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## 29,533 citizens employed in Bahrain job boom last year

TDT | Manama

A total of 29,533 Bahrainis have benefited from job opportunities provided last year, exceeding by 48% the annual priority goal outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) to employ 20,000 citizens annually

until 2024.

About 11,078 citizens also received training during the year 2023, exceeding by 11% the initial priority goal included in the Economic Recovery Plan to train 10,000 Bahrainis annually until 2024.

These numbers were outlined

in the presentation given by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, on the achievements of the Kingdom's ERP.

This came during yesterday's Bahrain Economic Development Board's Board of Directors Meet-



HRH Prince Salman chairs the Bahrain EDB Board Meeting

ing chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the EDB, and held at its headquarters in Bahrain Bay.

Full story & pics on pages 2,3, & 4

### Bahrain to host Arab Consumer Protection Day celebration today

TDT | Manama

The second Arab Consumer Protection Day will be held this year in Bahrain under the slogan "Arab Women and Consumer Protection".

The event is scheduled to be launched today, and organised by the Consumer Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

A group of GCC and Arab experts, legalists, academics, and technicians in the field of consumer protection within the Greater Arab Free Trade Area will participate in the celebration.

### Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in West Bank raid

AFP | Tulkarm, Palestinian Territories

Two Palestinian men, including one member of an armed group, were killed in an Israeli raid yesterday, in the latest surge in violence in the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian health ministry said the two, aged 19 and 36, were pronounced dead from gunshot wounds after the raid in the Tulkarm refugee camp, which the UN says houses over 27,000 Palestinian refugees.

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# Beyond the Vote

Why the ban on 'moonlighting' matters?

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

It may not be surprising that the Shura Council again rejected the proposal to allow government employees to conduct businesses along with their jobs but the council, which is lately acting as the watchdog against irresponsible legislation, gave clear-cut reasons for doing so during yesterday's session.

As the proposal may now be put to vote during a joint session of the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, called the National Assembly, where the proposal needs a majority to be passed, it is more the reason to look at the points that forced the Shura to give a thumbs down to a proposal that easily passed the Council of Representatives.

Yesterday's session at the Shura Council began with the report of a parliamentary committee that looked at the pros and cons of the proposal. The committee, headed by MP Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Khuzaai, found several reasons to disagree with the proposal to allow government employees to engage in businesses while still working.

Key concerns raised by the committee included conflict of interest, economic harm, security risks, regulation mismatch, objection by relevant bodies, and worldwide practice.

#### Conflict of Interest

The practice of commerce by a public employee will undoubtedly result in him intentionally or unintentionally doing his own business even at the time of em-



MP Ali Abdulla Ali Husain Alaradi

ployment, the committee chairperson argued. It will inevitably result in disrupting the interests of citizens and their dissatisfaction with the services provided to them, the chairperson submitted while stressing that it will result in a conflict between the employee's personal interest and public interest.

#### Economic Harm

Allowing government employees to own commercial registrations for businesses would only worsen the rental situation and would lead to damage to the local economy, the chairperson said. It would also create an unfair competition for existing businesses and would cause a situation where it would be difficult to tighten the control over them or properly inspect the businesses, the committee said.

#### Security Risks

Public sector employees might gain undue access to bank loans and facilities due to their positions if they are allowed to own commercial registrations, the committee noted.



MP Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Khuzaai

#### Regulation Mismatch

The proposal to allow government officials to own commercial registrations does not fit in with the existing law regarding civil service and all the employee-related laws would have to be changed to allow such a proposal, the committee said.

Moreover, the proposal also suffers from the fault of not fitting the regulatory scope of the civil service law as the proposal is about control over doing business, which are outside the scope of the provisions regulated by the civil service law, the committee pointed out.

#### Objections from Relevant Bodies

Bodies or associations representing the civil societies and businessmen have opposed the proposal to allow government employees to own commercial registrations, the committee said.

#### No Global Example

Further, the committee noted that most countries have explic-



MP Dalal Jasim Abdulla Al-Zayed

itly banned government employees for engaging in commercial activities. Outright ban on such a practice in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, and Libya were cited by the committee.

Citing the legal and economic concerns, the committee recommended rejecting the proposal and a majority of the Shura Council members voted against allowing the proposal.

#### Arguments by MPs

The MPs who made submissions during yesterday's Shura Council meeting included Ali Abdulla Ali Husain Alaradi, who cited the difficulty in requiring a government employee to maintain neutrality and asked whether a government employee will be able to have no contact with his company or its business during working hours. It is not possible, the MP argued.

Further, the MP asked how a government employee can be held responsible if the company he is involved with commits a violation of law. If the case reaches court, will the government employee be tried as a public official or as a private person, the MP

asked. It should be noted that most countries offer legal protection to acts in good faith by government employees. The MP also said the government employee would try to use his name and access to further business interests and it would be difficult to control it. While the idea is beautiful, the implementation is impossible as it would affect public service, would create conflict of interest, will lead to rental of public records, and ultimately the goal will not be achieved, the MP submitted, while pointing out that of all the countries in the world, very few countries permit government employees to engage in businesses.

MP Dalal Jasim Abdulla Al-Zayed submitted that the proposal goes against the rulings of the highest court in the Kingdom. The proposal also takes away the equality between public and private employees. As the penalty for negligence of public duties proposed is dismissal, this would ultimately harm the government employees as dismissal from service administratively is legitimate and enforceable even if an acquittal comes later, the MP said.



- » *Distinguished record of achievements*
- » *Global investments exceeded goals*
- » *Promising opportunities for citizens*
- » *Economy grew at 8% in 2002-22*
- » *Surpassed economic goals*



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), heading the board meeting on Sunday.

# HRH the CP, PM, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board chairs the Bahrain EDB Board Meeting

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), on Sunday chaired the EDB's Board of Directors Meeting at its headquarters in Bahrain Bay.

His Royal Highness emphasized that the National Action Charter (NAC) constitutes a milestone in the history of the Kingdom's national development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain EDB, noted that, since the launch of the NAC, the Kingdom of Bahrain has demonstrated a distinguished record of achievements, and outlined the importance of building on these achievements to further growth and development across all sectors.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad highlighted the importance of further bolstering Bahrain's position as a global investment destination by attracting investments across priority sectors, in line with Kingdom's economic diversification efforts.

HRH the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain EDB, went on to note the Kingdom's wide-ranging achievements, led by the will and determination of Team Bahrain, who continue to support the Kingdom's comprehensive development led by His Majesty the King.

## Development Strategy

Touching on ongoing development strategies and plans, His Royal Highness highlighted Team Bahrain's efforts alongside the Kingdom's private sector in supporting the national economy and ensuring the Kingdom remains a top destination for investment across numerous sectors.

During the meeting, the EDB's board reviewed its 2023 achievements and its goals for 2024, along with the most prominent global economic developments and strategies to attract investments across priority sectors, in line with the Kingdom's far-reaching development goals.

His Royal Highness outlined that the promising investment opportunities facilitated by Team Bahrain, in addition to the Kingdom's flexible and robust legislative system, have allowed for the advancement of development and diversification efforts, attracting investments that have exceeded the Kingdom's set goals.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad expressed his appreciation for Team Bahrain's relentless efforts to achieve the desired economic diversification goals across all sectors, which will in turn have a profound positive impact for the entire Kingdom.

## Proud Achievements

His Royal Highness expressed his pride in the Kingdom's achievements and developments across all sectors in conjunction with the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

HRH the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain EDB, noted that the Kingdom of Bahrain has served and continues to serve and empower its citizens by creating promising opportunities across various fields per the principles and objectives of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad affirmed the Kingdom's key economic indicators and other positive markers, all of which forecast a reassuring future for the Kingdom of Bahrain dictated by success and promising opportunities for its citizens.

His Royal Highness noted that each stage of development has certain requirements and the next stage requires resolve and determination from everyone to build on the previous successes and reach greater and more comprehensive achievements. This resolve is key for Bahrain to continue to be a pioneer in various fields, in line with the visions of His Majesty the King.

## Key Figures

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, then gave a presentation on the achievements of the Kingdom's Economic Recovery Plan.

The presentation outlined the total value of investments since the launch of the Economic Recovery Plan in 2021, which has reached more than USD 2.8 billion, exceeding the priority goal of simplifying and increasing the efficiency of commercial procedures by attracting an investment of USD 2.5 billion by 2023, outlined in the ERP.

29,533 Bahraini citizens benefited from job opportunities provided in the year 2023, exceeding by 48% the annual priority goal outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan to employ 20,000 Bahrainis annually until 2024. 11,078 citizens received training during the year 2023, exceeding by 11%

the initial priority goal included in the Economic Recovery Plan to train 10,000 Bahrainis annually until 2024.

The Economic Recovery Plan also facilitated the completion of 12 major projects, fulfilling the priority objective of implementing major development projects.

The non-oil sector also recorded a growth of 6.6% at constant prices during the year 2022, the highest growth rate since 2012, exceeding the initial target growth rate within the priority of developing promising sectors of 5% in 2022.

As for the priority of financial sustainability and economic stability, work is underway to achieve the goals of fiscal balance.

## Progress on Vision 2030

HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa further briefed His Royal Highness on the Kingdom's achievements through Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, a comprehensive plan launched by HM the King and supported by HRH the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Bahrain EDB, based on the three guiding principles of sustainability, competitiveness, and fairness.

According to the brief, the Kingdom's economy recorded a cumulative growth of 8% between 2002 to 2022, placing the Kingdom of Bahrain among the fastest-growing economies in the region, which confirms its ability to continue progress towards building on wide-ranging financial and economic achievements.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also succeeded in increasing economic diversification as the contribution of the non-oil sector to the gross domestic product rose to 83% from 58% in 2002.

HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa affirmed that, during the period from 2002 to 2023, the Kingdom of Bahrain recorded positive achievements in the sectors targeted by the Economic Recovery Plan. For example, the number of visitors coming to the Kingdom of Bahrain increased by 170%, while non-oil exports increased by 675%, assets of the banking sector increased by 222%, and the balance of foreign direct investment increased by 582% through the third quarter of 2023.

## Growth by Sector

HE the Minister explained that efforts are continuing to build on the success of the major development projects across the tourism, logistics, industry, and energy sectors.

The energy sector saw the inauguration of the Al Dur 2 Sta-



**The Kingdom's wide-ranging achievements are led by the will and determination of Team Bahrain, who continue to support the Kingdom's comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, PRIME MINISTER, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BAHRAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB)**

tion, the new oil pipeline project, and work is underway to expand the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco Energies) refinery.

