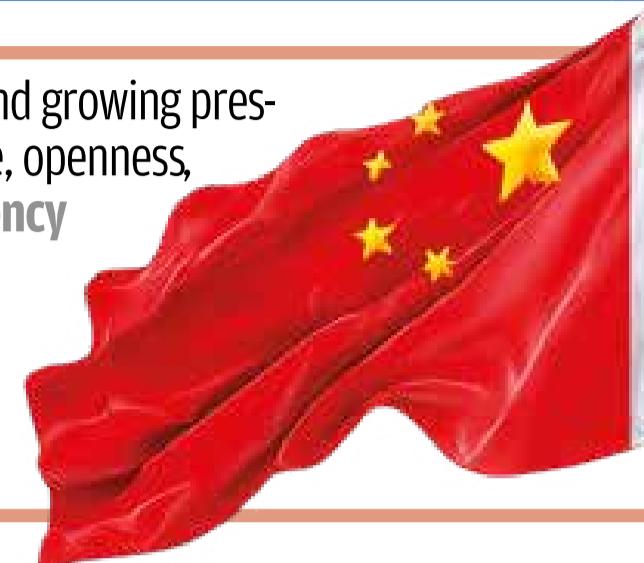


His Excellency Mr. Ni Ruchi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Bahrain

As 2026 sharpens the realities of a multipolar world amid conflict, protectionism, and growing pressure on global rules, China positions itself as an anchor for stability through dialogue, openness, and reform of global governance. In conversation with **Mahir Haneef, His Excellency Mr. Ni Ruchi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Bahrain**, outlines China's priorities for the year ahead - from strengthening major-country relations and supporting the Global South to advancing China-Arab cooperation and pursuing deeper engagement with GCC partners.



Opening up New Horizons for Major-Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics at a Crucial Historical Juncture

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. In 2025, China acted as an anchor for stability, taking concrete steps to foster a new type of major-country relations, promoting dialogue and peace for the de-escalation of hotspot issues, fulfilling its responsibility as a major country for world peace.

China acted as a defining force.

President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), advocating five major propositions, i.e., sovereign equality, international rule of law, multilateralism, a people-centered approach, and real actions. The GGI gained immediate endorsement and support from over 150 countries and international organizations. The fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee adopted the recommendations for China's 15th five-year plan for economic and social development, laying out the plan along the central theme of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

China acted as a main engine.

China has continued to contribute around 30% of world economic growth, higher than G7 combined. We developed five cooperation

frameworks with Arab states, and successfully held the first ASEAN-China-GCC Summit. To date, unilateral visa waiver is extended to 48 countries including Bahrain. In 2025, more than 6500 Bahraini citizens visited China, increasing by 80%. China acted as a steady force.

The Palestinian question must not be sidelined again.

The principle of "Palestinian people owning and governing Palestine" must be upheld, and the two-State solution remains the only right choice for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question. Tariff and trade wars hurt the legitimate rights and interests of countries around the world, and undermine the multilateral trading system. We have stood up to such practices in de-

fense of international fairness and justice.

In 2026, China will blaze new trails in forging a new type of major-country relations, which is characterized by peaceful coexistence, overall stability and balanced development. China will foster greater synergy for global peace and stability, actively mediate and cool down

hotspot issues to restore stability, host the second China-Arab States Summit, and accelerate the negotiations on a China-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

China will inject stronger impetus into global openness and cooperation, ad-

here to high-standard opening up, lead the trend of global openness and cooperation to counter decoupling and isolation, firmly uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, jointly resist protectionism, tariff hegemony and tariff bullying, and expand trade and investment liberalization and facilitation with countries across the world.

China will make greater contributions to reforming and improving global governance. To build a community with a shared future is a noble goal of China's diplomacy. President Xi Jinping has put forward four major initiatives, namely, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, calling for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. This provides strategic guidance for building a more just and equitable global governance system.

Together with like-minded countries like Bahrain, and upon Bahrain's term as the non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, we will practice true multilateralism and remain a steadfast defender and contributor to the current international system.

China will inject stronger impetus into global openness and cooperation, adhere to high-standard opening up, lead the trend of global openness and cooperation to counter decoupling and isolation, firmly uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, jointly resist protectionism, tariff hegemony and tariff bullying, and expand trade and investment liberalization and facilitation with countries across the world.



(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)

BRCS donation for Sudan

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has announced a donation of \$100,000 to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, as part of its ongoing international humanitarian and relief efforts.

The donation will be allocated directly toward the procurement of specialized equipment to combat epidemics in areas experiencing a significant spread of diseases among local communities as a result of environmental pollution.

Such conditions represent some of the most pressing public health challenges facing several regions in Sudan.

This support aims to strengthen health response capacities, contribute to curbing the spread of diseases, and protect the most vulnerable groups, particularly children and the elderly.

Deadly risks of gas leaks

Explosions, fires on the rise

Ghadeer Alkumaisi
TDT | Manama

Gas leaks claim lives every year, injure many people, and have caused building collapses and fires.

Despite the severe risks, the issue is often overlooked.

Some gas-related accidents in recent years highlight these serious risks.

Injuries

For example, in 2024, a gas cylinder exploded in a Muharraq apartment, causing minor injuries to the owner and three children. The following year, a similar incident in Arad, east of Muharraq, led to a building collapse, killing one person and injuring four others.

These examples underscore



Deadly gas cylinder explosion in Arad leads to one death and four injuries, 2025



Minor injuries reported after a gas cylinder explosion in Muharraq, 2024

the importance of public awareness and safety measures.

Speaking on the Interior Ministry's Al Aman social media programme, Hidd Police Station Head Colonel Dr Osama Bahar explained the dangers of gas leaks, which caused more than 300 fires and 21 explosions in 2024 and 2025.

He outlined the main causes

of gas leaks and explained how to prevent them through four simple tips, which should be explained, taught, and practised by all household members to avoid similar incidents each year.

Col Dr Bahar warned that gas cylinders must be placed in an open, shaded area, away from any electrical switches or appliances, as even a small spark

could trigger an explosion.

Advisory

It is always advised not to touch any electrical equipment if gas is detected, as turning devices or lights on or off can generate invisible sparks strong enough to ignite accumulated gas.

Even a small flame, such as from a lighter or match, can ignite leaking gas by providing enough heat to start combustion.

Col Dr Bahar also highlighted the extreme importance of ventilation and exhaust fans, which help reduce the risk of gas accumulation, especially above the stove.

Regarding maintenance, he advised: "Do not hesitate to protect your home and your children by performing regular maintenance on the connections between the cylinder and the stove, which can be affected by heat and humidity."



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When Bahrain's roads call for help

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

On Bahrain's roads, trouble rarely sends a warning.

A stalled engine, sudden rain, or a minor accident can turn an ordinary journey into a moment of uncertainty.

In those moments, help often arrives from the Fazaa Voluntary Group, a team built on readiness rather than recognition.

Idea

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Rashid Fakhro, a member of the Fazaa team, said the group was formed around a simple idea. Be present when people need help and act without hesitation.

He explained that Fazaa conducts community driven humanitarian missions across Bahrain, responding to situations where motorists are left stranded or vulnerable.

Volunteers assist vehicles suffering from fuel shortages, battery failure, or the need for jump starting. They also recover cars



The Fazaa Voluntary Group assists stranded motorists, restoring road safety and traffic flow stuck in rough ground or muddy terrain, restoring safety and flow to the roads.

Response

Fakhro noted that Fazaa volunteers also provide first aid at accident scenes, offering immediate support until official emergency services arrive.

During periods of heavy rainfall, the team becomes especially active, helping recover vehicles damaged or trapped by flooded



“We believe in community strength, reassurance, and humanitarian values translated into action.”

- RASHID FAKHRO, MEMBER OF THE FAZAA VOLUNTARY GROUP

streets.

The group supports authorities in search operations for missing persons on land and at sea and assists drivers in completing minor accident reports through official traffic service applications.

According to Fakhro, all services are provided completely free of charge, reflecting Fazaa's belief in community strength, reassurance, and humanitarian values translated into action.

High Court Appeal adjourns investment fraud case hearing

Bid to recover BD320,000 over two sham deals

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The High Court of Appeal has adjourned an appeal in an investment fraud case to 8 February.

This came as the prosecutors asked the court to order three former senior figures at the firm to repay BD320,000 alongside the company owner over two sham deals at the centre of the dispute.

The appeal follows a ruling by the High Criminal Court that jailed the owner of an investment company for eight years, fined him BD105,000, ordered him to return misappropriated sums, and confiscated money said to be the proceeds of crime.

Deposits

The court found he took more than BD6 million of investors' deposits by carrying out 388 fictitious transactions and then laundering the proceeds.

In the same case, the firm's chief executive and two board members were sentenced to a year in prison and fined



The High Court of Appeal will hear further pleadings and replies from defence counsel on 8 February.

BD5,000 each for taking part in the embezzlement tied to the last two sham transactions, worth BD320,000.

The prosecution is appealing because the three were not ordered to repay that amount.

Addressing the appellate court, the Head of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution said the offences were made out, arguing that the evidence traced what each defendant did in a clear sequence and showed criminal intent.

He rejected claims by the three co-defendants that they alerted the Central Bank of Bahrain as soon as they learned of suspicious activity, saying the report came only days after they had agreed to pass the two transactions and after they had enabled the owner to take the money.

Mortgage lending tops BD3.1b in third quarter

Personal loans account for roughly 48 per cent of all lending

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Mortgage lending made up 51.2 per cent of personal loans in Bahrain in the third quarter of 2025, amounting to about BD3.1 billion, as retail-bank lending kept rising year on year, according to data from the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Personal loans accounted for roughly 48 per cent of all lending, reaching about BD6.1 billion, up from BD5.9 billion in the same quarter of 2024.

Housing finance formed the largest slice within that category, pointing to continued demand for home funding alongside what the figures show as a stable property market.

Value

Overall, the total value of loans issued by retail banks grew 4.8 per cent over the year to around BD12.7 billion.

The rise was driven in part by a 3.9 per cent increase in personal lending, suggesting ongoing consumer spending and a sustained appetite for credit.

Business lending stood at about BD5.2 billion, making up



Image used for illustrative purposes only



The demand for home funding continues amid a stable property market.

40.8 per cent of total loans, with a small year-on-year dip of 0.3 per cent.

Caution

The figures suggest firms took a more cautious line on extra borrowing over the period.

Lending to the government

BD1.4 billion, with the data linking the jump to higher spending on public projects and services.

On markets, the Bahrain Islamic Index rose 13.9 per cent from a year earlier, signalling stronger demand for Sharia-compliant investment tools during the period.

Movement

Money-supply figures showed mixed movement. Narrow money supply stood at about BD2.8 billion, up 1.0 per cent year on year, while broad money supply was around BD14.0 billion, down 1.4 per cent.

Broad money supply including government deposits reached about BD16.2 billion, a 2.3 per cent annual fall, indicating a mild easing in liquidity compared with the same period last year.

Jail term reduced in hammer assault case

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Appeals Court has reduced the sentence of an Asian defendant from three years in prison to one year in jail, while upholding his permanent deportation after serving the sentence.

