

Barca chief wants Clásico replay if Yamal 'ghost goal' call wrong

Barcelona president Joan Laporta vows legal action as Barcelona aims to overturn Clásico defeat | P12



High-level talks held to tackle oil tank leak

TDT | Manama

A governmental-parliamentary meeting was held yesterday to address pressing environmental concerns within the Kingdom of Bahrain, notably focusing on the recent oil tank leak in the Sitra area.

Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Oil and Environment, His Excellency Mohammed Mubarak Bin Daina, the meeting saw the participation of distinguished figures, including heads of the Shura and Representatives Councils, members of both chambers' offices, and representatives and members of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee.

The meeting's primary agenda centered on a thorough examination of the developments surrounding the gas leakage incident in one of Bapco's tanks. Stakeholders comprehensively assessed the situation and strategised effective measures to tackle the environmental challenges confronting the kingdom.

Another meeting is scheduled to be held today to delve further into the issue.

This subsequent gathering will bring together representatives alongside a government delegation led by Mr. Bin Daina and the CEO of the Supreme Council for the Environment. (Detailed report on Page 3)

EU relaxes visa rules for Bahrain

London

The EU announced yesterday the relaxation of visa rules for citizens of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Under the new rules, nationals living in these countries will be eligible for multiple-entry visas, allowing them to visit the EU multiple times over a period of five years with the same visa.

Throughout the visa's validity period, holders will enjoy travel privileges equivalent to those of visa-free nationals.

This update aims to standardise visa regulations for all GCC countries whose citizens require visas to access the Schengen Area.

Bahrain affirms support for Palestinian cause

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, underscored the Kingdom of Bahrain's firm stance and support for the Palestinian cause.

HRH Prince Salman also affirmed the Kingdom's unwavering commitment to reaching a peaceful, lasting, and fair solution in support of Palestinians' legitimate right to es-



HRH Prince Salman



Sec. Antony Blinken

establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He outlined the importance of protecting civilian lives and de-escalating violence in Gaza, which threatens regional security and stability.

Telephone call

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister made the statements during a telephone conversation yesterday with the

US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

HRH Prince Salman reviewed the strength of the Bahrain-US partnership, highlighting the importance of bolstering joint coordination to achieve common goals and interests.

Regional and global issues of common interest were also discussed, as well as the latest developments in the Middle East, including the situation in the Gaza Strip.

Resignation shock

Israel's military intelligence chief steps down over Hamas attack blunders

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel's military intelligence chief has resigned after taking responsibility for failures leading to the Hamas attack on October 7, the military said yesterday, as Israel carried out more shelling in war-battered Gaza.

Major General Aharon Haliva is the first top Israeli official to step down for failing to prevent the Hamas attack, which triggered the Gaza war now in its seventh month, and brought intense scrutiny to Israel's government and military.

"The intelligence division under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with," Haliva said in his resignation letter. "I carry that black day with me ever since."

In a sign of the anguish still being felt in Israel, families have been urged to leave an empty seat at tables to represent the hostages being held in Gaza when the Jewish holiday of Passover begins yesterday night.

Israel lashed out at reports that its top ally and military supplier the United States was considering sanctioning the Israeli military's ultra-Orthodox



A pickup truck pulling a cart loaded with mattresses and furniture moves past destroyed buildings in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. (AFP)

Netzah Yehuda battalion over alleged human rights abuses in the West Bank from before the war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said late Sunday that the Israeli military would increase

military pressure to "deliver additional and painful blows" on the Hamas Palestinian militants it is fighting in Gaza.

He has for two months talked of sending troops into Gaza's

southernmost city of Rafah to go after Hamas there.

Israel's allies including Washington have warned against such an operation, fearing a worsening of Gaza's already cata-

strophic humanitarian situation. A majority of Palestinians in Gaza have sought refuge in Rafah from elsewhere in the territory.

Safety measures reviewed in Sitra refinery incident

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet reviewed the procedures taken by concerned authorities in managing the Bapco Refining oil tank leak, in accordance with safety and security standards.

This follows the Cabinet review of a report submitted by the Minister of Oil and Environment during yesterday's weekly session chaired yesterday by the Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, at Gudai-

biya Palace. The Cabinet also reviewed the academic process across several private and public institutions following the temporary period of remote learning. In this regard, the Cabinet directed the Ministry of Education to ensure a smooth, remote learning process.