Meanwhile, in the industrial sector, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) launched its sixth smelting line expansion project at the American Trade Zone - Phase One while the aluminium manufacturing zone was inaugurated.

In the logistics services sector, the expansion project of Bahrain International Airport, Khalifa bin Salman Port, and Bahrain LNG terminal were completed. In the tourism sector, the Bahrain International Circuit and the Exhibition World Bahrain were completed, and several tourist facilities were opened.

In line with the Kingdom's commitment to ensure citizens remain the best choice in the labour market, the presentation revealed that the number of Bahrainis working in the private sector increased to more than 59% from 2003 to 2023, and the number of Bahraini women working in the private sector increased to more than 126% in the same period. Additionally, from 2002 to 2023, salaries of Bahrainis in the private sector increased by more than 119%.

## Quality of Life

Since the launch of the Bahrain Vision 2030, the government has also demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to Bahraini citizens through the completion and documentation of more than 1,300 government services and the development of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) as well as more than 650 government re-engineered services.

Furthermore, the government has launched several platforms, including the one stop online commercial registration portal Sijilat, which enables business owners and investors to manage their businesses and complete proce-

dures and the Building Permit Portal, Banayat, also a one stop portal to issue building permits for all types of building projects.

The government also launched a unified guide for building permit requirements and began work on the (Takhteet) platform as part of the expansion of the "Benayat" system to include many planning services. The National System for Suggestions and Complaints (Tawasul) was also launched to enhance the ability of government agencies to provide high-quality services to all. The government also initiated the Real Estate Information Bank (Aqari) platform, which aims to create a central, reliable national source for real estate information.

Finally, the Kingdom launched the Al Tajir application, the first integrated application for smart devices in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through which multiple services are provided to several parties to facilitate everything business professionals may need in one platform.

In line with the government's commitment to modernise the system of laws and legislation to keep pace with the requirements of sustainable development, 1,885 laws and legislations were issued, and a culture of creativity and innovation continues to be promoted to enhance accountability and responsibility as they are among the constants and foundations of government work.

## Facilities Development

Additionally, the government launched many service projects across several sectors, including housing, education, health, youth empowerment, and promoting women's progress.

In the health sector, hospital capacity increased to 3,428 beds in 2022 while the overall health infrastructure in Bahrain was improved through the opening of the King Hamad University Hospital, the King Hamad Hospital - American Mission, and the Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialist Cardiac Centre.

The education sector has also achieved notable progress in the same period, as the number of public and private schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain has increased to 291 schools in 2024, and the number of students reached 243,000 students. The Education and Training Quality Authority, Bahrain Polytechnic, and the Bahrain Teachers College were also established.

In the housing sector, the number of beneficiaries of housing services since 2002 has increased

to more than 55,000 citizens and many new housing cities have been established including Salman City, East Hidd City, East Sitra City, and Khalifa City. The government also launched several housing projects, including the Al Ramli Housing Project, Al Buhair Housing Project and Wadi Al-Sail Housing Project.

## National Economy

The Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Board, Mr. Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, also gave a comprehensive presentation in which he shed light on the developments in the national economy for the year 2023.

The presentation showed the growth of the gross domestic product at fixed prices during the first nine months of 2023, reaching 2.1%.

Meanwhile, the non-oil GDP grew 3.2%, which confirms the pivotal role of the non-oil sector in Bahrain's ongoing direction towards achieving economic diversification.

Mr. Humaidan highlighted that 2023 was exceptional in terms of attracting investments, as the EDB was able to attract local and international investments exceeding USD 1.734 billion from 85 investment projects, which are projected to create more than 5,792 job opportunities within three years.

Mr. Humaidan explained that new projects constituted 69% of the total attracted investment projects, while investment expansion projects amounted to 31%.

## Key Officials

The Personal Representative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President of the Supreme Council for Environment, His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, along with a number of senior officials and members of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Board, also attended the meeting.



### HRH the CP, PM, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board chairs the Bahrain EDB Board Meeting

Since the launch of the National Action Charter, the Kingdom of Bahrain has demonstrated a distinguished record of achievements, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The will and determination of Team Bahrain, continues to support the Kingdom's comprehensive development.

Team Bahrain alongside the Kingdom's private sector, continues to support the national economy to ensure the Kingdom the Kingdom remains a top destination for investment across numerous sectors.

The promising investment opportunities facilitated by Team Bahrain, have allowed for the advancement of development and diversification efforts, attracting investments that have exceeded the Kingdom's set goals.

### HRH the CP, PM, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board

Expressed his pride in the Kingdom's achievements and developments across all sectors in conjunction with the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has served and continues to serve and empower its citizens by creating promising opportunities across various fields.

The Kingdom's key economic indicators and other positive markers forecast a reassuring future for the Kingdom of Bahrain dictated by success and promising opportunities for its citizens.

The next stage requires resolve and determination from everyone to build on the previous successes and reach greater and more comprehensive achievements.

### During a meeting of the Economic Development Board

The total value of investments since the launch of the Economic Recovery Plan in 2021, has reached more than USD 2.8 billion, exceeding the priority goal.

The non-oil sector also recorded a growth of 6.6% at constant prices during the year 2022, the highest growth rate since 2012, exceeding the initial target growth rate.

The Kingdom's economy recorded a cumulative growth of 8% between 2002 to 2022, placing the Kingdom of Bahrain among the fastest-growing economies in the region.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also succeeded in increasing economic diversification as the contribution of the non-oil sector to the gross domestic product rose to 83% from 58% in 2002.

As for the priority of financial sustainability and economic stability, work is underway to achieve the goals of fiscal balance.

### HE the Minister of Finance and National Economy outlined the achievements of the Kingdom's Economic Recovery Plan

Objective	Achievements
USD 2.5 billion attracted investment by 2023	Streamlining commercial procedures
Annually employ 20,000 Bahrainis by 2024	Annually Train 10,000 Bahrainis
%5 Growth of non-oil sector in 2022	Creating quality job opportunities for nationals
Launch strategic projects worth over USD +30 bn	Promoting strategic priority sectors
	Developing major strategic projects

Objective	Achievements
USD 2.5 billion attracted investment by 2023	USD +2.8 billion attracted investment
Annually employ 20,000 Bahrainis by 2024	Employ 29,533 Bahrainis exceeding by %48 of the initial priority goal
%5 Growth of non-oil sector in 2022	Train 11,078 Bahrainis exceeding by %11 of the initial priority goal
Launch strategic projects worth over USD +30 bn	%6.6 Growth of non-oil sector the highest growth rate since 2012
	The completion of 12 major projects

### The Kingdom of Bahrain recorded positive achievements in the sectors targeted by the Economic Recovery Plan during the period from 2002 to 2023

Indicator	2002	2023	Growth
The number of visitors (Mn)	~1.5	~2.5	+170%
Non-Oil Exports (USD Bn)	~1.5	~2.5	+675%
Foreign Direct Investment Stock (USD Bn)	~1.5	~2.5	+582%
Banking Sector Assets (USD Bn)	~1.5	~2.5	+222%

### National efforts continue to build on the success of major development projects..

Sector	Project
The energy sector	The inauguration of the Al Dur 2 Station
	The new oil pipeline project
The industrial sector	Expansion of the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) refinery
	The aluminium manufacturing zone
The logistics sector	The expansion of the Bahrain International Airport
	The Khalifa bin Salman Port
The tourism sector	The Bahrain International Circuit
	The Exhibition World Bahrain

### The Kingdom is committed to ensure citizens remain the first choice in the labour market

Indicator	2003	2023	Growth
The number of Bahrainis working in the private sector	~1.5	~2.5	+59%
The number of Bahraini women working in the private sector	~1.5	~2.5	+126%

Salaries of Bahrainis in the private sector

Year	Salary (Bn)
2002	~1.5
2023	~2.5

### Since the launch of the Bahrain Vision 2030, the government has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to Bahraini citizens

Service	Details
Government Services	The completion and documentation of more than 1,300 government services and the development of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) as well as more than 650 re-engineered government services
Commercial Registration	Launched the one stop online commercial registration portal, Sijilat
Building Permits	Launched the Building Permit Portal, Banayat
Building Permits	Launched a unified guide for building permit requirements
Planning	Began work on the (Takhtest) platform As part of the expansion of the "Banayat" system
Tawassul	Launched the National System for Suggestions and Complaints (Tawassul) To enhance the ability of government agencies to provide high-quality services to all
Real Estate	Initiated the Real Estate Information Bank (Aqari) platform, which aims to create a central, reliable national source for real estate information
AL-TAJIR	Launched the Al Tajir application, the first integrated application offering eServices for business owners in Bahrain

Modernising the system of laws and legislation

1,885 laws and legislations were issued

### Since the launch of the Bahrain Vision 2030, the government has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to Bahraini citizens

Sector	Details
The health sector	The overall health infrastructure in Bahrain was improved through the opening of: The King Hamad University Hospital The King Hamad Hospital - American Mission The Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialist Cardiac Centre
	Hospital capacity increased to 3,428 beds in 2022
The education sector	The number of public and private schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain has increased to 291 schools in 2024
	Reached 243,000 students

The establishment of:

- Bahrain Hydrologic
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Health

### Since the launch of the Bahrain Vision 2030, the government has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to Bahraini citizens

The housing sector

The number of beneficiaries of housing services since 2002: +55,000

Many new housing cities have been established including in:

- Salman City
- Al Ramli District
- Khalifa City
- East Hidd City
- East Sitra City
- Al Buhair
- Wadi Al Sail



Proposal to ease requirements for sign language interpreters

TDT | Manama

The parliament will soon look into a proposal to provide sign language interpreters without the mandatory requirement of a bachelor's degree to students at schools and universities.

The initiative, put forth by MP Ahmed Al Saloom, aims to improve communication and support the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in schools and universities.

Recognising the importance of effective communication for individuals with hearing disabilities, MP Al Saloom presented the proposal that seeks to remove the prerequisite of a bachelor's degree for sign language interpreters.

If implemented, this policy change would allow more individuals with relevant sign language skills to serve as interpreters, thereby increasing the availability of their services and improving accessibility for the deaf community.

The proposal highlights the necessity of facilitating communication between the deaf and hearing communities, especially at schools and universities, ensuring equal opportunities and inclusivity for all individuals.

Future in focus



Key officials attending the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) board meeting chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the EDB, on Sunday

House of Uniforms Unveils New Showroom, Announces Expansion Plans

Ashen Tharaka

TDT | Manama

House of Uniforms (HOU), Bahrain's leading provider of high-quality uniforms and workwear solutions, marked a significant milestone yesterday with the grand opening of its newest showroom in Tala Plaza.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by industry dignitaries and media representatives, signifying the company's unwavering commitment to growth and innovation.