The ruling followed the defendant's conviction for assaulting another man with a hammer and a screwdriver after the victim refused to pay him BD30 as a "commission" for allegedly helping him get a job.

In its judgment, the court said that, based on the circumstances of the case and under Article 72 of the Penal Code, it decided to reduce the punishment.

The court sentenced the defendant to one year in jail and ordered his deportation instead of the original three-year prison term.

Former convict accused of posing as police officer in BD15 knife robbery case

Court verdict set for 24 February

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A man with a past drugs conviction is accused of pretending to be a police officer and robbing a worker at knifepoint for BD15, with the High Criminal Court due to give its verdict on 24 February.

Prosecutors say the 32-year-old acted with an unknown accomplice, threatening the victim with a weapon and using force to take cash and other belongings.

He is also accused of unlawfully depriving the victim of his freedom while posing as a public officer, using force and threats of serious harm to obtain money.

Victim

The alleged victim, a 41-year-old Asian man, told investigators he was sitting in a vehicle linked to his workplace at about 2 pm, parked on a vacant plot in Nuwaidrat while he ate lunch, when another car pulled up.

Two men approached, he said, one coming to his window and the other moving to the window on the opposite side.

Both claimed to be police officers.

Defendant

He said the defendant took the car key and his mobile phone, then forced him out by grabbing him by the neck.

They demanded his wallet. He refused.

Call them 'free dogs'

Sara rejects term 'stray,' choosing language shaped by compassion, care and hope

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

She refuses to call them stray or street dogs. For Sara, they are free dogs.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, she explained that it is a choice of words reflecting a journey shaped by compassion, loss and quiet defiance.

Sara is an engineer who arrived in Bahrain in 2015 to work with a company implementing Gulf support projects. One of the largest was the East Hidd housing project.

As construction began, she noticed female dogs seeking shelter among unfinished villas, giving birth in corners meant for families yet to come.

She began feeding the mothers so they could nurse their puppies, vaccinating them, and later finding adopters once the puppies were strong enough.

Pandemic

By 2020, during the Covid 19 pandemic, the number of dogs increased sharply.

Births multiplied and Sara continued feeding them daily.

One morning, she arrived to find the puppies gone and their mother visibly distressed.

After asking around, she learned that a private company had captured them and relocated them to an industrial area known as Askar or Ras Zuweid.

She drove there and was confronted by scenes she still struggles to describe. Emaciated and sick dogs drinking polluted water out of desperation.

From that day, she committed herself to visiting Askar every Friday to feed and treat them, alongside continuing her work in East Hidd.

Violence

On New Year's Eve 2020, after residents began moving into East Hidd, a man attacked her while she was feeding dogs near unfinished homes.

He threw stones at her and the animals, broke water containers and removed the food.

After she posted the incident on TikTok, he filed a complaint against her and she was banned



from entering the area. The following day, one of the dogs she had raised from birth was found killed. No action was taken despite a report.

Two days later, more than



Sara chooses to see freedom and dignity in dogs others simply label as abandoned



Sara not only feeds dogs outside but also cares for 15 in her own home.

200 dogs disappeared from East Hidd. She was told they had been moved to Askar.

Rescue

Since then, Sara has continued her work in Askar, where she also found abandoned pedigree dogs including Huskies and Arabian Salukis.

Five Salukis were adopted and sent to the United States and Canada with the help of a friend.

She now cares for 15 dogs in her own home. All food and treatment are paid for from her own pocket.

Her proposal to authorities calls for sterilisation campaigns supported by veterinary clinics, with costs offset through tax deductions.

In December and January alone, more than 50 puppies were born in Askar.

Intention

For Sara, the reason is simple. Love, mercy and the belief that animals understand intention.

As she says, a dog knows whether the person in front of it comes to feed or to harm.

Woman acquitted of unlicensed contracting accusation



Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Appeals Court has acquitted a Bahraini woman of practicing contracting without a license and overturned a first-instance ruling that had fined her BD1,000.

Lawyer Tharallah Saleem said his client had previously been convicted, along with another defendant, of engaging in commercial activity without a license.

A judgment issued in absentia and later upheld by the appeals court had imposed a fine of 1,000 dinars.

Saleem explained that the case began when his client's friend, the complainant, asked her to help find a contractor to build a second floor at her home.

The defendant contacted a contractor she had dealt with before and acted only as a mediator between the two parties.

He said his client received part of the payment from her friend and delivered it to the contractor, stressing that her role was limited to transferring the money and that she did not practice the profession, participate in the work, or share in the project.

Tubli Bay stench traced to 'sewage and decay'

● No sign of red tide recorded in recent years

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The stench reported along Tubli Bay last summer was driven by sewage inflows, poor water renewal and decomposing organic matter, not a red tide, the Supreme Council for Environment has told MPS.

Replying to a parliamentary question from MP Khalid Buanaq, the council said it had not recorded any sign of red tide in the bay and had received no reports of such an event in recent years.

It added that red or brown water can sometimes be caused by a natural bloom of microscopic algae, and that colour on its own does not prove chemical pollution.

Suspected cases are normally checked through sampling and lab tests, it said.



Tubli Bay

The council said Tubli Bay is an environmental site of national importance that has faced years of strain.

Changes to the shoreline over decades have cut the area of open water and reduced the bay's ability to dilute pollutants. Smells, it said, rise and fall with the season, the tide and wind direction.

Odours

It linked the odours to three main drivers.



MP Khalid Buanaq
The first is pressure from wastewater entering through

the sewage network.

The second is weak circulation in parts of the bay, which slows natural flushing and helps organic matter settle on the seabed.

The third is the build-up of algae, plant material and organic sediments along shorelines and in corners where the water barely moves.

In hot weather those deposits break down faster, releasing strong-smelling gases.

Higher nutrient levels, in-

cluding nitrogen and phosphorus, can also feed heavier algal growth, followed by further decay.

Structures

The council said structures around the bay, including roads, bridges, breakwaters and other works, can add to the problem by limiting water exchange and leaving pockets where renewal is slow.

During August 2025, after complaints and posts on social media about smells, council teams carried out field checks in the bay area.

They found algae and sediments gathered in a number of spots, mainly along shorelines and in bends and corners where flow is weak.

The council said it worked with other bodies to clear affected areas and carry out on-the-ground treatment, with follow-up aimed at stopping a repeat of organic build-up along the shore.

95mln cubic metres of treated water produced in 2025: Al Farea

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works recorded more than 95 million cubic metres of treated water production in 2025, reflecting Bahrain's expanding investment in water sustainability and environmental protection, according to Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitary Engineering Engineer Fathi Abdullah Al Farea.

Al Farea said the treated wa-

ter output was achieved using advanced filtration and disin-

fection technologies that align with leading international environmental standards.

He noted that wastewater received by the ministry is processed at treatment plants through integrated physical, chemical and biological methods to ensure safe reuse.

The assistant undersecretary explained that treated water is reused for designated purposes including agriculture, street landscaping and controlled irrigation.



Eng. Fathi Abdullah Al Farea

Plan to place event halls under Sunni Waqf

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A plan to shift all event halls in Bahrain under the Sunni Waqf directorate is being prepared by Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Darraj, who says the move would tighten oversight of hall revenues and prevent management from remaining in private hands and, in some cases, passing to heirs.

Darraj, representative of the Fourth Constituency in the Southern Governorate, said he would submit a proposal to

and related sites from donors or individual managers to the Sunni Waqf, arguing the authority is best placed to watch the money coming in and how it is spent.

"Those who collect the hall's money must be under oversight for the funds coming in and what they are doing," he said, adding that the Sunni Waqf directorate "is the competent authority and bears this responsibility".

He said the change would also make booking simpler for residents by removing the need to chase a single person who may be hard to reach.

NBB rewards 4 winners with USD 2 Million and two luxury villas

Concluding 2025 with Life-Changing Prizes



Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has concluded an exciting year of Thara'a Prize Account rewards with an elegant seafront hand-over ceremony held on 20th January at Al Naseem's Social Hub, honouring four grand prize winners from the December 2025 draw.

During the ceremony, Khalil Ebrahim Abdullatif and Yousif Yaqoot were each awarded a cash prize of USD 1 million, while Layla Elias Abu Rumman and Abdulla Jaafar Alshaikh received the keys to their brand-new luxury seafront villas within the Al Naseem development in Diyar Al Muharraq.

The event welcomed the winners, their families, and representatives from NBB to



celebrate one of the most anticipated prizes of the Thara'a scheme.

Memorable moment

Expressing his appreciation, Khalil Ebrahim Abdullatif said, "This is a truly memorable moment for me and my family. It is not something one anticipates,

and we are sincerely grateful for what this represents in our lives."

Complete surprise

Yousif Yaqoot, the second winner of the USD 1 million prize, commented, "This win came as a complete surprise. I

carefully for the future and make considered decisions towards my aspirations."

Meanwhile, sharing his excitement, Abdulla Jaafar Alshaikh said, "This prize opens an important new chapter for my family. It is a significant milestone we will remember with great appreciation."

Layla Elias Abu Rumman commented, "Receiving the keys to our new home is truly a special moment for us. It is an experience we will always carry with us, and one I am truly thankful for."

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said, "Thara'a is all

about celebrating our valued customers for their commitment to saving. Ending 2025 with these grand prizes is an impactful way to reward that trust, with prizes that can make a real difference in their lives. We are just getting started, as 2026 will bring even more chances to win and bigger surprises designed with our customers in mind."

With the start of the new year, NBB encourages everyone to start saving by depositing into their Thara'a accounts for a chance to win the last villa from the January draw. With further details on the 2026 prize programme to be announced soon, customers can open their accounts through the NBB Digital Banking App, by visiting any of the Bank's branches, logging on to nbonline.com, or by calling 1721 4433.

Seef Properties honoured for active participation in promotional campaigns during "Celebrate Bahrain"

In recognition of its role in supporting national initiatives

Manama

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has honoured Seef Properties in recognition of its active participation in the national initiative to waive promotional campaign fees and extend commercial discount periods. The initiative was launched by the Ministry in conjunction with the Celebrate Bahrain season during December 2025, with the aim of stimulating commercial activity and enhancing the festive atmosphere accompanying national occasions.

The recognition took place during a ceremony held at the Ministry's headquarters at Bahrain Financial Harbour, attended by His Excellency Mr Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, along



with a number of representatives from the commercial sector participating in the initia-

tive. The event underscored the shared role in supporting the national economy and enhancing the readiness of local markets

during commercial seasons and national celebrations.

On this occasion, Mr Ahmed Yusuf, Chief Executive Officer of Seef Properties, commented: "We take pride in this recognition, which reflects Seef Properties' commitment to supporting national initiatives that enable the commercial sector to deliver its offers and promotional campaigns more effectively, thereby enhancing market activity during the Celebrate Bahrain season. We were keen to unify efforts with our tenant partners to translate the objectives of the initiative into tangible value for visitors, creating a more diverse and vibrant shopping experience."

He added: "We remain committed to strengthening effective partnerships with relevant

stakeholders in a manner that supports the sustainability of the commercial sector and keeps pace with market requirements. We will continue to develop flexible operating models that reinforce our malls' position as leading destinations for shopping and entertainment across the Kingdom." It is noteworthy that this recognition reflects Seef Properties' ongoing approach to organising promotional campaigns across its shopping centres, contributing to the enrichment of the visitor experience, meeting the expectations of various segments, keeping pace with national occasions, and further strengthening the position of the company's centres as integrated destinations combining shopping, entertainment and services.