Outcomes

The Cabinet commended the outcomes of the meeting that took place between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Majesty King Abdullah



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa

II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Cabinet emphasised the importance of HM the King's visit to Jordan in furthering economic cooperation between the two countries.

It underscored the importance of the official talks held between HM the King and Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, noting the outcomes of the visit in bolstering bilateral cooperation across the economic and security sectors, and to further joint coordination in facing current regional challenges.

Flood-related damages

The Cabinet then reviewed achievements following His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives to assess flood-related damages to compensate those affected, identify areas adversely affected by the rainfall, and develop sustainable infrastructural and drainage solutions, in line with best practices.

It reviewed the report submitted by the Minister of Interior, the Chairman of the Civil Defence Council, regarding the efforts of public ministries and entities in responding to the recent heavy rainfall.

Enhancing Bahraini-British ties and cooperation



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Commander of the Royal Guard, received Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, the British Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, United Nations and the Commonwealth. HH Shaikh Nasser lauded the Bahraini-British relations and cooperation in various domains, emphasising the kingdom's commitment to further developing the deep-rooted ties. The two sides discussed cooperation in providing aid to the Gaza Strip. They also reviewed means to enhance cooperation within the framework of bilateral strategic relations, and discussed regional and international issues.

Embracing harmony

Bahrain promotes 'peace, openness and humanitarian initiatives'

TDI | Manama

The Interior Minister, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, has emphasised that Bahrain's approach is based on peace, openness and humanitarian initiatives.

He hailed the support to the initiatives by the royal vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

This came as General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah received yesterday Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, the British Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, United Nations and the Commonwealth.



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah receives Lord Tariq Ahmad

Lieutenant General Tariq Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Interior Ministry Undersecretary, and Alastair Long, the British Ambassador to Bahrain, were present.

Justice and human rights

The Interior Minister noted that the Kingdom has achieved a turning point in reinforcing justice and human

rights, which has contributed to further strengthening social cohesion.

He highlighted the human rights and social accomplishments of the alternative sanctions project and the open prisons programmes, which come within the framework of the Interior Ministry's security and social initiatives and programmes to promote community security.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah lauded the historical ties and robust partnership between Bahrain and the UK, highlighting the mutual commitment to continually develop them.

The meeting reviewed cooperation and coordination to promote joint action and exchange of expertise to address security challenges and promote regional stability.

MP Al-Dhaen: No need for fear and anxiety on oil spill incident



MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen

TDI | Manama

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen yesterday emphasized the Supreme Council for the Environment's resolute commitment to prioritizing air quality, underscoring its pivotal role in environmental preservation.

She highlighted the personal dedication of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, towards

addressing environmental challenges, citing ongoing collaborative efforts.

In a notable meeting chaired by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment, prominent officials including His Excellency Dr. Jalila Al-Sayyed, Minister of Health, and His Excellency Mr. Ghanem bin Fadl Al-Buainain, Minister of Shura and Representatives Council Affairs, convened to discuss recent developments, notably the oil tank leak incident involving the Bapco Refining Company, the MP revealed.

Al-Dhaen commended the Cabinet's proactive approach and its vigilant oversight of measures taken by authorities in addressing the incident in accordance with safety protocols. Assuring public of acceptable air quality standards, she stressed continuous monitoring of air, soil, and water quality for citizens' reassurance.

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Bapco refinery incident under control: Jawahery



MP Mohammed Al Rifaie MP Jameel Mulla Hassan Abdulrahman Jawahery

TDT | Manama

Bapco CEO Abdulrahman Jawahery has assured the public that the situation is now under control after a technical malfunction at its Sitra refinery.

The incident, resulting from exceptional rainfall in Bahrain, led to a leak of naphtha gas from one of the oil tanks.

Jawahery commended the swift response and collaboration among various entities, including the Ministry of Interior, Public Security, Civil Defense, and the Supreme Council for Environment.

He highlighted to Bahrain TV the efforts of Bapco's internal team, Bahraini personnel, and the Civil Defense, who arrived at the scene within minutes and effectively controlled the situation.

The CEO explained that the affected tank contained naphtha, a liquid hydrocarbon substance.

He noted that similar incidents have occurred in other countries, but in this case, the prompt response and collaboration averted a potential fire and minimised environmental impact.

Jawahery expressed his gratitude for the cooperation and professionalism displayed by all involved parties, stating that the situation is now under complete control with the naphtha level in the tank significantly reduced.

Parliamentary meeting

A parliament-government meeting held yesterday discussed the situation and pro-

vided updates to the public on the incident.