Yacoob Yusuf Akbar, General Manager of House of Uniforms, who has been with the company for 20 years since its establishment in 1985, outlined the company's exciting future plans during the event.

The centerpiece of these plans



The House of Uniforms management

is the establishment of a new, state-of-the-art factory within the Kingdom, envisioned as the "jewel of their crown." This facility, spanning 5,000 square meters, will significantly boost production capacity and enhance logistical efficiency, supporting regional expansion aspirations.

Sustainability is a key focus for HOU, and the new factory will prioritize the use of eco-friendly materials like organic cotton and recycled polyester, including the rare degradable recycled polyester. "We are proud to source this material and contribute to sustainable practices," said Mr. Akbar. "As a Bahraini company, we are committed to giving back to our community, and this factory will create local jobs and reduce reliance on imported raw materials."

BisB

بنك البحرين الإسلامي

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	BD'000 (audited)	BD'000 (audited)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Income from financing	52,274	49,408
Income from investment in Sukuk	14,994	12,641
<b>Total income from jointly financed assets</b>	<b>67,268</b>	<b>62,049</b>
Return on equity of investment accountholders	(20,613)	(23,362)
Group's share as Mudarib	18,083	19,306
Net return on equity of investment accountholders	(2,530)	(4,056)
<b>Group's share of income from jointly financed assets (both as mudarib and investor)</b>	<b>64,738</b>	<b>57,993</b>
Expense on placements from financial institutions	(8,695)	(5,561)
Expense on placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	(15,513)	(7,630)
Expense on financing from financial institutions	(6,024)	(1,637)
Fee and commission income, net	5,773	5,751
Income from investment securities	6	30
Income from investment in real estate, net	221	(617)
Share of results of associates, net	347	13
Other income, net	4,477	1,984
<b>Total income</b>	<b>45,330</b>	<b>50,326</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff costs	12,384	13,092
Depreciation and amortization	1,823	1,707
Other expenses	13,352	11,514
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>27,559</b>	<b>26,313</b>
<b>Profit before impairment allowances and other provisions</b>	<b>17,771</b>	<b>24,013</b>
Impairment allowance and other provisions, net	(6,635)	(11,445)
<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>11,136</b>	<b>12,568</b>
<b>BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (fils)</b>	<b>8.76</b>	<b>10.13</b>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	BD'000 (audited)	BD'000 (audited)
Balance at 1 January	135,751	125,760
Profit for the year	11,136	12,568
Zakah approved	(170)	(138)
Donations approved	(250)	(350)
Profit distribution on ATI Capital	(1,901)	(1,901)
Shares allocated to staff during the year	124	76
Purchase of treasury shares	(26)	(80)
Net movement in investment securities fair value reserve	(32)	41
Net movement in real estate fair value reserve	-	(225)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>144,632</b>	<b>135,751</b>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As at 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	BD'000 (audited)	BD'000 (audited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank	61,602	70,037
Placements with financial institutions	51,689	69,755
Financing assets	605,503	620,023
Investment securities	278,213	259,029
Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek	318,837	289,986
Investment in associates	8,302	8,832
Investment in real estate	14,725	16,176
Property and equipment	13,692	14,019
Other assets	5,528	13,960
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,358,091</b>	<b>1,361,817</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Placements from financial institutions	95,842	152,404
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	297,215	245,442
Financing from financial institutions	181,502	110,113
Customers' current accounts	202,511	231,078
Other liabilities	24,668	36,621
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>801,738</b>	<b>775,658</b>
<b>Equity of Investment Accountholders</b>		
Financial institutions	39,865	29,953
Non-financial institutions and individuals	371,856	420,455
<b>Total Equity of Investment Accountholders</b>	<b>411,721</b>	<b>450,408</b>
<b>Owners' Equity</b>		
Share capital	106,406	106,406
Treasury shares	(892)	(892)
Shares under employee share incentive scheme	(195)	(293)
Share premium	206	206
Reserves	14,107	5,324
<b>Equity Attributable to Shareholders of the Bank</b>	<b>119,632</b>	<b>110,751</b>
Subordinated Mudaraba (ATI)	25,000	25,000
<b>Total Owners' Equity</b>	<b>144,632</b>	<b>135,751</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY OF INVESTMENT ACCOUNTHOLDERS AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>1,358,091</b>	<b>1,361,817</b>

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 February 2024 and have been audited by KPMG.

Dr. Esam Abdulla Fakhro      Usman Ahmed      Yaser Abduljalil Alsharifi  
Chairman      Vice Chairman      Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	BD'000 (audited)	BD'000 (audited)
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit for the year	11,136	12,568
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	1,484	1,383
Impairment allowance and other provisions, net	6,635	11,445
Loss on sale of investment in real estate	28	-
Amortization of right-of-use asset	339	324
Fair value movement in investment in real estate	50	794
Amortization of gain on sale of investment in real estate	(108)	(19)
Gain on sale of investment in sukuk	(2)	(710)
Share of results of associates, net	(347)	(13)
<b>Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>	<b>19,215</b>	<b>25,772</b>
Working capital adjustments:		
Mandatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	940	(15,060)
Financing assets	9,048	(20,136)
Ijarah Muntahia Bittamleek	(29,103)	(33,475)
Other assets	6,864	(1,843)
Customers' current accounts	(28,567)	(18,671)
Other liabilities	(11,813)	6,470
Placements from financial institutions	(57,676)	21,207
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	51,773	33,024
Equity of investment accountholders	(38,687)	(65,822)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(78,006)</b>	<b>(68,534)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Disposal of investment in real estate	1,373	-
Purchase of investment securities	(18,125)	(19,124)
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,157)	(1,911)
Proceeds from disposal of investment securities	107	33,107
<b>Net cash (used in) / from investing activities</b>	<b>(17,802)</b>	<b>12,072</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of treasury shares	(26)	(80)
Profit distribution on ATI Capital	(1,901)	(1,901)
Proceeds from financing from financial institutions	71,389	53,194
Lease liability paid	(328)	(356)
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>69,134</b>	<b>50,857</b>
<b>NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(26,674)</b>	<b>(5,605)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	101,073	106,678
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>74,399</b>	<b>101,073</b>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise of:		
Cash on hand	12,601	16,577
Balances with CBB, excluding mandatory reserve deposits	5,875	2,569
Balances with banks and other financial institutions excluding restricted balances	4,234	12,172
Placements with financial institutions with original maturities less than 90 days	51,689	69,755
	<b>74,399</b>	<b>101,073</b>

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# Wave of deals puts US shale oil back in focus

AFP | New York, United States

American shale oil is back at the center of the global petroleum game, a driver of major deals involving petroleum giants more inclined to buy up rivals than to undertake wildcat exploration.

On Monday, Diamondback Energy announced the \$26 billion acquisition of Endeavor Energy, combining two of the top 10 producers in the Permian Basin, which has the largest unconventional petroleum reserves in the United States.

The Permian, which is located in western Texas and eastern New Mexico, has emerged as an especially hot commodity.

In October, ExxonMobil announced the acquisition of Pioneer Natural Resources, the biggest Permian producer, for



Representative picture

about \$60 billion.

That was followed in December by Occidental Petroleum's \$12 billion takeover of Crownrock, another Permian producer.

"Consolidation in the space was a bit overdue because the exploration and production space is fairly fragmented, or had been, until all these deals," said CFRA Research analyst

Stewart Glickman.

"People have this idea that it's very monopolistic," Richard Sweeney, an economics professor at Boston College, said of the oil industry in places like the Permian.

"The US oil and gas market is incredibly fragmented," Sweeney said. "There's, like, easily 50 firms that drill a substantial number of wells in Texas."

One large deal that doesn't involve the Permian is Chevron's \$53 billion purchase of Hess Corporation. However, Chevron highlighted the appeal of Hess's assets in the Bakken region in the state of North Dakota, another big shale region.

Such shale basins take advantage of horizontal drilling techniques, which permit the drilling of wells from miles away once large companies buy neighbor-

ing sites.

The addition of the Pioneer acreage "means fewer wells" and lower capital spending, said Kathryn Mikells, chief financial officer at ExxonMobil.

### More production overall?

While the investment surge in the Permian has helped to lift US oil production to an all-time high above 13 million barrels per day, analysts say the wave of mergers will not necessarily translate into ever-higher output.

"The more concentration you get, the greater the chance that you will see less production," said Bill O'Grady of Confluence Investment Management. "It's competition that leads to greater supply."

Sweeney predicted that companies like ExxonMobil and Oc-

cidental will be more selective in drilling the best prospects from their increased properties, focusing on highly profitable production.



Bahrain announced the discovery of 80 billion barrels of shale oil and 20 Tcf of gas offshore in 2018. The discovery at the time eclipsed Bahrain's proven reserves, which stood at 3 Tcf. The island's production in 2020 averaged 579 Bcf/d, according to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2021.

## OpenAI in deal valuing it at \$80 billion: media

San Francisco, United States

OpenAI has concluded a deal with investors that reportedly values the California start-up at \$80 billion or more, after a roller-coaster year for the inventor of ChatGPT.

The agreement, reported by The New York Times but not yet confirmed by OpenAI, would mean the value of the company -- a world leader in generative artificial intelligence -- would have nearly tripled in under 10 months.

The reported deal would have the San Francisco-based



Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI

firm selling existing shares to investors led by Thrive Capital.

It would permit executives and employees to sell shares

at a highly favorable price, just three months after the firm survived a major crisis when company co-founder and chief executive Sam Altman was fired and then brought back only days later.

OpenAI led a revolution in artificial intelligence when it placed its ChatGPT program online in late 2022.

The immediate success of the interface sparked tremendous interest in the cutting-edge technology, capable of producing text, sounds and images upon demand.



Tamkeen visits Kalaam Telecom

Tamkeen's Executive Management visits Kalaam Telecom as part of its ongoing engagement to introduce the new enhanced programmes to the private sector and highlight ways to employ and upskill Bahraini talent.

## 2024 MESAC Family Business Summit: Nurturing Legacies, Embracing Innovation

TDT | Manama

The 2024 KPMG Middle East, South Asia, and Caspian (MESAC) regional Family Business Summit, was hosted in Bahrain on Wednesday. The Summit was a gathering of industry leaders, visionaries, and entrepreneurs represented by Family Business Leaders and Senior Management. The sessions explored strategies to sustain and reinvent family legacies while embracing innovation and digital transformation.