Beyon Cyber's Orryx AI wins Deloitte's Fast Track Pitch competition

Manama

Beyon Cyber, part of the Beyon Group, has emerged as the winner of the Fast 50 Fast Track Pitch Competition organized by Deloitte Fast 50 which was held at Emaar Square in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Supported by venture ecosystem leaders DotZero, Antler, and BECO Capital, the competition spotlighted the region's most promising high-growth tech startups.

This prestigious recognition automatically qualifies Beyon Cyber for the 5th Edition of Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 Middle East, placing it among the most disruptive and scalable technology ventures in the region.

At the center of Beyon Cy-



This prestigious recognition automatically qualifies Beyon Cyber for the 5th Edition of Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 Middle East, placing it among the most disruptive and scalable technology ventures in the region.

ber's momentum is Orryx AI, reshaping the future of cybersecurity across the Middle East. Dr. Sh. Khalid Al Khalifa, CEO of Beyon Cyber, stated: "We're proud to win this competition among the region's high-growth startups. This recognition highlights what distinguishes Orryx

AI: it is built to transform how security teams' work. Already deployed in real environments, Orryx AI helps teams move faster and act with greater confidence than legacy approaches allow."

The Fast Track win comes amid accelerated regional demand for cyber resilience solutions that are agile, intelligent, and AI-native, making Beyon Cyber a compelling case for venture investors seeking market-impacting growth and next-gen tech platforms.

As Beyon Cyber joins the Deloitte Fast 50, it reinforces its position as a VC-ready growth-stage company committed to scaling AI-powered defense, advancing digital trust, and enabling secure digital transformation across the Middle East.

Bapco Energies and Bahrain Victorious Power Forward with Multi-Year Partnership Renewal

● Multi-year partnership marks Bapco Energies as the official partner of Bahrain Victorious

● Star riders visit to Bapco Energies' headquarters reinforces shared performance values

Manama

Bapco Energies, the integrated energy company powering the next generation and securing Bahrain's long-term energy supply, and Bahrain Victorious are set to continue their successful partnership with a multi-year extension. This longstanding partnership underscores Bapco Energies' commitment as a key



The partnership announcement coincided with a visit by Bahrain Victorious star riders Matej Mohoric and Lenny Martinez to Bapco Energies' headquarters in Manama

driver of the Bahrain Victorious' ongoing pursuit of excellence in international cycling.

The partnership announcement coincided with a visit by Bahrain Victorious star riders Matej Mohoric and Lenny Martinez to Bapco Energies' headquarters in Manama. During their visit, the athletes shared valuable insights into performance and winning, which closely align with Bapco Energies' commitment to excellence and high performance. This shared philosophy highlights how sport can inspire strong performance culture, both on and off the road.

Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, commented: "Performance drives everything we do at Bapco Energies, from operational excellence to supporting top athletes. Our longstanding partnership with Bahrain Victorious is a testament to our shared focus on teamwork, innovation, and continuous improvement—values that power both our business and their success on the world stage."

Milan Erzen, Managing Director of Bahrain Victorious, commented: "Bapco Energies have truly been an integral part of our team from the very beginning. They are an important contributor to the development of youth and sport in the region, and their commitment to performance and excellence aligns perfectly with our values as a team. We are proud to extend this partnership and look forward to continuing the journey together."

Lactalis/Nestle baby formula recalls: Global precedents

Paris, France

The massive recall of infant formula in France and many other countries, announced by Lactalis yesterday, is the latest of several alarms, false and real, that have shaken the industry:

Suspected cereulide

Swiss giant Nestle has issued recalls of infant formula in around sixty countries since the beginning of January.

Like Lactalis, Nestle issued the recalls due to the potential presence of "cereulide," a bacterial substance that can cause diarrhoea and vomiting.

French health authorities announced on Tuesday that they were investigating the death of a



not yet in stores.

Salmonella Contamination

In January 2019, French company Sodilac recalled 400,000 boxes of infant formula manufactured in a factory in northern Spain, including Modilac brand formula.

The recall was issued after infants in France who had consumed the products contracted salmonella poisoning, which can be serious for the most vulnerable.

Lactalis, meanwhile, was charged in 2023, notably for "aggravated deception" and "involuntary injury", due to its handling of the 2017-2018 infant formula crisis, when several dozen

baby who had consumed Nestle infant formula affected by the recall, although no direct link has so far been established.

French food giant Danone announced on Wednesday that Singaporean authorities had blocked a "few pallets" of its Dumex Stage 1 infant formula, adding that the products were

salmonella poisoning.

Investigators established a link between the cases and the consumption of a product from its factory in northwest France.

In January 2018, after several weeks of the crisis, the group withdrew all infant formula produced at the factory, where production had been suspended for more than six months.

New Zealand false botulism scare

Unfounded fears of botulism contamination in Fonterra products used in infant formula triggered a global recall in 2013.

The Danone group, whose products were affected, subsequently won compensation.

Fonterra believed it had de-

tected a bacterium that could cause botulism, a poisoning that can lead to paralysis or even death, in three batches of whey, but further tests showed that it was actually a harmless bacterium.

Melamine Poisoning in China

Contaminated powdered milk poisoned around 300,000 children and caused the deaths of six babies from kidney problems in China in 2008.

Melamine, a known cause of kidney stones, was found in the powdered milk consumed by the poisoned children.

The substance was detected in products made by twenty Chinese dairy companies and worldwide in ice cream, cookies,

and candy, hitting major brands including Cadbury, Snickers, and M&Ms.

The scandal triggered waves of recalls of numerous Chinese dairy products across the world.



Swiss giant Nestle has issued recalls of infant formula in around sixty countries since the beginning of January.

News in brief

◆ **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** said yesterday that around 4,000 buildings in Kyiv were still without heating and most of the capital was cut off from electricity after Russian strikes earlier in the week. Russia has hit Ukrainian energy infrastructure throughout the nearly four-year war, but Kyiv says this winter has been the toughest yet, with hundreds of Russian drones and missiles overwhelming air defences during particularly fierce frosts. "As of this morning, about 4,000 buildings in Kyiv are still without heat, and nearly 60 percent of the capital is without electricity," Zelensky said, after Russia pounded Ukraine's energy grid between Monday and Tuesday. The situation also remained difficult across the country, including in the Sumy, Chernigiv, Dnipro and Kharkiv regions, he added. Zelensky announced a "state of emergency" in the country's energy sector last week, with Kyiv schools remaining closed, street lights dimmed and roughly half a million residents leaving the capital.



Over half of Kyiv still lacks power after strikes, Zelensky says

North produces enough nuclear material a year for 10-20 weapons: S. Korea president

aimed at striking the US mainland, Lee added. "At some point, North Korea will have secured the nuclear arsenal it believes it needs to sustain the regime, along with ICBM capabilities capable of threatening not only the United States but the wider world," he said, referring to intercontinental ballistic missiles. "And once there is excess, it will go abroad -- beyond its borders. A global danger will then emerge," he said.

◆ **An Israeli air strike** killed an AFP freelancer and two other journalists in Gaza on Wednesday, the territory's civil defence agency said, while the military said it struck "suspects" operating a drone. Since October 10, a fragile US-sponsored ceasefire in Gaza has largely halted the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas, but both sides have alleged frequent violations. In a statement, the civil defence said "the bodies of the three journalists killed in an Israeli air strike in the Al-Zahra area southwest of Gaza City were transported to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah". It named the dead as Mohammed Salah Qashta, Abdul Raouf Shaat and Anas Ghneim.



SPOTLIGHT

Over 300 journalists behind bars for fifth straight year: watchdog

AFP | New York, United States

The number of journalists imprisoned worldwide for their work was 330 in the final month of 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists said yesterday, the fifth consecutive year the count has exceeded 300.

China held 50 prisoners as of December 1, followed by Myanmar with 30 and then Israel, which detained 29 Palestinian journalists, the press freedom watchdog said in its annual report.

Next was Russia with 27 prisoners, of which five were Ukrainian, then Belarus with 25 and Azerbaijan with 24, the CPJ said.

It is the third highest total recorded by the CPJ since its census began in 1992 and just short of the record 384 journalists in prison for their work at the end of 2024.

"These record-setting numbers reflect growing authoritarianism and escalating numbers of armed conflicts worldwide," the CPJ said in its report.

The New York-based NGO said that almost half of the imprisoned journalists had not been convicted of a crime. Of those who had been, more than a third were serving prison sentences of over five years.

Nearly a third of the detained journalists had experienced "mistreatment," the CPJ said, including 20 percent with



claims of torture or beatings. Since 1992, Iran has had the greatest incidence of torture and beatings, followed by Israel and Egypt.

In 2025, Asia remained the region with the highest number of imprisoned journalists at 110. Beyond China and Myanmar, Vietnam held at least 16, Bangladesh four, India three, and the Philippines one.

The United States detained Salvadoran journalist Mario Guevara in June after he covered a protest against President Donald Trump, but he was deported over his immigration status before the December 1 CPJ census was taken.

Trump rules out force against Greenland

Demands 'immediate' talks

● **Trump desire to avoid military force over Greenland is 'positive' sign: Danish FM**

AFP | Davos, Switzerland

US President Donald Trump ruled out using force to take Greenland for the first time as he addressed world leaders in Davos yesterday, but demanded "immediate negotiations" to acquire the island from Denmark.

Trump's quest to take control of Greenland from a NATO ally has deeply shaken the global order and the markets, and it dominated his first address to the World Economic Forum in six years.

In a speech lasting more than an hour in the Swiss ski resort, Trump slammed "ungrateful" Denmark for refusing to give up Greenland, and said the United States alone could guarantee the security of the "giant piece of ice".

But Trump appeared to take the threat of military action off the table, in a dramatic turnaround from his previous threats that the US could use force to take control of the mineral-rich Arctic island.

"We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable -- but I won't do that," Trump said.

"I don't have to use force. I don't want to use force. I won't use force. All the United States is asking for is a place called Greenland."

Wall Street stocks opened higher Wednesday after Trump's comments.

Immediate negotiations'

Trump however pushed his claims to what he called "our territory" -- and mistakenly called it Iceland on several occasions -- during lengthy remarks on the deepest crisis in transatlantic relations for decades.

He said he was "seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States" and added that Washington would "remember" if Denmark said no.

Trump says Greenland is under threat from Russia and China.

The US president also lambasted Europe on a number of fronts from security to tariffs and the economy, saying it was "not heading in the right direction".

Trump flew into Davos by helicopter, stepping onto a red carpet laid in the snow -- but he flew into a growing international storm over Greenland.

He arrived some two hours behind schedule, after an electrical issue earlier forced Air Force One to turn back to Washington and switch planes.

In a sign of dissent against



Trump desire to avoid military force over Greenland is 'positive' sign: Danish FM

AFP | Copenhagen, Denmark

Rasmussen told reporters in Copenhagen, referring to a speech by Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"It is, of course, positive in isolation that the president said that about the military, but it doesn't make the problem go away."

