing six-wicket win for Delhi Capitals after Gujarat Titans fell to their IPL lowest of 89 yesterday.

Medium-pace bowler Mukesh Kumar stood out with figures of 3-14 to help bundle out Gujarat in 17.3 overs and Delhi raced to their target in 8.5 overs in Ahmedabad.

Delhi, who were without injured David Warner, registered just their third win and second successive of this season to jump three places to sixth in the 10-



Delhi Capitals' captain Rishabh Pant (R) stumps out Gujarat Titans' Abhinav Manohar

team table.

Pant, who returned to this year's IPL after surviving a horror car crash, stood unbeaten on 16 after Australian batter Jake Fraser-McGurk made a brisk 20.

The 26-year-old Pant, a left-hand batsman, has scored 210 runs, including two half-centuries, in a boost to his chances of

a return to the T20 World Cup in June.

"Lots of things to be pleased about," said man of the match Pant. "We spoke about champion mindset and our team spoke about it."

On his performance after his recovery, Pant added: "The only thought process before coming



Rishabh Pant made a strong comeback to the IPL after surviving a serious car accident, proving crucial behind the stumps and contributing to Delhi's victory

to the field is that I wanted to come in a better way, that's the only thought when I was going through my rehab.

"Each and every match I am loving the process and being on the ground."

Pant suffered multiple injuries when his Mercedes rammed into a barrier, flipped and caught fire in December 2022. He was hos-

## Scorecard

Delhi Capitals 92 for 4 (Fraser-McGurk 20, Warrier 2-40) beat Gujarat Titans 89 all out (Rashid 31, Mukesh 3-14) by six wickets

pitalised before being airlifted to Mumbai for further treatment and surgery.

India fast bowler Ishant Sharma dismissed captain Shubman Gill for eight in the second over of the match and Gujarat kept losing wickets to some disciplined bowling.

The fielding remained impressive after Sumit Kumar sent back Sai Sudarshan for 12 with a direct throw at the non-striker's end.

Pant was nimble behind the stumps and started with a diving catch to dismiss David Miller off Ishant.

The wicketkeeper affected two stumpings when his quick work sent back Abhinav Manohar, for eight, and Shahrukh Khan, for a duck in the space



Lots of things to be pleased about. We spoke about champion mindset and our team spoke about it

RISHABH PANT

of three balls off South African spinner Tristan Stubbs.

Gujarat slipped to 66-7, but Rashid Khan resisted from one end with his gritty 31 off 24 balls before he fell caught behind with Pant taking a regulation catch behind the stumps. "Our batting was very average, but it's important to move on and come back strong," said Gill. "The wicket was alright, if you see some of the dismissals, it had nothing to do with the pitch."

Gujarat's total is the lowest this season in a contrast to some big scores including two record highs of 277 and then 287 by Sunrisers Hyderabad.

## England fast bowler Archer fears another 'stop-start' year

AFP | London

England fast bowler Jofra Archer has warned he may struggle to cope with yet more injury woe, saying: "I don't know if I have another stop-start year in me".

Archer, who signed a two-year central contract with England in October, last played a Test in February 2021.

His career has since been blighted by injuries and the 29-year-old Sussex quick missed the whole of last year's home season with a stress fracture in his right elbow.

But Archer, who rose to prominence in 2019 when he bowled the Super Over as England beat New Zealand in the 50-



Jofra Archer reacts during a match (file photo)

over World Cup final, is on the comeback trail, with hopes of

featuring in June's T20 World Cup in the United States and his

native Caribbean.