Jamal Fakhro, Managing Partner, KPMG in Bahrain, launched the summit with a welcome note, reinforcing the vital role of Family Businesses within the economy across the region, and the importance of preserving the legacy of the family and the traditions and values that have shaped them. At the opening Mr. Fakhro stated, "Family businesses have historically been an important part of our economy, and today still play a vital role in our national growth, influence, and impact. Their deep-rooted connections to local communities and cultures enable them to navigate the unique challenges and opportunities of the region, while also supporting development areas within the community like education, healthcare, employment, and inclusive prosperity."

Harish Gopinath, Partner, and Head of KPMG Enterprise across the MESAC region highlighted key opportunities that Family Businesses should consider leveraging as they evolve within the marketplace, while navigating



Jamal Fakhro, Managing Partner, KPMG in Bahrain

through the challenges they will encounter as they look towards expanding, evolving, and transforming their organizations. He also mentioned the launch of the 2024 Global family business survey report produced by KPMG International's Private Enterprise team in collaboration with the STEP Project Global Consortium.

Prof. Andrea Calabrò, renowned Professor of Family Business & Entrepreneurship, leading on the STEP Project Global Consortium delivered a keynote speech on "Building and sustaining the family business legacy.", highlighting the importance of Family Businesses in the region sustaining their legacy to be able to grow and transition across generations.

The Summit was hosted under the Patronage of the Minister of Industry and Commerce in Bahrain, Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro. During his discourse, the minis-



Participants at the summit

ter commented, "Family-owned businesses are indeed a strong pillar of our marketplace. They span across a variety of sectors - be it in retail, automotive, manufacturing, real estate, transportation & logistics, distribution, and services industry, to name a few. Throughout our history, such enterprises have demonstrated unwavering dedication to hard work, innovation, and stable growth, thus, reinforcing the economic fabric of the Kingdom



One of the sessions at the summit

while still contributing towards our development."

The 2024 Summit included an impressive lineup of speakers and a range of sessions and workshops from industry leaders and subject matter experts including -

- Abdulmohshin Alomran, CEO of The Family Office, sharing insights into Family Office perspectives.
- Panelists such as H.E. Dr. Ghassan Al-Sulaiman, Ms.

Hala Almoayyed, Ms. Ameena Mariam Ziauddin, and Dr. Basma Al Zamil, discussing various aspects of sustaining the legacy of family businesses, and moderated by Prof. Andrea Calabrò.

- Tom McGinness, Global Leader of ESG for KPMG Private Enterprise, leading a session on ESG for family businesses.
- A working session on Transgenerational Entrepreneurship facilitated by Prof. Andrea Calabrò, Robyn Langsford

and Tom McGinness, exploring the Transgenerational Entrepreneurship Index and actionable strategies for sustaining legacies.

- Insights into global, regional, and national economic trends by Omar Al-Ubaydali, Director of Research at Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies (DE-RASAT), highlighting key opportunities Family Business leaders could consider.

- Discussions on automation, digitization, and legal structures in family businesses led by industry experts like Nasser Sattar, Rui Goncalves, and Greg Limb.

"We're thrilled to host the 2024 MESAC Family Business Summit, bringing together thought leaders and practitioners to explore innovative strategies for sustaining family legacies in today's dynamic business landscape," said Harish Gopinath.





News in brief

◆ **China's foreign minister** has told his Ukrainian counterpart that Beijing does not sell lethal weapons to Russia for its war against Ukraine, a statement said yesterday. Wang Yi told Dmytro Kuleba during a meeting on the sidelines of a major security conference in Munich on Saturday that China “does not take any advantage of the situation, and does not sell lethal weapons to conflict areas or parties to the conflict”, according to a foreign ministry readout. China says it is a neutral party in the Ukraine conflict but has been criticised for refusing to condemn Moscow for its offensive. China and Russia have ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years, and their strategic partnership has only grown closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.



**China tells Ukraine it 'does not sell lethal weapons' to Russia**

◆ **Events on the battlefield** in Ukraine are a matter of “life and death” for Russia that could determine its fate, President Vladimir Putin said in remarks aired yesterday. “I think it is still important for us ourselves, and even more so for our listeners and viewers abroad, to understand our way of thinking,” Putin said in an interview with state TV. “Everything that is happening on the Ukraine front: For them it is an improvement of their tactical position, but for us it is our fate, it is a matter of life and death,” he said. Putin was responding to a question about a two-hour long interview he gave to US talk show host Tucker Carlson, which the Kremlin used to promote its narratives on the conflict.

**Putin says Ukraine matter of life and death for Russia**



◆ **A man killed 12** of his relatives in a rare mass shooting in southern Iran, state media reported Saturday. “A 30-year-old man, motivated by a family dispute, killed 12 members of his family including his father and brother with a Kalashnikov weapon near the town of Farayab,” in Kerman province, the provincial chief justice Ebrahim Hamidi was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency. The man was killed during a shootout with security forces trying to capture him, the agency added. Mass shootings are rare in Iran, where people are only allowed to possess hunting rifles.

**Man shoots dead 12 relatives in Iran: state media**

◆ **National and regional** special envoys to Afghanistan convened in Doha Sunday in the second UN meeting of its kind in less than a year, though it remained unclear whether Taliban authorities would join the closed-session event. The two-day meeting, hosted by the UN secretary-general, was due to discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the Central Asian nation.

**Afghanistan special envoys meet in Doha**

SPOTLIGHT

## Lions in the dock over religious names



Representative picture

AFP | Kolkata, India

An Indian Hindu nationalist organisation has launched a court petition to stop two lions named after the Hindu deity Sita and a 16th-century Muslim emperor from sharing a zoo enclosure. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a prominent right-wing Hindu organisation, went to court in West Bengal state after reports a lioness named Sita had been put together with a lion called Akbar. Akbar was a Mughal emperor who extended Muslim rule over much of the Indian subcontinent, a time Hindu nationalist groups say was a period of slavery. “Sita cannot stay with the Mughal emperor Akbar,” VHP official Anup Mondal said Sunday, saying it hurt religious sentiments in the Hindu-majority nation. The VHP lodged a plea on Friday calling for a name-change. “Such act amounts to blasphemy and is a direct assault on the religious belief of all Hindus,” the VHP said in its petition to the court. Mondal said the lion called Akbar had previously been named after the Hindu deity Ram when he was in the neighbouring state of Tripura, which is controlled by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But the lion's name was changed when he was brought to West Bengal, which is controlled by the opposition Trinamool Congress party. The VHP petition calls for a ban on using religious names for animals in zoos. West Bengal forest department official Dipak Kumar Mandal said “the lion and the lioness are now kept separately”. The case is scheduled for a hearing on February 20.

# Brazil's Lula accuses Israel of 'genocide'

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva likens Israeli acton in Gaza to Hitler's campaign to exterminate Jews

● **Israel's retaliatory assault on Gaza has killed at least 28,858 people**

● **Lula criticised Western countries' recent decisions to halt aid to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA**

AFP | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



and compared its actions to Adolf Hitler's campaign to exterminate Jews. “What's happening in the Gaza Strip isn't a war, it's a genocide,” Lula told reporters in Addis Ababa where he was attending an African Union summit.

“What's happening in the Gaza Strip isn't a war, it's a genocide. It's not a war of soldiers against soldiers. It's a war between a highly prepared army and women and children

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA

“It's not a war of soldiers against soldiers. It's a war between a highly prepared army and women and children,” added the

veteran leftist.

“What's happening in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian people hasn't happened at any other moment in history. Actually, it has happened: when Hitler decided to kill the Jews.”

They were among the strongest comments yet on the conflict from Lula, a prominent voice for the global south whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the G20.

Lula criticised Western countries' recent decisions to halt aid to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, after Israel accused some of its employees of involvement in the October 7 attack.

Lula, who met with Palestinian prime minister Moham-

mad Shtayyeh Saturday on the sidelines of the summit, has said Brazil will increase its own contribution to the agency, and urged other countries to do the same.

“When I see the rich world announce that it's halting its contributions to humanitarian aid for the Palestinians, I just imagine how big these people's political awareness is and how big the spirit of solidarity in their hearts is,” Lula said.

“We need to stop being small when we need to be big.”

He reiterated his call for a two-state solution to the conflict, with Palestine “definitively recognized as a full and sovereign state.”

“Shameful and grave”

In response, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the 78-year-old president's comments “shameful and grave” and said his government had called in Brazil's ambassador in protest. Netanyahu called Lula's remarks “Holocaust trivialisation and an attempt to harm the Jewish people and the right of Israel to defend itself”.

“The comparison between Israel to the Holocaust of the Nazis and Hitler is crossing a red line,” he said in a statement.

“Israel is fighting to defend itself and ensure its future until total victory and it is doing that while upholding international law.”

## Brazil court fines execs, firms \$50 mn for deadly metro cave-in



A General view showing the huge crater at the collapsed 'Pinheiros' subway station in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 15 January 2007

AFP | Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

A Brazilian court fined executives and companies including French transportation giant Alstom nearly \$50 million for a 2007 collapse at a subway construction site that killed seven people, in a ruling seen by AFP Saturday.

A judge for the Sao Paulo state court of justice ordered six then-directors of the municipal metro company and seven firms involved in the project to pay a collective fine of 240 million reais (\$48 million), finding their “administrative misconduct” led to the cave-in.

The ruling, which can be ap-

pealed, also barred the defendants from working in the public sector and banned the companies from government contracts in Brazil for five years.

Workers were excavating for the Pinheiros metro station on the west side of the Brazilian economic capital when a massive sinkhole ripped open on January 12, 2007, swallowing part of a nearby road.

The lip of the hole gave way to a landslide, taking pedestrians and vehicles with it and dumping tons of earth, asphalt and concrete on top.

More than 90 buildings in the area had to be demolished or condemned.

## Prospects dim for truce as Israel rejects calls to spare Rafah

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Prospects for an Israel-Hamas ceasefire dimmed Sunday after the United States signalled it would veto the latest push for a UN Security Council resolution and mediator Qatar acknowledged that separate truce talks have hit an impasse.

Efforts to pause the over four-month-old war languish as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to reject international appeals to spare Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where around 1.4 million people have sought refuge.

Even if a temporary truce deal is struck, Netanyahu said the ground invasion of Rafah will go ahead.

Countries urging Israel otherwise are effectively saying “lose the war”, argued the prime minister, whose coalition includes religious and ultra-nationalist parties.

Netanyahu spoke as thousands protested in Tel Aviv, the latest public call for an

immediate election. They also accused the government of abandoning the hostages.

His assessment came as Hamas threatened to suspend its involvement in the talks unless relief supplies reach Gaza's north, where aid agencies have warned of looming famine.