Lokke noted that it had been stated "very clearly that it is better to own than to rent" and that Trump did not believe that Denmark could take care of Greenland.

Greenland, threatened by Trump, releases 'crisis' guidelines: minister

AFP | Nuuk, Denmark

Greenland's government unveiled a new brochure on Wednesday offering advice to the population in the event of a "crisis" in the territory, which US President Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed to seize from ally Denmark.

This document is "an insur-

ance policy", said Self-Sufficiency Minister Peter Borg at a press conference in Nuuk, the Greenlandic capital, shortly after Trump demanded "immediate" talks on his bid to control Greenland but said he would not use military force to take the island.

"We don't expect to have to use it," Borg emphasized.

Trump, the words "No Kings" were dug into the snow overlooking mountain-fringed Davos overnight, referring to a US protest slogan.

Europe and Canada had earlier closed ranks against what they view as a threat to the US-led global order from Trump's territorial ambitions over semi-autonomous Greenland.

In Britain, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Wednesday he would not "yield" to pressure from Trump on Greenland.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney won a standing ovation at Davos on Tuesday when he warned of a "rupture" to the US-led system. French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile said Europe would not be bullied.

But Trump, who was due to

asked. "I tell him, yes they will," Rutte said.

Trump however repeated his doubts on NATO during his speech, saying Washington was treated "so unfairly".

The Greenland row has also soured relations with the European Union, which has threatened countermeasures after Trump vowed tariffs of up to 25 percent on eight European countries for backing Denmark.

But Polish President Karol Nawrocki, a Trump ally, told AFP after the "very important" speech: "I think the situation will be calm." He said he understood the US leader's stance amid Russian pressure at EU borders.

In a speech that veered from topic to topic, Trump also boasted of his achievements since his return to power a year and a day ago. He last spoke at Davos in his first term in 2020.

Trump unleashed his trademark anti-migrant rhetoric, particularly against Somalis in the United States -- while hailing the US economy as the "engine" of the world.

The US president also expressed hope of ending the Ukraine war soon, saying he expected to meet President Volodymyr Zelensky in Davos on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, meanwhile, Trump is set to formally announce the first charter of his so-called "Board of Peace".



Denmark began colonising Greenland in the early 18th century, starting in 1721, and ruled it as a colony until 1953, when Greenland was formally integrated into the Kingdom of Denmark.

1689

Prince William of Orange, the future King William III of Britain, summons the Convention Parliament to discuss ruling jointly with his wife, Mary, the daughter of the exiled King James II

1879

Battle of Rorke's Drift: A British garrison of about 150 holds off 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. Eleven Victoria Crosses and several other decorations are awarded to the defenders.

1905

A large demonstration of workers in St Petersburg, Russia, led by Father Gapon, marches to the Winter Palace with a petition to the Tsar; troops fire on the protesters in what becomes known as Bloody Sunday

X

TOP
3
TWEETS

01



The @UN Charter is the foundation of international relations, the bedrock of peace, sustainable development & human rights.

When leaders run roughshod over international law, picking & choosing which rules to follow - they are undermining global order & setting a perilous precedent.

When a handful of individuals can bend global narratives, sway elections, or dictate the terms of public debate, we are facing inequality and the corruption of institutions & our shared values.

The Charter is a compact which binds us all. All countries must adhere to it, fully & faithfully.

@antonio_guterres

02



Today's Cabinet decision relating to providing equity support to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will benefit countless MSMEs thus contributing to a Viksit Bharat.

@narendramodi

03



Good discussion with @nina_warken, German Minister of Health, during the @WEF Annual Meeting in #Davos. We discussed the importance of investing in @WHO so it can continue performing its critical, core functions of developing norms and standards to promote and protect health, convening health stakeholders to advance #HealthForAll, and coordinating global responses to health crises.

@DrTedros

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, six others accept 'Board of Peace' invite

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and seven Muslim-majority countries including Gaza mediators Qatar and Turkey have agreed to join US Presi-

dent Donald Trump's "Board of Peace", the Saudi foreign ministry said yesterday.

In a joint statement, Riyadh announced the "shared decision" of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar,

Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates to join the body to be chaired by Trump, saying they supported his "peace efforts" on the Gaza conflict.

Prince William to visit S. Arabia next month

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Prince William will make his first official visit to Saudi Arabia next month, Kensington Palace announced on Wednesday.

"At the request of His Majesty's Government, the Prince of Wales will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th February," the palace's statement said.

"His Royal Highness' vis-

it comes as the UK and Saudi Arabia celebrate growing trade, energy and investment ties, and as the two nations approach a century of diplomatic relations."

The last senior royal to make an official visit to Riyadh was his father, King Charles III, when he was Prince of Wales in February 2014.

The UK has previously raised concerns over Saudi Arabia's

Britain's Prince William

human rights record and in 2020 sanctioned 20 Saudi nationals involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who died at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, in Riyadh in December 2024.

The pair discussed a range of issues including growth opportunities between the countries, as well as "the steps taken by the Crown Prince's government to improve human rights", according to the UK government readout at the time.



World's oldest cave art discovered in Indonesia

AFP | Paris, France

A red stencil of a hand pressed against the wall of an Indonesian cave is the oldest rock art ever discovered, scientists said yesterday, and sheds light on how humans first migrated to Australia.

The cave art dates back at least 67,800 years, according to research published in the journal Nature by a team of Indonesian and Australian archaeologists.

"We have been working in Indonesia for a long time," study co-author Maxime Aubert of Australia's Griffith University told AFP.

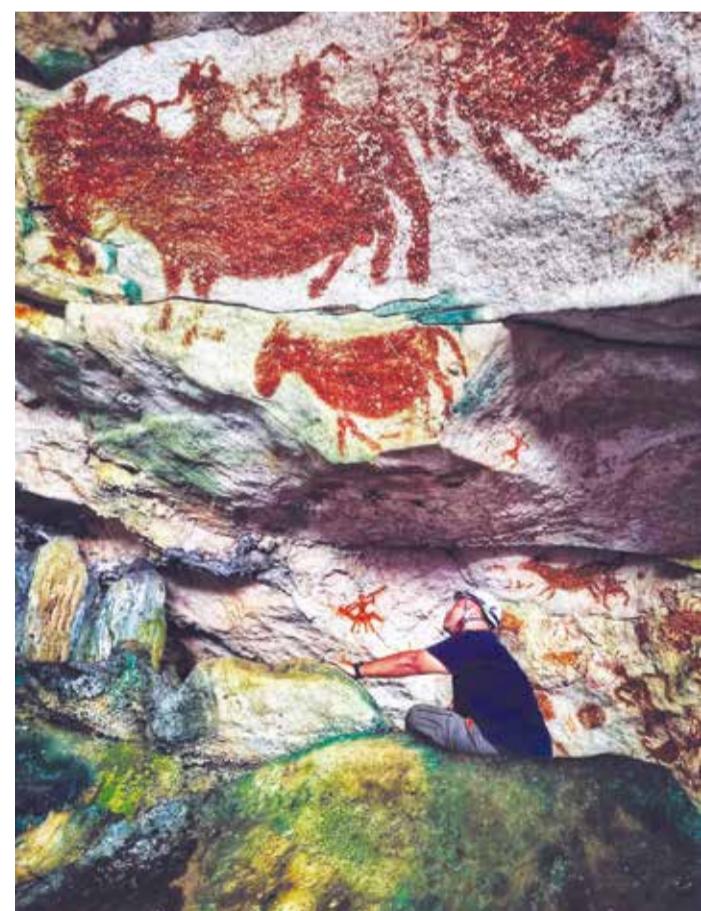
This time they ventured to caves on the island of Muna in the Sulawesi province on the advice of Indonesian archaeologist Adhi Agus Oktaviana, the study's lead author.

There they found "hand-prints in negative, stencilled, probably using red ochre," Aubert said.

The fingers of one of the hands were "retouched to become pointed like claws -- a style of painting only seen in Sulawesi," the Canadian archaeologist added.

To determine the art's age, the team took five-millimetre samples from "cave popcorn", which are small clusters of calcite that form on the walls of limestone caves.

Then they zapped the layers of rock with a laser to measure



A view of prehistoric cave paintings in the Sulawesi island of Indonesia.

how the uranium decayed over time, compared to a more stable radioactive element called thorium.

This "very precise" technique gave the scientists a clear minimum age for the painting, Aubert explained.

At 67,800 years old, the Indonesian stencil is more than a thousand years older than other

hand stencils found in a Spanish cave which has been attributed to Neanderthals. However the dating of that cave art "has been controversial," the study cautioned.

The new discovery is also more than 15,000 years older than previous art found in the Sulawesi region by the same team.

China says Britain had 'obligation' to approve mega embassy



Hong Kong former veteran labour activist Christopher Mung Siu-tat (C) speaks during a press conference concerning the decision on the new Chinese embassy, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London

AFP | Beijing, China

China said yesterday that Britain had an "obligation" to approve its mega embassy in London, a day after the controversial plans were given the green light.

"Providing support and convenience for the construction of diplomatic premises is an international obligation of the host country," Guo Jiakun told a news conference.

The 20,000-square-metre (235,000-square-foot) site is set to become the largest embassy complex in the UK by area, and one of the largest in the centre of a Western capital.

Plans for the embassy triggered anger and protests from rights groups and activists, who fear the site could be used to spy on and harass dissidents.

While British housing minister Steve Reed said the decision was final, it could still face legal challenges, with residents in London vowing to act.

Ties between China and Britain plummeted under the previous Conservative government, with the new embassy appearing to be a sticking point.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose Labour party swept to power in 2024 elections, has sought to reset ties with the economic powerhouse, and will reportedly visit China later this month.

While the embassy approval could boost relations, security minister Dan Jarvis noted that China would still continue to pose national security threats to Britain.

South Korean ex-PM Han gets 23 years jail for martial law role

The sentence is eight years longer than prosecutors demanded

AFP | Seoul, South Korea



Former South Korean prime minister Han Duck-soo was sentenced to 23 years in prison yesterday for aiding and abetting a declaration of martial law that briefly suspended civilian rule and plunged the country into chaos.

The defendant "disregarded his duty and responsibility as prime minister until the very end", said Judge Lee Jin-gwan, of the Seoul Central District Court.

"We sentence the defendant to 23 years in prison."

The sentence is eight years longer than prosecutors demanded.

The 76-year-old career technocrat was ordered to report to prison immediately after the ruling.

Judge Lee said the martial law decree by Han's boss Yoon Suk Yeol in December 2024 was intended with the "aim of subverting the constitutional order" and amounted to insurrection. Yoon's stunning imposition of martial law saw armed troops deployed to the

National Assembly and the National Election Commission before it was vetoed by the opposition-led parliament. In the aftermath, Yoon was

impeached and removed by the Constitutional Court in April, triggering an election two months later.

Han is one of many former officials -- including Yoon -- who have stood trial over their roles in the martial law attempt.

"The defendant is deemed to have played a significant role in the insurrectionary acts of Yoon and others by ensuring, at least formally, compliance with the procedural requirement," Judge Lee said in a televised sentencing.

Lee pointed out that while Han "voiced concerns to Yoon" over the move, he failed to "explicitly oppose it" or urge other cabinet members to dissuade Yoon from it.