But he accepts the mental and physical toll of yet another breakdown might be too much

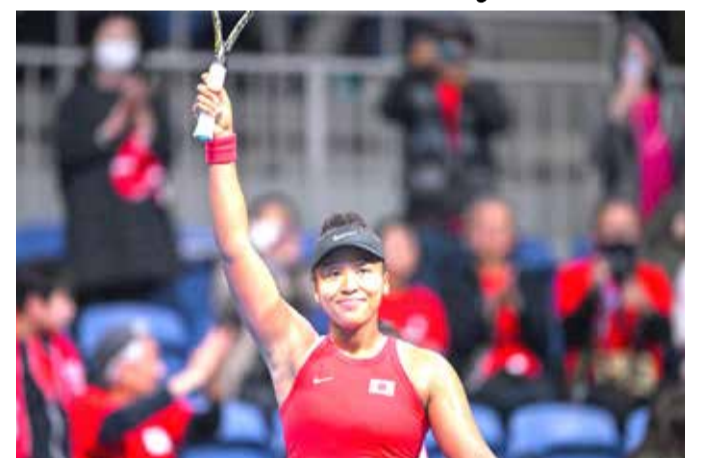
to handle.

"It's been a while and honestly, I don't know if I've got another stop-start year in me. That's the truth, I don't know if I've got another one," he told the 4Cast's Athlete's Voice podcast.

"I haven't played cricket for a whole 12 months as yet. Last year I played from January to May. I think the year before that, I played maybe one or two games for Sussex, so you know I've had a whole year of nothing."

Earlier this month, England cricket chief Rob Key protectively ruled Archer out of playing a Test match again until 2025 at the earliest but said the T20 World Cup was a realistic goal for the paceman.

## Osaka says 'no excuses' after defeat on clay return



Japan's Naomi Osaka celebrates during a match (file photo)

AFP | Rouen

Naomi Osaka refused to blame a lengthy trip from Japan to France after losing in straight sets to Martina Trevisan in the first round of the WTA event Rouen yesterday.

The former world number one was making her first appearance on clay since the 2022 French Open, when she was knocked out in the opening round and Trevisan reached the last four.

Osaka, who returned to action in January after taking a 15-month break while on maternity leave, had her chances in the first set against Trevisan, but the Japanese star could not capitalise on them and lost 6-4, 6-2.

"It was really difficult for me... it was my second time hitting on this type of court. I think that overall I could have done better but I've tried my best," said Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion.

The 26-year-old only arrived in France on Monday after playing for Japan in a Billie Jean King Cup qualifier last week against Kazakhstan in Tokyo.

Osaka has never reached a tour-level final on any surface other than hard courts, admitting the switch to clay was not an easy transition.

"I have never been the type to make excuses for myself, I just have to really do better," she said, confirming her presence at next week's Madrid Open.

"I think today, obviously, I didn't hit too many great shots and I could have done better. I'm kind of thinking I didn't do too bad but also I'm pretty hard on myself."

Osaka has said she would like to play in the Paris Olympics but might need to go through an appeals process after failing to make a mandatory two appearances for Japan in the BJK Cup during the current Games cycle.

## Moyes hopes Leverkusen's title celebrations benefit West Ham

AFP | London

West Ham manager David Moyes hopes Bayer Leverkusen's Bundesliga title celebrations lead to a hangover in Thursday's Europa League quarter-final second leg.

Leverkusen's 5-0 win over Werder Bremen on Sunday secured the club's maiden German crown as they broke Bayern Munich's 11-year grip on the trophy.

Having finally banished their unwanted 'Neverkusen' nickname, a tag that haunted them during decades of failure, Bayer head to east London looking to move a step closer to another piece of silverware.

Immediately after their 43rd straight match without defeat, Leverkusen boss Xabi Alonso challenged his team to complete



West Ham United's manager David Moyes (L) reacts as Lucas Paqueta leaves the pitch after being substituted off for Michail Antonio (file photo)

the treble.

They are already in the German Cup final against second

tier Kaiserslautern on May 25 and face West Ham at the London Stadium with a 2-0 lead

from the first leg in Germany.

Well aware of Leverkusen's quality, Moyes joked that Alonso's players spending a night or two celebrating the title would be the best thing for West Ham's hopes of a second leg comeback. "Rightly so, why would you not celebrate?" Moyes told reporters yesterday.

"To be the champions, you should celebrate, you should enjoy it because the moments go very quickly.

"I hope they've been downing those big giant glasses of beer they get in Germany!"

But former Liverpool midfielder Alonso had bad news for Moyes as the Spaniard made it clear his side would put aside the title party to focus on their European campaign.