“Negotiations cannot be held while hunger is ravaging the Palestinian people,” a senior source in the Palestinian militant group told AFP, asking not to be identified because he is not authorised to speak on the issue.



A displaced Palestinian child carries a ration of red lentil soup, distributed by volunteers in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

## Japan's 'naked men' festival succumbs to population ageing

AFP | Oshu, Japan



Men carry lanterns as they walk to a river to cleanse their bodies during the Sominsai Festival at Kokuseki-ji Temple in Oshu, Iwate Prefecture, Japan

A steam of sweat rose as hundreds of naked men tussled over a bag of wooden talismans, performing a dramatic end to a thousand-year-old ritual in Japan that took place for the last time.

Their passionate chants of “jasso, joyasa” (meaning “evil, be gone”) echoed through a cedar forest of the northern Japan's Iwate region, where the secluded Kokuseki Temple has decided to end the popular annual rite.

Organising the event, which draws hundreds of participants and thousands of tourists every year, has become a heavy burden for the ageing local faithful, who find it hard to keep up with the rigours of the ritual.

The “Sominsai” festival, regarded as one of the strangest festivals in Japan, is the latest tradition

impacted by the country's ageing population crisis that has hit rural communities hard.

“It is very difficult to organise a festival of this scale,” said Daigo Fujinami, a resident monk of the temple that opened in 729.

“You can see what happened today -- so many people are here and it's all exciting. But behind

the scenes, there are many rituals and so much work that have to be done,” he said.

“I cannot be blind to the difficult reality.

**Ageing population**

Japan's society has aged more rapidly than most other countries'. The trend has forced count-

less schools, shops and services to close, particularly in small or rural communities.

Kokuseki Temple's Sominsai festival used to take place from the seventh day of Lunar New Year through to the following morning.

But during the Covid pandemic, it was scaled down to prayer ceremonies and smaller rituals.

The final festival was a shortened version, ending around 11:00 pm, but it drew the biggest crowd in recent memory, local residents said.

As the sun set, men in white loincloths came to the mountainous temple, bathed in a creek and marched around temple's ground.

They clenched their fists against the chill of a winter breeze, all the while chanting “jasso joyasa”.

Some held small cameras to record their experience, while doz-

ens of television crews followed the men through the temple's stone steps and dirt pathways.

As the festival reached its climax, hundreds of men packed inside the wooden temple shouting, chanting and aggressively jostling over a bag of talismans.



LEGAL VIEWPOINT

## Collective Investment Undertakings (CIU) in Bahrain

AWARSAMA@WARSAMALC.COM

DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA GHALIB



X  
TOP  
4  
TWEETS  
01



Two years in, the cost in human lives & suffering of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been appalling, and the impact on the global economy devastating. We desperately need a just & sustainable peace, in line with the UN Charter and international law – for Ukraine, for Russia & for the world.

@antonloguterres

02



Productive meeting with #Germany's State Secretary Susanne Baumann about the enormous health needs in #Gaza and @WHO's response. We also discussed the #PandemicAccord and sustainable financing for WHO. Thanked her for her strong support. #MSC2024

@DrTedros

03



Congratulations to the people of Indonesia on the successful Presidential elections and @prabowo on the lead. Look forward to working with the new Presidency to further strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia.

@narendramodi

04



The bipartisan national security bill sends a clear message to Ukrainians and to our partners and to our allies around the world: We never bow down to anyone, and certainly not to Vladimir Putin. Congress must act.

@POTUS

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

Bahrain is a host of many mutual funds & investment funds, which makes a good lucrative investment opportunity for you and all. The first overseas mutual funds started and marketed in Bahrain in the 80s and the first Bahrain domiciled scheme was launched in 84. The first Collective Investments Schemes rules were issued in 92 by CBB. The rules are for authorization, registration and supervision of mutual funds domiciled or offered for marketing in Bahrain.

This business is growing very fast and very encouraging. Since 2020, the number of mutual funds reach thousands of funds of which many funds are Bahrain domiciled and Sharia compliant funds. This shows, the net asset value (NAV) of the funds totaled worth more than billion dollars, invested in locally incorporated funds in Sharia compliant funds or non-sharia compliant entities.

Collective investment undertakings (CIU), are defined, as undertakings the sole object is collective investment of capital raised from the public or through private placement, including investments by the operator, in financial instruments and other assets and which operates on the basis of risk-spreading as appropriate and the holdings of which may be re-purchased or redeemed out of those undertakings assets as appropriate.

For the purposes of this, holdings mean the unit of measurement of the beneficial interest of participants in a CIU, by whatever name it is called including units and, in the case of investment trusts or companies, in the form of shares or units. Each holding represents a right to the assets of the CIU. The definition recognizes both open-ended funds and closed-ended funds, unit trusts, investment trusts, mutual funds, SICAV (French appreviation means Investment Company with variable capital) and collective investment schemes are all examples of CIUs. The CIUs may be constituted under contract as common funds managed by management companies, trust law as unit trusts, or under statute as investment companies. Closed-ended funds are CIUs with a limited number of holdings. Where the fund vehicle is a company, holdings can take the form of shares. New holdings are rarely issued after the fund is launched and are not normally redeemable until the fund is liquidated. Typically, an investor can acquire or dispose of holdings in a closed-ended fund by buying or selling them on a secondary market, from a market intermediary or another investor, rather than by dealing with the CIU itself.

Bahrain domiciled CIUs, are defined, as undertakings where the legal form of the CIU is established under the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and CIU documents and contracts are governed by the Laws of Bahrain, unless otherwise agreed with CBB. Bahrain domiciled CIUs may be constituted either as common CIUs, established by contracts, trusts established under the Financial Trusts Law, or a corporates established under the Company Law. The Bahrain domiciled CIUs are classified as retail CIUs, expert CIUs or exempt CIUs as defined by CBB and each Bahrain domiciled CIU must have its separate legal vehicle. In this context, Private Investment Units (PIU) will be discussed later in more details. However, we strongly believe, this gives a well-regulated investment opportunity for potential investors including yourself or your entity. However, this type of investment is classified as institutional investment (II), which requires accurate knowledge professional advice.

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



# campus

## Alia National School hosts Al Aatah third Annual Charity Tournament

TDT | Manama

Alia National School hosted Al Aatah 3rd Annual Charity Tournament in support of the micro schools project that is under the umbrella of Bahrain Trust Foundation.

The tournament was sponsored by a number of companies including Kia Bahrain, the National Hotels Company and Winners football academy. It was organized by Alia Na-



Shaikh Rashid Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa

tional School and its students that are part of the School's ca-

reer and entrepreneurship program (ANSCE program), which aims to give students essential life skills to high school students with an aim of greater self-independency.

Private schools and football academies participated in the tournament, which consisted of players aged 10 - 12 years old.

Shaikh Rashid Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Board member of Alia National School, stated that the challenge the community is

facing is that some educational curriculums fail to prepare students with the necessary skills for the job market, such as professional communication and essential legal skills.

Shaikh Rashid called on schools, government and private institutions based in the Kingdom of Bahrain to join this initiative to support the youth of Bahrain and prepare them for a better future.

Alia National School empha-

sized the importance of the collaboration between schools in Bahrain to protect the best interests of the youth in Bahrain, taking to account that high school students are young adults of Bahrain and not only are students at their schools.

Al Aatah Legacy annual charity tournaments was established in 2021 by Al Aatah Legacy for Public Relations, where Alia National School took its role in managing these tournaments in



support of charitable and humanitarian causes and parties in the non-profit sector.



## NMS celebrates 23rd anniversary of Bahrain's National Action Charter



The New Millennium School, Bahrain celebrated the National Action Charter Day with several activities centered around celebrating the democratic achievements and steady integrated development in the kingdom. The saga of The Charter was briefly highlighted in the form of speeches, Slogans writing, drawings, bulletin board decoration and poem writing. The entire day was dedicated to reiterating the glory of the Kingdom and expressing gratitude to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Ministry of Education for the continued support afforded in developing the standards and outcome of education in Bahrain. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai, Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma, staff and students extended their warmest greetings and best wishes to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of 23rd National Action Charter Day



## NMS-Bahrain crowned champions in World Scholar's Cup Bahrain round



The Junior and the Senior Division Scholars (total of 72 teams) from New Millennium School Bahrain, brought laurels to the school by winning the Champion's title in the regional round of the World Scholar's Cup, held on 9th and 10th February. Around 850 students from 24 different British, American and CBSE schools in Bahrain had participated in a series of contests. The NMS team was crowned with the glory of being the Champion team (First Position) in the senior division. The students displayed an astounding performance, clinching the winner's title in Team Writing, Debate and Scholar's bowl. NMS became victorious, winning more than 600 gold medals, 500 silver medals and 20 trophies in different categories. Lianne John made the alma mater proud by receiving the "Jac Khor Award", for achieving the highest score in the 'Scholars' Challenge, in the Senior Category. All the participating teams qualified for participation in the Global Round to be held at Baku/Kuala Lumpur/Stockholm/Seoul/Bangkok/Auckland. Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director Geetha Pillai and Principal Arun Kumar Sharma, expressed their heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation for the mentors, students and the parents for this laudable achievement

## Al Noor commemorates National Action Charter Day

Al Noor International School celebrated the National Action Charter Day on 14th February, marking the students' love, and loyalty towards their country. The students, dressed in a variety of traditional costumes, expressed their joy and pride at being citizens of Bahrain. Present on this occasion were the School Director Dr. Muhammad Mashood, Principal AbdulHakeem Al Shaer as well as the Head Teachers, coordinators and teachers from the different sections of the school. The event ended with good wishes for all the citizens of the Kingdom of Bahrain



## Bhavans – Bahrain Indian School (BIS) shines at World Scholar's Cup regional round

Bhavans – Bahrain Indian School (BIS) teams qualified for the global level competition of World Scholar's Cup (WSC), scheduled to be held in Baku in June 2024 after an impressive performance at the Bahrain Round of the event. The school received 261 gold medals, 250 silver medals, and 13 trophies at the Bahrain Round where 39 teams from BIS competed in a variety of activities. The event which kicked off at the American School of Bahrain on February 10th and continued at the Shaikh Abdul Aziz Hall at the University of Bahrain on the second day. Directors Himanshu Verma Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob extended their congratulations to the young delegates for their exceptional achievement





# Classifieds



**Call us on +973 36458394**  
**email : advt@newsofbahrain.com**

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

**ALHUR AUTO ELECTRICAL SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39727775 or AQEL\_F@ICLOUD.COM

**ALSAATI CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256580 or KHULOOD.ALSAATI@HOTMAIL.COM

**CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

**RICH INTERIOR WORKS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33617547 or RICHINTERIOR.BAH@GMAIL.COM

**MODERN CITY FOR FABRICATED METAL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35467837 or ehishammuhammadriz@gmail.com