During the course of the trial, Han denied wrongdoing, insisting he had never supported or helped the martial law declaration.

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

Prince Harry says tabloid coverage felt like 'full blown stalking'

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Prince Harry on Wednesday blasted the publisher of two UK tabloid newspapers for "terrifying" coverage of his relationship with ex-girlfriend Chelsy Davy that felt like "full blown stalking", as he gave evidence at London's High Court.

On the third day of the highly anticipated nine-week trial, Harry began testifying against Associated Newspapers Ltd (ANL), the publisher of the Daily Mail and The Mail, which he and six others accuse of unlawful information gathering against them.

The newspaper group strenuously denies his claims.

Harry insisted in a witness statement to the court that the trial was not "not just about me" but was also in the wider public interest.

The suspicion that people close to him were leaking stories to the press created an atmosphere of "distrust", he said, that led to the breakdown of his relationship with another girlfriend, Natalie Pinkham.

"It led to me not speaking to her for years," he stated. "...but I now believe that it (the articles) will have come from listening in to our communications, voicemail interception and/or blagging (impersonation)."

Referring to his romance with Davy, Harry said in his statement the coverage by two journalists



Britain's Prince Harry arrives outside the High Court in London on January 20, 2026, for the second day of the trial in his case against a major UK newspaper group.

in particular was oppressive.

"They turned up everywhere. It felt like full blown stalking and constant surveillance... This sort of intrusion was terrifying for Chelsy," he said.

'Hunted' feeling

"It made her feel like she was being hunted and the press had caught her and it was terrifying for me too because there was nothing I could do to stop it," he added.

The case has been brought

by Harry alongside six other high-profile figures, including pop icon Elton John and his husband David Furnish.

It is the prince's last active legal case in his long-running crusade against the British media.

"There is obviously a personal element to bringing this claim, motivated by truth, justice and accountability, but it is not just about me," he said in the statement unveiled as he entered the witness box.

"There is also a social element

concerning all the thousands of people whose lives were invaded because of greed," the prince said.

Dressed in a dark suit and striped tie, Harry, 41, took the stand at London's High Court late morning, swearing an oath on the bible before facing

questions from ANL's legal team.

He made history in 2023 by becoming the first senior British royal to enter the witness box in more than a century, when he testified in his suc-

cessful hacking claim against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN).

Last year, on the eve of another scheduled trial,

Rupert Murdoch's UK tabloid publisher NGN agreed to pay him "substantial damages" for privacy breaches, including phone hacking.

'Lurid'

In the ANL case, the seven well-known figures -- in-

cluding actors Liz Hurley and Sadie Frost -- accuse the publisher of illegally intercepting voicemail messages, listening in on phone calls and deceptively obtaining private information.

They allege it paid private investigators implicated in other phone-hacking lawsuits for some of the unlawful information used to generate dozens of stories.

The accusations cover a period from at least 1993 to 2018 in some instances.

ANL has consistently denied the claims, calling them "lurid" and "preposterous".

King Charles III's younger son has long railed against media intrusion, blaming paparazzi for the death of his mother Princess Diana, who was killed in a Paris car crash in 1997 while trying to shake them off.

Campaigner Doreen Lawrence -- whose son Stephen was murdered in a 1993 racist attack -- and ex-politician Simon Hughes are the other two claimants.

David Sherborne, representing the seven, told the High Court on Monday that he planned to show "there was clear and systematic use of unlawful gathering of information" at ANL.

Antony White, ANL's lawyer, has countered that evidence will prove it has "provided an explanation through a long series of witnesses of the sourcing by its journalists of the 50-plus articles" concerned.

Chelsy Davy

Japan restarts world's biggest nuclear plant

AFP | Kashiwazaki, Japan

The world's biggest nuclear power plant was restarted Wednesday for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima disaster, its Japanese operator said, despite persistent safety concerns among residents.

The plant was "started at 19:02" (1002 GMT), Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) spokesman Tatsuya Matoba told AFP of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata prefecture.

The regional governor approved the resumption last month, although public opinion remains sharply divided.

On Tuesday, a few dozen protesters -- mostly elderly -- braved freezing temperatures to demonstrate in the snow near the plant's entrance, whose buildings line the Sea of Japan coast.

"It's Tokyo's electricity that is produced in Kashiwazaki, so why should the people here be put at risk? That makes no sense," Yumiko Abe, a 73-year-old resident, told AFP.

Around 60 percent of residents oppose the restart, while 37 percent support it, according to a survey conducted in September.

TEPCO said Wednesday it would "proceed with careful verification of each plant facility's integrity" and address any issues appropriately and transparently.



An aerial view of Tokyo Electric Power Company Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant in Kashiwazaki City, Niigata Prefecture.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa is the world's biggest nuclear power plant by potential capacity, although just one reactor of seven was restarted.

The facility was taken offline when Japan pulled the plug on nuclear power after a colossal earthquake and tsunami sent three reactors at the Fukushima atomic plant into meltdown in 2011.

However, resource-poor Japan now wants to revive atomic energy to reduce its reliance on

fossil fuels, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and meet growing energy needs from artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has voiced support for the energy source.

Fourteen reactors, mostly in western and southern Japan, have resumed operation since the post-Fukushima shutdown under strict safety rules, with 13 running as of mid January.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa is the first TEPCO-run unit to restart

since 2011. The company also operates the stricken Fukushima Daiichi plant, now being decommissioned.

Nearly 15 years after the disaster, "the situation is still not under control in Fukushima, and TEPCO wants to revive a plant? For me, that's absolutely unacceptable", said Keisuke Abe, an 81-year-old demonstrator.

'Anxious and fearful'

The vast Kashiwazaki-Kariwa complex has been fitted with

a 15-metre-high (50-foot) tsunami wall, elevated emergency power systems and other safety upgrades.

However, residents raised concerns about the risk of a serious accident, citing frequent cover-up scandals, minor accidents and evacuation plans they say are inadequate.

"I think it's impossible to evacuate in an emergency," Chie Takakuwa, a 79-year-old resident of Kariwa, told AFP.

On January 8, seven groups opposing the restart submitted a petition signed by nearly 40,000 people to TEPCO and Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority.

The petition said the plant sits on an active seismic fault zone and noted it was struck by a strong quake in 2007.

"We can't remove the fear of being hit by another unforeseen earthquake," it said.

"Making many people anxious and fearful so as to send electricity to Tokyo... is intolerable."

Before the 2011 disaster -- which killed around 18,000 people -- nuclear power generated about a third of Japan's electricity.

String of scandals

Japan's nuclear industry has also faced a string of scandals and incidents in recent weeks, including data falsification by Chubu Electric Power to underestimate seismic risks.

At Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, TEPCO

said Saturday that an alarm system failed during a test.

"Safety is an ongoing process, which means operators involved in nuclear power must never be arrogant or overconfident," TEPCO President Tomoaki Kobayakawa said in an interview with the Asahi daily newspaper.

Japan is the world's fifth-largest single-country emitter of carbon dioxide after China, the United States, India and Russia, and is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels.

Nearly 70 percent of its electricity in 2023 came from coal, gas and oil -- a share Tokyo wants to slash to 30-40 percent over the next 15 years as it expands renewable energy and nuclear power.



Nuclear energy produces large amounts of electricity with very low greenhouse gas emissions--over its full life cycle, its carbon footprint is comparable to wind power and lower than that of solar energy.

Bahrain International Airport Conducts Emergency Evacuation Drill



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) successfully organized a partial evacuation exercise at Bahrain International Airport to test emergency readiness. Conducted in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority, the drill aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of evacuation plans and the speed of response teams. The exercise involved staff from BAC and Gulf Air Group, along with strategic partners including the Airport Police, Customs, and the National Disaster Management Committee. This simulated scenario allowed officials to refine communication protocols and operational procedures under emergency conditions. Mr. Mohammed Yousif Al Sayed, Deputy CEO at BAC, stated that passenger and staff safety is the airport's top priority.

Minister of Youth Affairs Celebrates "Bal Bahraini" Program Success



Minister of Youth Affairs, Her Excellency Ms. Rawan bint Najib Tawfiqi, attended the closing ceremony of the "Bal Bahraini" program at Al Baraha Market. She emphasized that preserving national identity and Bahraini traditions is a core priority in developing a conscious and proud youth generation. Across three editions, the program has graduated 80 young participants, focusing on reviving authentic Bahraini vocabulary and cultural heritage. Organized in collaboration with the National Plan "Our Bahrain," the initiative included workshops on folklore and national values to ensure these traditions reach future generations. During the event, the Minister toured interactive stations and honored the participants, praising the high quality of their projects and their commitment to the Kingdom's cultural roots.

Manama Celebrates Designation as "Capital of Arab Young Entrepreneurs"



The "Manama, Capital of Arab Young Entrepreneurs 2026" initiative officially launched with high-level sessions on innovation at the Sheraton Hotel. Capital Governor, His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, led the event, praising His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his vision in empowering youth and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship in Bahrain. The opening day featured two panel discussions. The first, "Global Brands," focused on scaling businesses internationally, while the second, "Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship," explored how AI is reshaping the business landscape. Both sessions included prominent CEOs and regional business leaders. The Governor concluded the day by honoring sponsors Kuwait Finance House and GFH Financial Group.

Bahrain's Anti-Money Laundering Committee Reviews FATF Compliance



Her Excellency Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, CEO of the National Financial Investigations Center, chaired the seventh meeting of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Committee on January 21, 2026. The session focused on Bahrain's progress in the mutual evaluation process conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and MENAFTF. The committee reviewed recommendations from technical compliance teams and updated national risk assessments concerning money laundering, terrorist financing, and the financing of arms proliferation. This meeting underscores Bahrain's dedication to upholding international financial standards and enhancing institutional mechanisms to combat financial crimes.

Northern Municipal Council Delegation Visits King Fahd Causeway



A delegation from the Northern Region Municipal Council, led by Chairman Dr. Sayed Shabbar Ibrahim Al-Wadaei, visited the King Fahd Causeway Directorate to enhance coordination with government agencies. The visit aimed to strengthen community partnerships and review the vital operations managed at the border. The tour covered several key stations, including the Coast Guard, Passport Department, Customs, Traffic, and Civil Defense. Officials briefed the delegation on the mechanisms used to organize passenger traffic and ensure public safety. During the visit, council members suggested incorporating educational presentations from these departments into the Council's "Hayyakum" social program to better inform the public. The visit concluded with the Municipal Council presenting a commemorative shield to the King Fahd Causeway Authority.