MP Mohammed Al Rifaie reported that the meeting confirmed the non-toxic nature of the leaked naphtha gas, although it can cause minor side effects like nausea and suffocation.

He stated that Bapco representatives assured the parliamentarians that the gas is under control and the issue will be resolved by Thursday, with Friday as the latest deadline.

Al Rifaie attributed the odor experienced the previous day to the movement of foam used to control the gas evaporation and prevent its spread in the air.

He emphasised that government agencies, in collaboration with the Council of Representatives, are still investigating the cause of the leak. Additionally, the assessment of damages and losses caused by the leak is ongoing.

Gas odor

MP Jameel Mulla Hassan reassured the parliamentarians during the meeting that the odor of the highly volatile naphtha gas will remain in the air for approximately three days.

However, he emphasised that the situation is entirely under control and the danger phase has passed.

Hassan noted that initial concerns regarding a potential tank explosion or fire did not materialise. However, he cautioned that inhaling a certain amount of the leaked gas can cause eye redness, coughing, shortness of breath, and nausea.

Three drug suspects arrested



TDT | Manama

The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science arrested, in three separate cases, three men and one woman of different nationalities.

More than 2kg of illicit drugs worth around BD25,000 were seized.

They were identified and arrested, and narcotics and drug-making tools were seized after the launch of investigations into the received information. Legal proceedings were taken to refer the cases to the Public Prosecution.

To promote community



The suspects with the evidence

partnership and protect society from drug addiction, the directorate calls upon citizens and residents to report illicit drug complaints through hotline 996. Confidentiality will be protected.

Urgent cyber shield

MPs propose One-Time Password verification to enhance online banking transactions security



TDT | Manama

Five Bahraini lawmakers have submitted an urgent proposal urging the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) to mandate the use of One-Time Password (OTP) verification for all online transactions and restrict them within the account's credit limit.

The proposal, submitted by MPs Khalid Buanaq, Mariam Al-Dhaen, Mohammed Al Ahmed, Zainab Abdulameer, and Mohammed Al Ma'arefi, calls for the CBB to issue directives to all banks and financial institutions, making OTP verification mandatory for all online transactions and preventing their completion without it.

Additionally, the proposal seeks to restrict these transactions within the account's credit limit, further enhancing security measures.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposal highlights the increasing prevalence of online scams, fraud, and theft of smart cards through sophisticated and difficult-to-detect methods. It emphasises the ease with which



MP Khalid Buanaq



MP Mariam Al-Dhaen



MP Mohammed Al Ahmed

stolen cards can be used for online purchases, posing a significant risk to account holders.

Credit limit

The memorandum further stresses the importance of preventing online transactions from exceeding the account's credit limit, minimizing the potential loss in case of card data theft.

It stresses the need for stricter oversight of online transactions and urges the CBB to issue necessary instructions to banks and financial institutions to implement solutions that prevent the growing instances of online



MP Zainab Abdulameer



MP Mohammed Al Ma'arefi

theft and fraud.

The MPs have requested the urgent approval of the proposal, citing the critical

need to enhance online banking security and protect account holders from financial losses.

Labour Ministry to help 250 unemployed Bahraini workers

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

In a glimmer of hope for 250 Bahraini workers facing unemployment, the Ministry of Labour has pledged to intervene and secure job opportunities for the affected individuals.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, an employee revealed that the ministry has assured them of its support in addressing their plight.

Expressing their devastation, the workers recently approached the ministry to lodge a complaint regarding the termination of their employment contracts by a Saudi-based order delivery company.

The employees received notices stating that their contracts were being terminated due to the closure of the company's branch in Bahrain.

According to the company's official letter, the closure of their branch in Bahrain was attributed to financial constraints and the presence of a sister company already operating in the country.

Regret

The missive stated, "We regret to inform you that the company has decided to close its branch in the Kingdom of



MP Hamad Al Doy



MP Jalal Kazem Al-Mahfouz



MP Mohammed Alalaiwi

Bahrain with immediate effect, as it is no longer financially possible for the branch to continue its operations here due to the presence of a sister company that was established and is operating in Bahrain. Pursuant to the provisions of Article No. 110 of the Labor Law, the company has notified indeed, the Ministry of Labor intended to close the branch."

However, the Ministry of Labour has taken swift action in response to the workers' concerns. They have established a specialised team dedicated to assisting the affected individuals in finding suitable alternative employment opportunities that align with their skills and qualifications.