**AL SEBEA ABAYAT** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33989850 or MOHAMMEDFAISALISA@GMAIL.COM

**SALMAN INTERNATIONAL GATE MARKET CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39664299 or ALI39664299@GMAIL.COM

**TREND BENDERS TRADING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33907097 or SAAMIIR@LIVE.COM

**BEAUTIFUL LADY BOUTIQUE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33997704 or MARISAJO@GMAIL.COM

**KHALID BUTT ADVERTISEMENT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38027554 or KHALIDBUTT7200@GMAIL.COM

**KAILASH GOLD W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32091354 or JEWELKAILASH@GMAIL.COM

**KHANDAKER GENERAL TRADING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35434910 or ALI.BH8712@GMAIL.COM

**BANAH VALLEY CONSULTANCY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37394429 or HAMZACHAUDARY575@GMAIL.COM

**SOFRT BAIT AL EZZ** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33255580 or HANAN2555@GMAIL.COM

**SYNERGIC MAN POWER CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(MOTOR-CYCLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39100088 or HESSAHESSAHESSA@YAHOO.COM

**ALHIKMA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39403830 or ALHIKMACARPENTRY75@YAHOO.COM

**TRAVEL POINT TOURS AND TRAVELS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300340 or MRAIES313@GMAIL.COM

**STAR GROUP COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300013 or ahmed@stargroupbh.com

**ASFAHANI ICE CREAM** has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742428 or admin@isfahaniigroup.com

**SITRA MEAT FACTORY. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732252 or gm@sitractory.com

**PRO COAT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR OF MAINTENANCE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811757 or info@procoat.co

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

**BOMBO SHAWARMA W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16161122 or INFO@SOLE-CORP.COM

**SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33637004 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

**HOMETOWN GENTS SALON W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34186411 or

ALISARFRAZNASIR@GMAIL.COM

**MR. CUT W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661894 or ABDUL33883621@GMAIL.COM

**AULFIAN COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or RUBELBH0808@GMAIL.COM

**AL ZAEEM STAR CAR SERVICE & MAINTENANCE** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34306903 or ALABER1@HOTMAIL.COM

**TECHNO PARK CAPITAL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36081910 or TOPSECUF@GMAIL.COM

**SUNSHINE CAR SPA AND POLISHING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923307 or MAHMOOD.ALSAMMAK0@GMAIL.COM

**DOMUS PROPERTIES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR SECRETARYA, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34528275 or GETRAZVI@GMAIL.COM

**THE TIKKAWALA W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297754 or URAFTAB@HOTMAIL.COM

**YAMIN INSTALLATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35191689 or WILSON.SIVA4@GMAIL.COM

**AL MANZOOL TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34612185 or INFO@ALMANZOOOL.AE

**YABALASH MUHARRAQ W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33121878 or HABIB6280@YAHOO.COM

**ICE ENERGY COOLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34380841 or OMZAHRAA890@GMAIL.COM

**AINO CARGO HANDLING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33153139 or SAMIULLAH5896@GMAIL.COM

**ALIF RESTAURANT W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37270239 or ZALLAQ213@GMAIL.COM

**ALHASHIM ADVERTISING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34472800 or BAHRAINHOPE22@GMAIL.COM

**AL SAIF AL MALAKEA TAILORING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000686 or INFO@ALSAIFALMALAKEA.COM

**GILLANI INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330326 or AWAISCH3333@HOTMAIL.COM

**HERPO DECOR W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33523471 or CH.NASIR5643@GMAIL.COM

**PATONAM CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33359333 or BU.CASH.CASH@GMAIL.COM

**HOORAIN CONSULTANCY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34620818 or ALI660046@GMAIL.COM

**YUSUF MAMDOOH BUILDING COMPLETION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37565454 or DARWISHBH4@GMAIL.COM

**SALAH HAMAD AHMED CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or BHHAMD190@GMAIL.COM

**BAHRAIN SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN WITH BEH. & COMM. DIFFICULTIES** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730960 or AUTISM@BATELCO.COM.BH

**HASAN ABDULNABI ALI ABDULNABI(BLHSH/9019)** has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736676 or H7ASSAN86@HOTMAIL.COM

**ABDULHAMEED MOHAMED SALEH HUSAIN ALAAMER** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292284 or JANAHA\_ALAMER@HOTMAIL.COM

**AMINA MOHD ABDULRAHMAN ALRAYES** has a vacancy for the occupation of CONCIERGE IN

APPARTMENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291770 or hamza.abdulla@gmail.com

**GULF AIR B.S.C. (C)** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

**BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

**DEVES GATE CAR WASH MANUAL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464585 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

**Manhaten Wire contracts** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33337394 or manhaten.bh@gmail.com

**EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

**ALYAMAMA HOUSE FOR CLEANING CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345569 or YAMAMAHOUSE1@GMAIL.COM

**The K - Hotel** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17360000 or abbas.fardan@thekhotel.com

**MANHATEN CITY CONTRACTING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33337394 or manhaten.bh@gmail.com

**ARAB Union Contracting Co WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUPBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**S N COATING WORKSHOP W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33074488 or SNCOATING@GMAIL.COM

**AIJAN BUILDING CONTRACTING CO WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66665626 or SHAHAQUE33@GMAIL.COM

**GLOBAL STEEL GENERAL TRADING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36646766 or GLOBALSTEELBH@GMAIL.COM

**G G MIR SERVICES CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747288 or NOORAMINBH@GMAIL.COM

**GENERAL MEDICAL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(CUSTOMER SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725990 or personnel@intercool.com

**BAHRAIN WORKSHOP COMPANY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700798 or BWCENG@BATELCO.COM.BH

**AL JAZIRA SUPERMARKET B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741916 or NAJATALGHAZAL55@GMAIL.COM

**Almoayyed Solar Co. B.S.C. Closed** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888838 or MA123@ALMOAYYEDINTL.COM.BH

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

**UNIVERSAL ELECTRO - ENGINEERING B.S.C.C** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826644 or ARJUMA@UNEECO.COM

**UNITED GENTS TAILORING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34446626 or M.BINHUIJI@GMAIL.COM

**Regency hotel** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227777 or MOHAMMED.SANAD@IHG.COM

**DOHAT ARAD MARKET** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39111798 or KHALIFAYASEEN2016@GMAIL.COM

**BAHRAIN AIRPORT SERVICES COMPANY (BAS) B.S.C Closed** has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDING FOREMAN(MANUF.&REP.WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17321777 or BASLMRA@bas.com.bh

**JASHANMAL & SONS B.S.C (CLOSED)** has a vacancy for the occupation of SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39469659 or ARN@JASHANMALS.COM

**ABDULWAHAB ALBASRI CONTRACTING EST.** has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37774803 or AMIN-1989@LIVE.COM

**FUTURE AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17879733 or futureac@gmail.com

**VARY BUILDING MATERIAL TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17162540 or info@varybuildingmaterial.com

**ALSAQER ALUMINUM** has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39777003 or ahm153@live.com

**MATAI METWALLY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39652696 or metwally.2.1970@gmail.com

**ALDOY CONTRACTING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33343374 or Aldoy.contracting53@GMAIL.COM

**Garage 2020** has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675966 or IMB.BHCONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM

**SAMERAMIS HOTEL** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291444 or EIFFELTOWERMGMT@GMAIL.COM

**THE RITZ - CARLTON BAHRAIN HOTEL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LIFE GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580000 or rc.bahrz.hr@ritzcarlton.com

**ALAJWAA ALNADEEFA RECRUITING SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39860028 or BONATHER@HOTMAIL.COM

**Bahrain mechanical construction co. w.l.l** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725027 or BAMCO@BAMCOGROUP.NET

**BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

**MOHAMMED HASAN ALMAHROOS CO (B.S.C)** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17408090 or hr@almahroos.com

**ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/ OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or HR.ADMIN@HAJIHASSAN.COM

**ALKOOHEJI TECHNICAL SERVICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66332100 or ABDULLA@KOOHEJITECHNICAL.COM

**Strong Force-MGC W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36065102 or jessica@alghanah.com

**ALSALWA MEAT FACTORY** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17596656 or hr@alzaeembh.com

**ITHIBAT CONTRACTING EST.** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444923 or bigbossvip911@gmail.com

**ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

**WESTPOINT HOME BAHRAIN W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17838129 or ADEL.JABBER@WPHOME.COM

**UNISKILLS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

**NESTO EXPRESS COLD STORE W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or GEEPASBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

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

**BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66741383 or info@BAHSTS.COM

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

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

**668 cafe** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33113352 or 668.BHR@GMAIL.COM

**NEJOUD RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT COMPANY-FOREIGN BRANCH** has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66366711

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**HAMAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35948612 or ALGORIANWALA@GMAIL.COM

**NEW WANA SERVICES CO W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35097047 or SHERPA0723@GMAIL.COM

**CARGO MIAN MIAN W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38137429 or FAHAD.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

**PROTECTION INSURANCE SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of RE-INSURANCE OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211700 or hr@pis.bh

**PLANNERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or m.vishal@exibah.com

**ICE TOWN JUICES** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39418444 or UMNAYAF.MOHAMED@GMAIL.COM

**MUHIYAN BAKERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39733902 or MUHEBIYANGROCERY@GMAIL.COM

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

**AHLI UNITED BANK B.S.C.(C)** has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD OF DIVISION, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17585778 or girish.menon@ahliunited.com

**ALJEEL AL AWAAL FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39331437 or UM.AHMED69@HOTMAIL.COM

**ALADLE CONSTRUCTIONS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669117 or edrisisgroup@hotmail.com

**SHOWTECH PRODUCTIONS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666284 or SHOWTECH@BATELCO.COM.BH

**SEVEN ELEVIN BARBER** has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36787812 or J\_98891@HOTMAIL.COM

**ZAEDON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, FOREMAN (CONSTRUCTION WORK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877184 or ZBCSUNIL@BATELCO.COM.BH

**TRUST ELECTROMECHANICAL SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L. (TEMCO)** has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735142 or HAIDER@TEMCO-BH.COM