Indian School Celebrates Tamil Day with Cultural Splendor



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Tamil Day with a magnificent display of cultural and literary events, highlighting the rich heritage of the Tamil language. The celebrations commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp by ISB Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian, in the presence of Principal VR Palaniswamy and Vice-Principal G. Sathesh. The event featured a serene devotional prayer followed by captivating classical and folk dance performances. A major highlight was the thematic parade, which visually narrated the traditions of Tamil culture. Various literary competitions were held, with top honors secured by Tejaswini Nachiappan (Poem Recitation), Uma Eswari (Elocution), and Nithika Ashok (Essay Writing). Other first-place winners included Gracelyn Vinesh, Benima Rajan, Azmina Mazel, and Vardini Jayaprakash.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ABU NIMAT ALLAH HAIR DRESSING SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39200496 or manshad079@gmail.com

Oasis Delmon Steel Fabrication & Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36646766 or DAIREX1@HOTMAIL.COM

ANAM SHAHZAD TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36550247 or KINGKHAN.SHAH2022@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

Golden Diyar construction has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530670 or HWBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

Fuji Electric Co Ltd- Foreign Branch has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564569 or dhanya.anup@tujielectric.com

SHADAB MENS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33627526 or SALMAN.MINHAS005@GMAIL.COM

Al Helli Supermarket B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

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

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Infinity Ships services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW), GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39395775 or Infinitiservicesbh@GMAIL.COM

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AZAAN LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33899083 or AZANSHAKEELBHATTI@GMAIL.COM

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ROYAL BAHRAIN HOSPITAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or hussain.alali@royalbhrn.com

EWAN ALBAHRAIN FOR CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255525 or admin@ewanalbahrain.com

SILVER CITY CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38826888 or SILVERCITYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

GARAGE GOLDEN SAND LINE has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36638117 or ALIAALMAHARI08@GMAIL.COM

ALMARZOOK BAKERY COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77003755 or ANIL.R.NATH@GMAIL.COM

OG MANI SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32289514 or OGMMA-NILL@GMAIL.COM

HASIM MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66655327 or AQEEL603@GMAIL.COM

KHALS NY FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTION CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36059040 or BMP-MC2015@GMAIL.COM

SHY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39108419 or MURAD-KHOKAN8801@GMAIL.COM

GULF ART FOR FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35195825 or ESSAALHOMAIDI1994@GMAIL.COM

ELIAS FLOWRS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17676064 or ELISFLOWERS@HOTMAIL.COM

National Readymix Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or pro@nccbrain.com

PRISM INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33910047 or INFO@PRISMWLL.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batoco.net

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hrd1@macbh.com

al emma house for security services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

PACIFIC COAST CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500126 or consultancybahrain1@gmail.com

ABDUL SALAM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINTER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33877297 or QNAEEM-SHAHZAD9@GMAIL.COM

BANT ALDERA GYPSON CARVINS CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(BUILDING DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17791783 or aljmaa1@gmail.com

IKRA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of DISH WASHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33680869 or AL12NID@GMAIL.COM

MSS BUSINESS SOLUTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT ADMIN AFFAIRS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270764 or HICPAK@GMAIL.COM

ALMALLAS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35917512 or ANA-BI67M@GMAIL.COM

FORTY TWO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33726663 or DOCUMENTBHA9@GMAIL.COM

BU MARIAM Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33273016 or ASHFOQRAZA29@GMAIL.COM

COYOTE TRANSLATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TRANSLATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33360666 or ALQANOON@GMAIL.COM

MAMA LOVE BOUTIQUE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39236679 or mamaloveboutique@yahoo.com

ABU HASHIM REPAIR OF ELECTRONIC W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35563190 or UMAR04372@GMAIL.COM

ATTAA KHAN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66602131 or FKHANKHAN314@GMAIL.COM

EAST RIDGE CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39841074 or AZIZJU-GMAIL.COM

MA961@GMAIL.COM

KHANDAKER SUPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35434910 or ALI.BH8712@GMAIL.COM

KASHI BALWAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33264595 or MUHAMMADNADEEMTARIQ@GMAIL.COM

AL ANJOM AL ZAHERA FOR CLEENING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33795726 or SAMINAYASMEEN.BH@GMAIL.COM

AERO COOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38825111 or mohammed.fatee.94@gmail.com

red mountain restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38818851 or ALI.2011@LIVE.COM

CITY GLASSES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GLAZIER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874492 or cityaser@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

MEDIA SOLUTIONS ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217003 or VINEETH@MEDIASOLUTIONS.COM.BH

ALMUTRED CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39578681 or FRONTLINE.CONST01@GMAIL.COM

GATEAU TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33018641 or mksranya@gmail.com

GREY WILD SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33751947 or ZAKIR-KASHMIRI.ZK512@GMAIL.COM

Ansar Gallery W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BUTCHER (ANIMALS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140000 or PR@AG-BH.COM

YASMEEN HABIB CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33145634 or BESTGUIDELINE53@GMAIL.COM

ALDAAYSI DISTRIBUTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783399 or hr@aldaaysiholding.com

DEXOOM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007661 or IJAZA-ROOMA@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN STAR AUTO SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34102814 or ABWMAJDSLH@GMAIL.COM

ARAFAH CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39800990 or ABUHATAM2001@HOTMAIL.COM

AMIR ZAID ELECTRONICS AND HOUSE HOLD EQUIPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77020330 or FREE-WTS@GMAIL.COM

MANGROVE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39633019 or PASHA@KCBHRAIN.COM

SPEEDY ADVICE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33422370 or AWAISCH333@HOTMAIL.COM

GLOBAL COMPOSITES TECHNOLOGIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW),GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39321308 or SAJEEV.SURYA@GMAIL.COM

BIZNEX CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36521883 or DOCBAHRAIN1@GMAIL.COM

COYOTE MARKETING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.121989@GMAIL.COM

MUNASABAT AND SAYQ WEB OPERATION AND DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33243003 or ADMIN@SAYQ.APP

SITARA GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39937733 or hajinaik7@gmail.com

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

CHAUDHARY SHAHZAD CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33897183 or CHSHAHZA-DANJAM4@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

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

SANA REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE OF SHIPS has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39262606 or MMONURAD@BATEL-CO.COM.BH

SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW),GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697979 or hr@7hills-group.com

NOUR ALTAQWA CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36873285 or BAS-SAALNAIMAT@GMAIL.COM

ASIAN FLAVOURS RESTAURANTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17253030 or MOTOROX17@GMAIL.COM

MR. CLEAR LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66301366 or RAJENDRAKUMARNAIR@YAHOO.COM

ARIZ RESTAURANTS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33783358 or ARIZRESTAURANT7@GMAIL.COM

BUN AND CRUNCH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892588 or WALEED123921@GMAIL.COM

BUN AND CRUNCH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892588 or WALEED123921@GMAIL.COM

NEW ISLAND CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39287383 or account@nichb.com

THUMP SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38914200 or DEVANT-KL@GMAIL.COM

SALKO MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13105727 or PKD-SALEEM06@GMAIL.COM

MAHBEER COMPUTER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN-(COMPUTER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34018910 or TABMECHANICAL@GAMIL.COM

KOREAN BAKERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17587666 or FAISAL@ALIREZA.BH

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

VOLTAMP ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ELECTRICIAN/WIREMAN), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32152428 or voltampelectrical2018@gmail.com

Veolia Energy Gulf W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16639400 or MOHAMED.ELFAYOUMY@VEOLIA.COM

NIKAPOL EXPRESS CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13112414 or ops.team@nikapol-express.com

LAS TUNAS TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34620626 or las-tunastradingbh@gmail.com

SALMA BEAUTY SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34211668 or SALMASALOON@GMAIL.COM

TASHYED HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729395 or mannai.hr@mannaithrading.com

AFAQ RIAZ SCRAP METAL GOODS RE-EXPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38715532 or RRANG266@GMAIL.COM

EYELINER AND LIPSTICK SALOON CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38168555 or KARIMAHAMADI.SALOON@GMAIL.COM

RUDRAKSH SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

STAR DAR AL HIKMA GARAGE WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1728049 or TAHIRHAMEED57@HOTMAIL.COM

RUDRAKSH SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

RASHID REPAIRING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-TEANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35109067 or RASHIDNA-ZEER36@GMAIL.COM

ABU NASIR STYLISH SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33801352 or aleemashgar577@gmail.com

ISA ALAMDAR E. ZAINAL / JABAL AL-NOOR-9608 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675062 or ZAINAL.ESSA@GMAIL.COM

CARAVAN JUICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34664669 or CARAVANJUICES@OUTLOOK.COM

BOLDEBEAM EVENTS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

SAHIL MUMTAZ FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33070461 or MIFTIKHAR087@GMAIL.COM

AL REHMANI BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36311262 or YASEENAN-MOL3145@GMAIL.COM

SAHAB GEE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33243186 or ADNAN-JATTI14@GMAIL.COM

BOUTIQUE 1994 & MORE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39401094 or 1994BOUTIQUE.BH@GMAIL.COM

Planet Donut and Bakery W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715021 or HELLO@WOOHOLDINGS.COM

ALJO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

MEGAN REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33400113 or KA2MR1910@GMAIL.COM

MILEAGE AUTO SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a

vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/ CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39407232 or THEMALIKBH@GMAIL.COM

NEON PRINTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PRINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33075013 or LOL-WAALTHANI445@GMAIL.COM

CHAUDHARY NAWAZ SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-TEANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66997355 or HAFIZSAHIBY@GMAIL.COM

ON POINT CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36390606 or INFO@ONPOINTBH.COM

GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345150 or raihan@gtcbah.com

THE M SUITE has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444614 or IMAGINATION-WORLD@LIVE.COM

WOOD CREATIVE CARPENTRY & WELDING WORK has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36527730 or MONAZOWAYED@GMAIL.COM

SALOON WAQAS BHAI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35957974 or SWAQAS-BHAI@GMAIL.COM

HORIZON FLASH SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PRESS MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35350765 or SAQALAIN00723@GMAIL.COM

ALRAYES express contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77902525 or MD.AFSAR.7639@GMAIL.COM

SPACEMAKER MANUFACTURERS OF PORTABLE CABINS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1728144 or Employment@hasanmansouri.com

BFG INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39651165 or Taghrid.wanous@BFGINTERNATIONAL.COM

KARAK MKSHAT 2 has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34392729 or HH2142285@GMAIL.COM

SATYAM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33317271 or INFO@SATYAMBH.COM

LA BELLA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36464632 or SAJIDAALSHAXANI@GMAIL.COM

SILVER ROSE SPA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39383833 or A_ALYOUSHA@HOTMAIL.COM

SWG SOUQ W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33345787 or CYBER415@GMAIL.COM

DELMON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224000 or HR@DELMONHOTEL.COM

INTERIOR SOLUTIONS COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or hamida.alhubeil@havelockone.com

WAIZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38099089 or DIRECTOR@COLOSSIANGROUP.COM

PREEMINENCE PROPERTIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36880843 or E.BRA5058@YAHOO.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732303 or CORP@DADABAI.COM

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

BAIT ALZAEER RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36355565 or ALZAYER.84@GMAIL.COM

LUCKY 9 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33242404 or LUCKY9CONT@GMAIL.COM

NATHY MODHAPI & ALMANDI RESTAURANT CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39063200 or WALEED200@LIVE.COM

Javed Airconditioners Parts WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17002839 or JAVEDSARDAR248@YAHOO.COM

MEN CARE SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34240108 or M.A@GLOBACAPITEUSCONSULTING.COM

ZIA ELECTRIC. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39450463 or PALACE.ELECTRONICS@GMAIL.COM

WAID ALZAER RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36355565 or ALZAYER.84@GMAIL.COM

LUCKY 9 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33242404 or LUCKY9CONT@GMAIL.COM

NATHY MODHAPI & ALMANDI RESTAURANT CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39246745 or zutoi.bah@gmail.com

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR

ADEL KADHEM HASAN ALFARSAHI has a vacancy for the occupation of LIVESTOCK FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39331838 or ELFARSAHI-2007@HOTMAIL.COM

FRESH TO HOME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FISH CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32080171 or JERRYFAITH11@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD NAVEED KHAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35981541 or ZAIDCONSULTANCY613@GMAIL.COM

DUST BUNNY CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-PACKER-(BOXES-HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

Oriental Pearl Cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923239 or FATIMA_ALSELAITI@HOTMAIL.COM

HAWAZEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66359633 or AB-DULLAEBRAHIMHASAN@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888866 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMFIELD.COM

ABSR ALUMINIUM WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77082553 or MD.AFSAR.7639@GMAIL.COM

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33262425 or shamsclearing@yahoo.com

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-TEANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAJIMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

ALBISHARA LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34059598 or BUABDULAZIZFRIHAT@GMAIL.COM

GREEN WELDING WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34489050 or UMAIR-GULZAR581@GMAIL.COM

NOSHAI COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34489050 or UMAIR-GULZAR581@GMAIL.COM

JUMBO GOLDSMITHS has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17322425 or shamsclearing@yahoo.com

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-TEANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

CHICKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35114403 or DPASIF@YAHOO.COM

RAJPOT TOYS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888023 or CHSHAFIQ581@GMAIL.COM

FOOD WORLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66677333 or FOODWORD.WLL@GMAIL.COM

HADEEL ALREEF CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3941622 or SM_77S@HOTMAIL.COM

GOAL MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38141004 or JAHAN-ZAIB-RIAZ@OUTLOOK.COM

ASSIRA GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34170035 or ADILLINE00@GMAIL.COM

EMERALD RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33889759 or HUSSAINALBANAY1982@GMAIL.COM

SHOAID GLASS AND ALUMINIUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34024107 or SHAID-RAHIM96@GMAIL.COM

ARGAN DAY SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39818998 or HUS-SAIN1897@GMAIL.COM

CODESLOOK IT CONSULTATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-SALES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240566 or WAQASLILLAH@GMAIL.COM

ARGAN DAY SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39818998 or HUS-SAIN1897@GMAIL.COM

PARSAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33153139 or SAMIUL-LAH5896@GMAIL.COM

ALNOORAIN BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or UMZAAL1975@GMAIL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCS@MCSCWLL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCS@MCSCWLL.COM

NASHTA POINT RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892638 or zobiajutt306@gmail.com

AWAL GULF MANUFACTURING CO. (UNDER REORGANIZATION) B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17738333 or khalid@awalg

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE
CONTINUED

National Readymix Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or pro@nccbahraim.com

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

VIP TIME MANPOWER RECRUITING AGENCY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33881808 or ALHALWAKIM@GMAIL.COM

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Man City humiliated, holders PSG stumble, Arsenal remain perfect

Champions League drama as underdogs shine and giants stumble



Arsenal's Brazilian striker #09 Gabriel Jesus (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal



Real Madrid's French forward #10 Kylian Mbappe scores his team's second goal

Manchester City shocked 3-1 by Bodo/Glimt in Norway

PSG lose 2-1 to Sporting Lisbon

Mbappe sparks Madrid revival

Spurs boost knockout hopes

AFP | Paris

Manchester City were on the wrong side of one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history on Tuesday, while holders Paris Saint-Germain also stumbled but Gabriel Jesus helped keep Arsenal perfect.

Pep Guardiola's Man City arrived in chilly Norway for their seventh and penultimate league-phase match against modest Bodo/Glimt as hot favourites.

But they came unstuck in the freezing conditions at the stadium 200km north of the Arctic Circle, losing 3-1.

Meanwhile, PSG have work to do to ensure direct qualification to the last 16 next week after being caught out late in Portugal.

Luis Suarez struck twice for

I always dreamed of being a footballer. I watched when I was a kid. I watched a lot of Serie A, so to be here in this stadium and score here is tears in my eyes because I always dreamed of being here

GABRIEL JESUS

Sporting Lisbon in the second half, sealing victory with a 90th-minute header after substitute Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had equalised for PSG after 79 minutes.

The French club dropped to fifth with a home date against Newcastle in their last group stage fixture.

While the top eight secure direct entry to the last 16, teams placed ninth to 24th must navigate an additional two-legged play-off to join them.

Next week the league phase comes to a dramatic denouement with all 18 matches kicking off at the same time.

Real, under new coach Alvaro Arbeloa, produced a dazzling attacking display to help fans forget recent disappointments.

Kylian Mbappe struck twice against his former side and Vinicius Junior -- jeered by his own

fans during a home win over Levante last weekend -- scored a brilliant goal to lift the record 15-time European champions from seventh to second behind unstoppable Arsenal.

Jesus was on cloud nine after two close-range finishes in the first half to help guarantee the Gunners a top eight finish.

"It's a dream night," said the 28-year-old.

"I always dreamed of being a footballer. I watched when I was a kid. I watched a lot of Serie A, so to be here in this stadium and score here is tears in my eyes because I always dreamed of being here."

Arsenal's joy in Italy contrasted with despondency in Norway for Premier League heavyweights Man City.

Kasper Høgh's first half-brace and a second half strike from Jens Petter Hauge at the ecstatic Aspmyra Stadion triggered a seismic upset.

Rayan Cherki replied after Hauge's goal, but Rodri's dismissal for two bookings left City in tatters and facing a long trip home.

While the pitch may have been

Manchester City's defeat took place 200km north of the Arctic Circle at the Aspmyra Stadion, where the freezing conditions and artificial pitch helped Bodo/Glimt secure their first-ever group stage victory

artificial there was nothing false about the result, Bodo/Glimt's first group stage win which gave them hope of making the play-offs.

"Everything has started to be, since the new year, against us in many, many things," said Guardiola.

"I know how good a team Bodo are. I didn't underestimate them. There is not much I know but they reached the semi-final

last season of the Europa League and they were fresh in mind.

Respite for Tottenham

"We arrived in some departments without important players who give consistency to the team. They are a little bit fragile, as they were last season in a certain period.

"How they fought 10 against 11, a lot of players made a step up, but we have to change the dynamic quick for the next game against Wolves and after that for the last game against Galatasaray."

Elsewhere there was some much needed respite for under-fire Tottenham boss Thomas Frank as Spurs beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 to move into automatic qualification territory for the knock-outs.

Copenhagen held Napoli to a 1-1 draw, Olympiacos beat visitors Bayer Leverkusen 2-0, Ajax defeated hosts Villarreal 2-1 and Kairat Almaty were in no danger of registering their first three points of the campaign as the bottom side of the 36-team table were swept aside 4-1 by Club Brugge.

Osaka says 'I'm a little strange' after Melbourne fashion statement

AFP | Melbourne

Naomi Osaka says she is "a little strange" but doesn't care after an audacious jellyfish-inspired fashion statement at the Australian Open went viral.

The Japanese superstar emerged onto Rod Laver Arena for her first-round clash on Tuesday carrying a white parasol with matching wide-brimmed hat and long gauzy veil.

It was complemented by sleeveless turquoise dress over pleated white trousers.

"Honestly, I realise I'm a little strange because I don't really think I care," the four-time Grand Slam winner said in response to her outfit.

"For me, I just feel like I want to do things that create joy and happiness."

"For me, obviously I really love fashion. That makes me excited to wake up and do the



Japan's Naomi Osaka arrives to face Croatia's Antonia Ruzic

whole, like, walk-on or whatever. It just creates a little bit more joy in that whole match preparation."

Almost at the same time Osaka walked on court, Vogue magazine ran an interview with her

where she explained what it called her "exoskeletal look".

Before Osaka, the legendary Serena Williams famously combined tennis with fashion, with her sister Venus and Russian Maria Sharapova also well

I grew up with the GOATs of style -- Serena, Venus, Sharapova. I think it all comes down to personality, too. I don't expect someone that's really reserved to freaking put a veil on their head and go out and play their match.

NAOMI OSAKA

"But I think people, I don't know, you see bits of personality."

Osaka, who grew up primarily in the United States, attributed her interest in fashion to when she first went to Japan as a 13-year-old and "it felt like people could be themselves with their clothes".

While bold when it comes to her clothes, the 28-year-old is the first to admit she is shy off court.

"I feel like when I step on the court, I'm not the me that you're talking to right now," she told reporters.

"I almost feel like I'm a Barbie that dresses up and goes on the court and does something."

"When I come back in the locker room is when I'm like my true quiet Naomi."

Alcaraz, Sabalenka, Gauff surge into Australian Open third round

Carlos Alcaraz fends off heavy hitting as top women seeds secure clinical second-round victories

● Alcaraz survives Hanfmann challenge

● Sabalenka drops just nine games

● Gauff delivers near-perfect display

● Medvedev fights through four sets

AFP | Melbourne

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz fended off a series of "bombs" before surging into the Australian Open third round yesterday, where he was joined by Aryna Sabalenka and a near-flawless Coco Gauff.

Three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev needed four sets to keep his Grand Slam dream on track at a cooler Melbourne Park after days of hot weather.

Alexander Zverev, the third seed well beaten in last year's final by Jannik Sinner, also went through in four sets.

Spanish superstar Alcaraz came through 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena against hard-hitting German Yannick Hanfmann to take another step towards a career Grand Slam.

But the 22-year-old was put through his paces by a player 12 years older before setting up a showdown with France's Corentin Moutet.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return against Germany's Yannick Hanfmann

"To be honest, it was tougher than I thought at the beginning," said Alcaraz, who already has six major titles but has never gone past the last eight in Melbourne.

"I didn't feel the ball that good. You know, the ball was coming as a bomb, forehand and backhand."

If Alcaraz does win the Australian Open to complete the career Grand Slam of all four majors, he would be the youngest man to do so, surpassing compatriot Rafael Nadal, who was 24 when he achieved that feat.

The unpredictable Medvedev, runner-up in 2021, 2022 and 2024, is trying to keep his emotions in check this year and was on his best behaviour against Frenchman Quentin Halys.

He lost a tight first set but the result was never in doubt as he surged to the finish line 6-7 (9/11), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

"It was a very tough match, happy I managed to fight," said the Russian, who faces Fabian Marozsan of Hungary next.

American Tommy Paul, Argentine duo Francisco Cerundolo and Tomas Etcheverry, Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina and Russian Andrey Rublev also safely negotiated the second round.

Heavy rain fell late in the evening, delaying Zverev's match against France's Alexandre Muller for more than 30 minutes.

The break failed to derail the German's victory charge, which resumed under a closed roof, as he won 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Zverev, who faces Britain's Cameron Norrie in the third round, needed physio treatment for what appeared to be a lower leg injury.

Fokina and Russian Andrey Rublev also safely negotiated the second round.

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Alcaraz described his opponent Yannick Hanfmann's powerful shots as "bombs," saying the ball was coming at him like a bomb from both the forehand and backhand during a tougher-than-expected first set

"I took a painkiller and it was fine after that," said Zverev, who is still searching for a maiden major aged 28.

Great home hope Alex de Minaur, the sixth seed, dropped the first set to Hamad Medjedovic of Serbia but fought back to go through in four sets.