**CARTOONI PACKAGING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33660553 or JAFFER.ALSARI@GMAIL.COM

**EMPRESS SWEETS** has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17662345 or JANAHI.KHALID@GMAIL.COM

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

**PROCCO FINANCIAL SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17567000 or NATASHA.KAMBOJ@PROCCO.COM

**Amina aljassim design** has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 36937545 or Jason.khobar@gmail.com

**BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

**ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

**ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or HR.ADMIN@HAJIHASSAN.COM

**ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L.** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedog.com

**AHMED MANSOOR ALAALI** has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36881555 or adeel.hameed@al-aali.com

**KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

**ITHIBAT CONTRACTING EST.** has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444923 or bigbossvip911@gmail.com

**PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39252020 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

**ALAWAN WORKSHOP MACHINERY REPAIRING** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773759 or MALIKAWANGROUP@GMAIL.COM

**AL NOOH MARBLE. CERAMIC & ALUMINIUM CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of TILES FIXER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17230429 or MUSTAFACHALIL@GMAIL.COM

**ASHTAR BUILDING MAINTENANCE WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of MAINTENANCE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722333 or BADER\_ALGHANAH@HOTMAIL.COM

**Commissioning specialist services co s.p.c Owned by RUAIRI THO** has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663995 or OFFICE@CSSMIDDELEAST.COM

**CORTADO SPECIALTY COFFEE ROASTERY** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301918 or MOHDALKOOHEJI86@GMAIL.COM

**AL GANNAS CONTRACTING & TRADING W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39988578 or AL.GANAS2003@HOTMAIL.COM

**AMTAR DECORATION CO. W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37762300 or AMTARCONT.BH@GMAIL.COM

**RESHA SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33371333 or RESHNASERVICES@GMAIL.COM

**KARTEC SERVICES W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17823236 or KHALIDAR@KAR-GROUP.COM

**Hyundai heavy industries co. ltd - foreign branch** has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36023039 or HYSHYN20@HIL.CO.KR

**SUMMER COOL AUTO COSMETICS** has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667951 or KHALID\_F@LIVE.COM

**MC 6 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402050 or operation@mcsix.me

**ALDEEBLE WELDING BLACKSMITH AND FABRICATION WORKSHOP** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36611939 or BUSLoo7@HOTMAIL.COM

**GRAND SAFIR HOTEL W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119110 or hr@grandsafirhotel.com

**Bukamal Properties Co WLL** has a vacancy for the occupation of WATCHMAN / GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32000128 or HRD@BUKAMAL.COM

**BLUE SKY TOWER CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39091518 or saq323@hotmail.com



# Classifieds



Call us on **+973 36458394**  
email : **advt@newsofbahrain.com**

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

**ALJOOD GATE RESTAURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34087129 or husain.ali.naser.ali@gmail.com

**DUA BEAUTY SALON SPA AND FITNESS** has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33247241 or FATEMA.NOOR1437@GMAIL.COM

**New golden tailoring** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39290005 or AMBERJEEE@GMAIL.COM

**A GOOD TREE TRADING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33988005 or alsayed\_cargo@hotmail.com

**ABU SAAD AUTO CARE W.L.L** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33781964 or ZULFIQARSAAD3@YAHOO.COM

**ALMUBARIKIYA PALACE CLOTHES** has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440109 or RAFFAABDULLA@GMAIL.COM

**KANZA RESTURANT** has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33159071 or SAKEENAM\_5@HOTMAIL.COM

**Vega International Service Wll** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36666996 or M.K.ALMUSALAM@GMAIL.COM

**GOLDEN GROUP CONTRACTORS** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533125 or GOLDENGROUDBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

**UNITED SHARP TOWER CONTRACTING** has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39553866 or BOLANBH@GMAIL.COM

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## All-Stars say NBA future in good hands once LeBron is gone



LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers drives to the basket (file photo)

AFP | Los Angeles

NBA All-Stars aren't sure who will be the new face of the league once LeBron James is gone, but they are confident the NBA's future is in good hands.

Several top stars spoke Saturday on the eve of the 73rd NBA All-Star Game at Indianapolis, where 20-time All-Star selection James, the NBA all-time scoring leader, represents the Los Angeles Lakers at age 39.

James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player and four-time NBA champion, has been the top star in an older generation of talent that includes Golden State's Stephen Curry and Phoenix's Kevin Durant.

"It will be an amazing league regardless," said Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. "He has done amazing things for this league and for the game of basketball. You don't want to take him for granted, obviously. But when he's gone, it will still be great."

Younger stars are already having an impact on the league with two-time NBA Most Valuable Players Nikola Jokic of Denver and Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee winning titles and a host of others chasing crowns, including Dallas guard Luka Doncic, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Phoenix's Devin Booker, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and Gilgeous-Alexander among them.

## India crush England with record win to lead Test series 2-1

AFP | Rajkot

Yashasvi Jaiswal hit an unbeaten double century to help India to its biggest-ever win yesterday, crushing England by 434 runs in the third Test to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Chasing 557 for victory, England's batting fell like a pack of cards with the loss of eight wickets in the final session to be dismissed for 122 on day four in Rajkot.

"In Test cricket... when you're playing well you have to make it big," Jaiswal told broadcasters after the stunning win.

"Test cricket is hard, but I thought that when I'm in there, I need to give my 100 percent," he said.

Ravindra Jadeja got Mark Wood out for 33 as the final wicket -- and his fifth -- and he kissed the pitch as India registered their greatest win in terms of runs.

It was England's second-biggest Test loss since their 562-run defeat to Australia in 1934.

England lost their openers, including first-innings centurion Ben Duckett run out on four, before tea and Jadeja then rattled the middle-order with his left-arm spin.

Jadeja was named player of the match for his seven wickets



z Sarfaraz Khan and Yashasvi Jaiswal run between the wickets

### Scorecard

**India 445 (Rohit 131, Jadeja 112, Sarfaraz 62, Wood 4-114) and 430 for 4 dec (Jaiswal 214\*, Gill 91, Sarfaraz 68\*) beat England 319 (Duckett 153, Siraj 4-84) and 122 (Wood 33, Jadeja 5-41) by 434 runs**

in the Test and 112 with the bat in the first innings.

Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root extended their poor run in the five-match series, out for four and seven respectively.

Skipper Ben Stokes attempted to resist the Indian bowling but fell lbw to left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav for 15 in his 100th Test.

"We're 2-1 down in the series but still have two games left," Stokes said.

"We leave this game behind -- know we've got to win the next two to win the series."

### 'Bat till the end'

The left-handed Jaiswal stood out with his 214 off 236 balls to flay the opposition attack before India declared their second innings on 430-4.

The opener returned to bat in the morning session after he retired hurt on 104 late on day three due to back pain.

"Today when I came, I wanted to make sure that I take the game forward and bat till the



**In Test cricket... when you're playing well you have to make it big. Test cricket is hard, but I thought that when I'm in there, I need to give my 100 percent**

YASHASVI JAISWAL

end," Jaiswal said.

He raised his second double ton in consecutive matches with a single off Root and jumped for joy.

Jaiswal hit a record-equaling 12 sixes in his knock, which included three straight hits over the fence off James Anderson -- a first for the veteran quick who has 696 wickets in 185 Tests.

Jaiswal now stands level with former Pakistan great Wasim Akram, who also hit 12 sixes in an innings against Zimbabwe in 1996.

He put on marathon stands that included an unbeaten 172-run partnership with debutant Sarfaraz Khan, who made 68 for his second half-century of the match.

The 22-year-old Jaiswal, who hit a match-winning 209 in the second Test, remains the leading batsman in the series with 545 runs.

## Fritz to face Paul in bid for back-to-back ATP Delray Beach titles

AFP | Delray Beach

Top-seeded defending champion Taylor Fritz ousted fellow American Marcos Giron 7-6 (10/8), 6-2 on Saturday to reach the ATP Delray Beach Open final, where he will face compatriot Tommy Paul.

Tennis world number nine Fritz needed one hour and 48 minutes to book his spot in yesterday's championship match against Paul, who ousted American Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

Paul, ranked 14th, won his second career ATP title last week at Dallas and has matched



Taylor Fritz

his best ATP career win streak at seven. His other crown came in 2021 at Stockholm.

Fritz seeks his seventh career

ATP title and will try to extend his win streak in ATP finals to six in a row.

After taking his first title at Eastbourne in 2019, Fritz lost his next four finals but since St. Petersburg in 2021 has won titles at Indian Wells, Eastbourne and Tokyo in 2022 and Delray Beach and Atlanta last year.

Paul pulled level at 2-2 in his ATP career rivalry with Fritz with a victory in their most recent meeting at last year's Acapulco semi-finals.

Fritz blasted 10 aces past Giron in improving to 4-1 against the world number 52.



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# Dar Kulaib, Najma spikers set for title bid

Bahrain powerhouses to compete in 42nd Arab Clubs Volleyball Championship in Amman

● Regional competition scheduled to get underway tomorrow with the participation of 12 teams

● Dar Kulaib in Group B with Qatar's Police, Libya's Asswehly, Iraq's North Refineries, Kuwait's Burgan, Jordan's Eira

● Najma in Group A with Oman's Seeb, Libya's Al Ahly Benghazi, Kuwait's Kazma, Qatar's Qatar, Jordan's Shabab Al Hussein

TDT | Manama

Bahrain clubs Dar Kulaib and Al Najma will be flying the Kingdom's flag in the upcoming 42nd Arab Clubs Volleyball Championship, which is scheduled to get underway tomorrow in Amman.

Dar Kulaib and Najma are part of a 12-team field that will be vying for medals in the tournament.

Bahrain league champions



Dar Kulaib's Ali Habib and Caio Oliveira celebrate during a training match in Bahrain prior to their departure

Dar Kulaib have been drawn in Group B for the preliminary round, along with Qatar's Police SC, Libya's Asswehly SC, Iraq's North Refineries SC, Kuwait's Burgan SC and Jordan's Eira Club.

Najma are in Group A along

with Oman's Seeb, Libya's Al Ahly Benghazi, Kuwait's Kazma, Qatar's Qatar SC and Shabab Al Hussein of Jordan.

Baniyas Club from the UAE and South Gas SC of Iraq were also set to join, but had withdrawn their participation at the

last minute.

All teams will be in action every day from tomorrow.

Dar Kulaib are set to begin their tournament campaign tomorrow against Eira at 4pm, while Najma take on Seeb at 1pm. On Wednesday, Dar Kulaib

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Both Dar Kulaib and Al Najma have reinforced their rosters for the regional tournament. Dar Kulaib have signed Russian import Aleksey Karpenko to bolster their squad, while Najma have picked up young Bahrain national team star Sayed Hashem Issa

face Burgan at 1pm, and Najma take on Shabab Al Hussein at 7pm.

On Thursday, Dar Kulaib play North Refineries at 1pm, while Najma take on Kazma at 7pm. On Friday, Dar Kulaib and Asswehly clash at 1pm and Najma play Al Ahly Benghazi at 4pm.

Both Bahraini sides complete their preliminary round campaigns on Saturday, with Dar Kulaib facing Police SC at 1pm and Najma taking on Najma playing Qatar SC at 4pm.

The top four teams advance to

the quarter-finals, which will be held on February 26, to be followed by the semi-finals the following day. The final and game for third place will be held on the tournament's final day on February 28.

Both Dar Kulaib and Najma have already arrived at the Jordanian capital for the championship.

Dar Kulaib will be relying on their top players Mohammed Yaqoob, Ali Mohammed, Hassan Alaiwi, Ali Habib, Hassan Al Warqa, Abdulla Mohammed, Mahmoud Abdulwahed and Brazilian professional Caio Oliveira. They have bolstered their side for the tournament with the signing of Russian import Aleksey Karpenko.

Najma, meanwhile, will be spearheaded by Fadhel Abbas, Hassan Dhahi, Hussain Mahdi, Mahmood Hassan and Swedish import Jacob Link, among other players. They too have reinforced their side for the tournament with the signing of young Bahrain national team star Sayed Hashem Issa.

Bahrain were represented in last year's tournament held in Cairo by Al Nasser, who came away with the silver medals after losing to home side Al Ahly 0-3 (12-25, 10-25, 19-25). They were the only team from the Kingdom to take part in the competition.

## India's Aravind leads boys' singles qualifiers

● Petter Christopher Berg Hagen of Norway, Jorge Batarse of Mexico, Klas Gorensek of Slovenia also qualify

● Main draw action for both boys and girls gets underway today in Bahrain ITF Juniors Championship 2024

TDT | Manama



Action from yesterday's play

Aravind Binoj Kizhuppillil of India led four qualifiers into the main draw of the Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Juniors Championship 2024, currently being held at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) courts in Isa Town.

Aravind lived up to his tag as the top seed in the qualification draw and was joined in booking their places in the tournament proper by second seed Petter Christopher Berg Hagen of Norway, fifth seed Jorge Bat-

arse of Mexico and eight seed Klas Gorensek of Slovenia.

Action in the singles main draws for both boys and girls begins today at the BTF. Matches are scheduled to be played from 9am. All are welcome to attend.

Aravind secured his place after defeating Kuwait's Mohammad Alawadhi 7-5, 6-2. Petter also beat a Kuwaiti opponent in seventh seed Adulrahman Al Abdullah 6-4, 6-2; while Jorge was a 7-6 (4), 6-2 winner against Noe Boulnoix of Switzerland.

Klas completed the list of boys' qualifiers after defeating Filip Malis of Canada 6-0, 6-4.

This competition is a J30 event, which is part of this year's ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors Calendar. It continues until Saturday later this weekend, and it also features doubles play for both boys and girls.

The J30 event will be followed by another of its kind between February 26 and March 2, forming an impressive back-to-back of ITF juniors events in the Kingdom.

## Alcaraz slumps to shock Buenos Aires semi-final loss

AFP | Buenos Aires

World number two Carlos Alcaraz slumped to a shock straight sets loss to Chile's Nicolas Jarry in the semi-finals of the ATP Buenos Aires tournament.

Defending champion Alcaraz, playing in his first tournament since losing in the Australian Open quarter-finals, was beaten 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 by his 28-year-old opponent.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to Chile's Nicolas Jarry

Two-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz had been hoping to reach his first final since losing to Novak Djokovic in the Cincinnati Masters in August and clinch a first title since Wimbledon in July.

Jarry, ranked 21 in the world, claimed his first win over Alcaraz in three meetings, wrapping up victory on a second match point after almost two hours on court.

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# Expanded capacity for F1 weekend

Bahrain International Circuit adds 500 extra Victory Grandstand seats for Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024

● **Main, Beyon, Turn 1 and University grandstands totally sold out**

● **Only 10 days to go until F1 weekend this February 29 to March 2**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), “The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East”, announced yesterday the expansion of its grandstand capacity to meet the massive demand for tickets to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024.

The racing and entertainment spectacle is just around the corner, taking place 29 February to 2 March in Sakhir. It will be celebrating “20 Years of a Modern Classic”, showcasing the Kingdom of Bahrain’s landmark 20th anniversary in Formula 1 as the opening round of the 2024 FIA F1 World Championship.



Max Verstappen in action for Red Bull during last year's grand prix weekend at BIC

Grandstand tickets have already completely sold out for BIC’s Main, Beyon, Turn 1, and University stands.

Through a reconfiguration of seating, BIC is now able to offer an additional 500 seats in the Victory Grandstand to be able to meet the demand and accommodate more race-goers.

The response from fans to the Kingdom’s race weekend has been tremendous, and the

popularity of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix around the world is at an all-time high.

Those who are eager to pick up one of the now-available 500 grandstand seats can purchase their tickets online at bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the BIC stands in City Centre Bahrain and at the Beyon Money BIC Fan Village.

## Hospitality

There is also some availability with BIC’s two remaining hospitality options, The Dome by F1 Experiences and The Champions Club. These are specially curated packages created in co-operation with F1 Experiences for the most passionate of F1 enthusiasts, offering exclusive experiences in an unmatched setting.



**Through a reconfiguration of seating, Bahrain International Circuit is now able to offer an additional 500 seats in the Victory Grandstand to be able to meet the demand and accommodate more race-goers**

This year’s F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be the Kingdom’s first-ever Saturday night race.

Set to support F1 throughout the weekend will be the first rounds of 2024 in the FIA Formula 2 Championship and the FIA Formula 3 Championship, as well as the fifth and penultimate round of the 2023/2024 Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East.

Off the track, BIC has put to-

gether its biggest-ever entertainment programme for the whole family to enjoy. This will be headlined by live performances by world-renowned music icons, including a Friday night concert by multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning artist Zedd, and a post-race, Saturday night concert by superstar DJ and producer Diplo.

The attractions also include roaming performers; carnival rides; kids’ shows featuring some of their favourite Nickelodeon characters such as SpongeBob SquarePants, Dora the Explorer, Paw Patrol and Shimmer and Shine; an extreme circus; an F1 Fanzone with many activities offering a genuine F1 experience; and so much more.

Prior to race week, BIC will also be hosting three days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2024 from this Wednesday to Friday, with public access available on Thursday and Friday.

Access to the tests is free for all those who had purchased their F1 tickets prior to February 1, whilst tickets are also available at just BD5 per day on BIC’s website.

## Bahrainis bow to Saudi in Doha basketball event

● **Kingdom’s senior men’s national team wrap up tournament campaign, eye start of 2025 FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers against UAE on Friday**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain bowed to Saudi Arabia 58-68 last night in their concluding game of the Qatar International Basketball Championship in Doha.

The Bahrainis were one of six national teams that took part in the event, which they played as part of their final preparations for the start of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers.

The nationals were behind 14-16 at the end of the first quarter but battled back in the second to take a slim 30-29 lead into the break. The Saudis then took control in the second half, and led by as many as their 10-point final winning margin.

Wayne Chism was their only



Wayne Chism goes for a lay-up in the paint during their game against Saudi Arabia

player in double figures in the contest, scoring 17 points. Prolific scoring guard Mustafa Hussain was held to just nine with an off-night from the field, where he went three-of-17.

Marzouq Almuwallad paced the Saudis with 19 while Mathina Almarwani chipped in with 15 in the win.

Last night’s loss wrapped up Bahrain’s campaign in Doha. Head coach Ricard Casas had a 12-player squad in the event, including Chism, Hussain, Mohammed Buallay, Ali Jaber, Mohammed Ameer, Maitham Jameel, Ali Aqeel, Ali Shukralah, Alwatheq Ali, Abdulqader Saleh Thani, Basel Adel, and Murtadha Salman.

The Bahrainis are set to play their first two games in the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers this coming week. Competing in Group F, the nationals will first host the UAE at home on Friday, before taking on Lebanon on Monday in Beirut.

Bahrain’s qualifying pool also includes Syria, whom they only play for the first time in November later this year.

## Rayo hold subdued Liga leaders Madrid



Rayo Vallecano's Spanish forward Raul de Tomas celebrates scoring his team's equaliser

AFP | Madrid

La Liga leaders Real Madrid stumbled to a frustrating 1-1 draw at neighbours Rayo Vallecano yesterday but stretched their lead at the top to six points.

Joselu fired the visitors in front early on but former Madrid youth player Raul de Tomas levelled for Rayo from the penalty spot in coach Inigo Perez’s first match at the helm.

Carlo Ancelotti’s side extended their lead over surprise challengers Girona before the Catalan minnows face Athletic Bilbao on Monday.

After Los Blancos thrashed Girona last weekend to take a five-point lead in the title race, the draw allows their closest pursuers a chance to cut the gap.

Dani Carvajal was sent off at the death for Madrid after appearing to elbow Kike Perez.

“We have to win all our games, but to win a league, the



**Real Madrid have suffered just one defeat in the top flight and are unbeaten in 19 league matches**

games you can’t win, you can’t lose them (either),” Madrid coach Ancelotti told reporters.

“Sometimes draws can hurt a bit but it could be a positive step to take us closer to winning the league.”

Real Madrid have suffered just one defeat in the top flight and are unbeaten in 19 league matches.

Rayo, 14th, sacked Francisco Rodriguez earlier this week and appointed Perez, with Madrid’s visit a baptism of fire.

## Sabalenka has appetite for more success in Dubai

AFP | Dubai

World number two Aryna Sabalenka said yesterday she was “addicted to winning” and hungry for more major glory following her successful title defence at the Australian Open last month.

The Belarusian returns to action this week at the WTA 1000 in Dubai to contest her first tournament since her second Grand Slam triumph at Mel-

bourne Park.

Sabalenka, who opens her Dubai campaign against Donna Vekic in round two, admits she is still “shocked” she was able to retain her title in Melbourne, describing it as a “dream”, but is already looking ahead in search of more silverware.

“My mindset is to keep doing what I’m doing, keep fighting, keep working. After my career, to look back and think, ‘Whoa, I was able to achieve that. That’s



Aryna Sabalenka poses with the Australian Open trophy in Melbourne

crazy,” Sabalenka told reporters in Dubai.

“I’m not the type of person

that is going to win something and stop. Like I said, I’m addicted to wins. I felt like it’s just something in my blood and I keep doing, keep working, and hopefully keep winning.”

After struggling to make it past the fourth round in her first 14 Grand Slam appearances, Sabalenka has now reached at least the semi-finals in her last six consecutive majors, exhibiting incredible consistency at the highest level.