'Near perfect'

World number one Sabalenka started in imperious mood.

The four-time major winner raced into a 5-0 lead over qualifier Bai Zhuoxuan, ranked a lowly 702, on centre court before wobbling to give the Chinese player a glimmer of hope.

But the top seed quickly snuffed it out to race home 6-3, 6-1 and set up a clash next with Russian-born Anastasia Pota-

pova, now representing Austria, who dispatched 2021 US Open champion Emma Raducanu.

"Super-happy to close the (first) set, it gives me confidence that my game is there, my focus is there," said Sabalenka, who is bidding for a third Australian Open title in four years.

"Step by step. Super-happy with my win. There is always a little gap to improve."

Sabalenka has dropped just nine games so far as she looks to make amends for her upset in last year's final to Madison Keys.

Third seed Gauff was clinical against Serbia's Olga Danilovic, who ended Venus Williams's tournament in round one.

The two-time major winner took just 78 minutes to race home 6-2, 6-2 on Margaret Court Arena.

It set up a showdown next against fellow American Hailey Baptiste, ranked 70, who downed home hope Storm Hunter in straight sets.

"Near perfect," said Gauff, whose best performance in Melbourne was a semi-final in 2024.

Ukrainian 12th seed Elina Svitolina, Turkish prospect Zeynep Sonmez and in-form Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko also won on day four, all sweeping past their opponents in straight sets.

Mirra Andreeva, the 18-year-old Russian sensation, underlined her talent with an impressive 6-0, 6-4 victory over Maria Sakkari of Greece.

Audi unveil new car for 2026 Formula One season

AFP | Berlin

German manufacturer Audi, which will make its Formula One debut this season after acquiring the Sauber team, unveiled its first-ever single-seater on Tuesday and declared its ambition to "win championships by 2030".

The livery of the car, named the Audi R26, features a predominantly grey colour scheme and displays the four rings of the German brand's logo in red on its rear wing and was designed to be "the most elegant and striking on the grid."

Last year's Sauber drivers Nico Huelkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto will remain at the team in 2026 following the rebranding.

"The 2026 regulations creat-



The Audi Revolut F1 car is presented ahead of its entry into the 2026 Formula One season

the perfect moment to enter Formula 1," said Italian Mattia Binotto, the project's chief.

Team principal Jonathan

Wheatley added: "This car is the physical embodiment of thousands of hours of hard work from a hugely talented group of

people across our facilities.

"Today, we start this journey with immense pride, but also with humility. This is just day one of a long campaign. Our mission is to embed a championship DNA into every fibre of this team."

"A culture of resilience, precision, and relentless curiosity where we stop at nothing to find performance. For everyone here, the excitement comes from this challenge: to build a team that gets stronger with every lap, every debrief, and every race. We will turn our long-term ambition into on-track reality, day by day, decision by decision."

Like the other ten F1 teams, this new car will make its track debut next week during closed-door tests at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit.

Ukraine's Oliynykova wants Russian, Belarusian players banned from tennis

AFP | Melbourne

Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova has called for world number one Aryna Sabalenka and other Belarusian and Russian players to be banned from tennis, saying their presence was "very wrong" with the conflict ongoing.

The 25-year-old, whose fa-



Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova

ther is fighting on the frontlines, made her Grand Slam debut at the Australian Open on Tuesday, losing to defending champion Madison Keys.

She attended her post-match press conference wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan: "I need your help to protect Ukrainian women and children but I can't talk about

it here."

Under Grand Slam guidelines, players are prohibited from making political statements at competition venues.

But in an interview with the Melbourne Age newspaper she took aim at Russian and Belarusian players, despite them competing under a neutral white flag as independents.

Barca's Ter Stegen joins Girona on loan



Barcelona's German coach Hans-Dieter Flick (R) and Barcelona's German goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen speak before a match (file photo)

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has joined Girona on loan until the end of the season, both clubs confirmed Tuesday.

Germany international Ter Stegen has fallen behind Joan Garcia and Wojciech Szczesny in the pecking order at Barca.

With the 2026 World Cup on the horizon the 33-year-old stopper needs to play regularly to make his case to start for Germany at the tournament.

"Today is my last day this

season with my team-mates and the staff at Barcelona, and I truly have mixed feelings," wrote Ter Stegen on Instagram.

"So many memories and emotions are running through me right now. For nearly 12 years this club and especially this locker room, has been my home."

Barca coach Hansi Flick had confirmed the news earlier in a news conference ahead of the team's Champions League clash at Slavia Prague yesterday.

Asian junior tennis last-16 line-up completed in Bahrain



TDT | Manama

The field for the round of 16 was finalised yesterday at the Asian Tennis Federation Under-14 Championship (Category A – West Asia), as the round of 32 concluded with a full day of high-quality matches in the Bahraini capital. The tournament, hosted by the Bahrain Tennis Federation, has attracted a wide range of junior players from across Asia and beyond.

In the boys' singles, Syria's Mohammad Salim delivered an emphatic performance, defeating Jordan's Aouni Qubti in straight sets. India's Puneeth Manohar also advanced comfortably, while Iran's Amir Hassani staged one of the day's most dramatic comebacks, overturning a first-set loss to edge Kuwait's

Mohammad Mohammad in a deciding-set tiebreak. France's Thomas Toussaint also progressed after a hard-fought three-set win over Singapore's Noah Tsukakoshi.

The girls' singles saw Iran's Sagra Salikivar continue her strong run with a dominant victory over Kyrgyzstan's Sofia Satykeeva, while India's Shafzia Wania moved into the last 16 with a solid win against Kazakhstan's Nurzhanova. Indonesia's Aubrey Kader came through a testing three-set encounter, and Iran's A. Mohammadian advanced with a commanding straight-sets result.

With the round of 32 complete, attention now shifts to the knockout stages, where competition is expected to intensify as the remaining players battle for places in the quarter-finals.

Raducanu to 're-evaluate' after flat Australian Open exit

AFP | Melbourne

Emma Raducanu said she will sit down to "re-evaluate" her game following a flat second-round exit at the Australian Open yesterday.

The Briton won a stunning US Open crown as a teenage qualifier in 2021 but has not clinched a tour title since and has struggled for consistency and fitness.

Her latest disappointment came with a sluggish 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 loss to Austria's Russia-born Anastasia Potapova at Melbourne Park.

The 28th seed Raducanu missed the chance to test herself against world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the third round.

Raducanu admitted that she never felt comfortable on court against the 55th-ranked Potapova, despite being ahead 5-3 in the first set.

"Just one of those days you don't feel too good on the court," said the 23-year-old, who has been managing a foot injury.



Emma Raducanu in action

Raducanu has had a low-key start to the year, bowing out in the quarter-finals of a warm-up tournament in a surprise straight-sets loss to 204th-ranked Taylah Preston.

She also suffered defeat in her only singles match at the United Cup this month.

"I don't want to give myself too much of a hard time because I know my preparation going into this tournament," she said.

"I kind of have to leave with my head held high because of the matches I've had here."

Flawless opening lifts Bahrain's confidence

Nationals begin main round against UAE in Asian Handball Championship

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain begin their main round campaign at the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship today with a Group II opener against the United Arab Emirates. Throw-off is set for 2 pm at the Saad Al-Abdullah Hall in Kuwait City.

Confidence is high within the Bahraini camp after a commanding passage through the preliminary stage. The nationals completed a perfect Group B run, opening with a convincing 32-21 win over Jordan before overpowering China 40-29 in their second outing. They then closed the preliminary round yesterday with a dominant 34-18 victory over Iraq, sealing top spot and underlining their growing momentum in the competition.

Against Iraq, Bahrain asserted control early and never loosened their grip. They built a seven-goal cushion by halftime and continued to dictate the tempo after the break. Goalkeeper Hesham Issa was instrumental in the rout and was deservedly named Best Player of the Match for his assured display between



Swedish head coach Robert Hedin urges players from sidelines

the posts.

Bahrain's attacking depth has been just as impressive. Jassim

Khamis led the scoring against

Iraq with eight goals and remains one of the team's key dangers.

He has been well supported by Salman Alshoaih, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mohammed Rabea, and Abdulla Abdulkarim, with contributions coming from across the squad, reflecting the balance and versatility within Robert Hedin's side.

Today's opponents, the UAE, progressed from Group C after mixed results in the preliminary phase.

The Emiratis opened with emphatic wins over Hong Kong (36-21) and India (43-21), showing their attacking potential, before falling 27-22 to hosts Kuwait in their final group match.

The Bahrainis will then face Qatar tomorrow at 2pm before closing the group on Sunday with a 4pm encounter against Saudi Arabia.

With semi-final places and qualification for the 2027 IHF Men's Handball World Championship at stake, the intensity is set to rise sharply. The preliminary rounds have laid a strong foundation, but the main round now represents the phase where Bahrain's title ambitions will truly be put to the test.

Seeded players advance as Bahrain Women's Open reaches last 16

TDT | Manama

The round of 32 at the Bahrain Women's Open Tennis Championship produced a series of hard-fought matches on Tuesday, with seeded players largely holding their ground alongside several eye-catching performances from emerging names. The tournament is being hosted by the Bahrain Tennis Federation at the Public Security Officers Club courts and is listed on the International Tennis Federation calendar.

American Claire Liu opened her campaign with a three-set win over Andorra's Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva, while Slovakia's Viktoriia Hruncakova advanced comfortably.



France's Fiona Ferro, coming through qualifying, underlined her form with a straight-sets victory, as seventh seed Ekaterine Gorgodze of Georgia also

progressed after a tight contest. Third seed Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands moved safely into the last 16, surviving a stern test, while several other seeded players including Japan's Mai Hontama, France's eighth seed Carole Monnet, and sixth seed Jessica Ponchet booked their places with convincing wins. There were also notable three-set battles, highlighting the depth of competition on display.

With the completion of the round of 32, the tournament now turns its focus to the last 16, where closer margins and heightened intensity are expected as players continue their push for the Bahrain Women's Open title.

Medvedev says no plan to renounce Russian nationality amid war

AFP | Melbourne

Grand Slam champion Daniil Medvedev said yesterday he had no plans to follow a host of fellow Russian players and switch his nationality amid the war in Ukraine.

Since Moscow's invasion in February 2022, a number of Russian players have distanced themselves from their homeland.

Former world number eight Daria Kasatkina, now ranked 43, changed allegiance to Australia last March having criticised



Daniil Medvedev reacts after his victory against Quentin Halys

Russia's attitude towards LGBTQ people.

She also described the conflict as a "nightmare".

More recently, Anastasia Potapova announced that her application for Austrian citizenship had been accepted.

But Medvedev, the 2021 US Open winner and Russia's highest-profile player, said he would not be following suit.

"I 100 percent understand and respect, because, you know, that's something you can do basically, especially in sports," he said at the Australian

Open.

"It's even maybe a bit easier than for other people."

"I never really considered this," added the 29-year-old, who was born in Moscow but lives in Monte Carlo.

"Because I believe in where you are born is important."

"But again, a lot of players change, and I'm friends with them. I'm friends with a lot of players in the locker room, so it's their choice."

Russian and Belarusian players currently compete under a neutral white flag.