Furthermore, the ministry has committed to providing unem-

ployment compensation to the workers, amounting to 60 per cent of their insured wage, for a period of nine months or until they secure new employment. This support aims to alleviate the financial burden faced by the affected workers during their job search.

Concerns

Reacting to this distressing development, MPs Hamad Al Doy and Jalal Kazem Al-Mahfouz voiced their concerns regarding the plight of the dismissed Bahraini employees.

Both MPs emphasised the urgent need for stricter regulations to prevent companies from exploiting state subsidies, particularly those provided by Tamkeen.

They stressed the impor-

tance of directing Tamkeen's assistance exclusively towards Bahraini-owned companies to address the recurring issue of foreign entities laying off Bahraini workers after the subsidy period concludes.

MP Al-Mahfouz criticised the prevailing trend of layoffs in the private sector, attributing it to the absence of robust policies that guarantee job stability for Bahraini citizens

Severe penalties

He called for severe penalties against companies found to be violating labor regulations, highlighting existing loopholes in support policies that enable exploitation.

Highlighting the alarming situation, another MP Mohammed Alalaiwi noted that the Bahrain branch of the delivery company employed over 90 per cent Bahraini workers across various departments, including operations, retrieval, partner service, and administrative affairs.

Al Alalaiwi expressed concern over the arbitrary dismissals and the financial burden it would impose on the affected workers, many of whom have loans and living expenses. Most of them are young university and high school graduates facing an uncertain future.



The Bahraini workers gather in front of the Ministry of Labour



Rain relief plea

MP's urgent proposal seeks six-month housing installment exemption for homeowners

TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Al Maarafi has submitted an urgent proposal to the government, requesting a six-month exemption from monthly housing installments for beneficiaries affected by the recent heavy rainfall.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposal highlights the need to provide relief to housing beneficiaries who suffered damages due to the torrential rains that struck Bahrain.

The proposal seeks to grant these individuals a six-month grace period on their monthly installments, allowing them to focus on repairing their homes, replacing damaged furniture, and addressing other damages incurred.

The memorandum stresses that many housing projects, particularly newer ones, suffered various damages due to inadequate planning of roads and infrastructure. It holds several government entities, especially the Ministries of Works, Housing, and Urban Planning, accountable for these shortcomings.

The heavy rainfall caused sig-



Heavy flooding caused by torrential rains

nificant damage to homes within housing projects, including water leaks, damaged walls and floors, malfunctioning electrical appliances, power outages, and damaged electrical wiring, posing safety and security concerns.

Financial resources

The proposal argues that exempting affected beneficiaries from their monthly installments would provide them with the necessary financial resources to undertake the necessary repairs and restore their properties to



MP Mohammed Al Maarafi

their original condition.

Furthermore, the exemption would allow them to replace damaged furniture and purchase new items to compensate for their losses.

In light of these circumstances, the proposal urges the government to urgently grant a six-month exemption from monthly housing installments for beneficiaries affected by the recent heavy rainfall, enabling them to repair their homes, replace damaged furniture, and address other damages.

Bahrain offers promising investment opportunity



Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

Bahrain, known for its stable political environment and pro-business policies, is emerging as an attractive investment destination, according to real estate expert Gulnaz Amangeldinova from Glory Real Estate.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Amangeldinova highlighted several factors that make Bahrain an appealing choice for investors.

"For business owners, Bahrain offers tax-free advantages, and the process of establishing a company here takes an average of just two weeks," stated Amangeldinova.

The ease of setting up a business combined with favorable tax policies presents a significant incentive for entrepreneurs seeking to expand their ventures.

"Bahrain is a small country that gives you a luxurious life experience," Amangeldinova added. "To reach any other destination, you need an average of 15 minutes. Each area has schools, restaurants, malls, etc. Life moves slowly compared to big cities (countries)."

The convenience and comfort offered by the Kingdom's compact size contribute to its appeal as an investment destination.

High ROI

Regarding the real estate market in Bahrain, Amangeldinova emphasized the country's high return on investment (ROI) for residential properties.

"The average ROI in Bahrain for residential properties is 8 percent, which is higher than in other regions," she stated.

This attractive ROI is attributed to the government's initiatives to promote the sector



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GULNAZ AMANGELDINOVA, REAL ESTATE EXPERT

and stimulate demand.

"The government is actively working to boost tourism in the country and making efforts to attract foreign investors," Amangeldinova affirmed.

The government's commitment to attracting foreign businesses and investors creates new opportunities for real estate investment in Bahrain.

Market changes

She also highlighted recent market changes that have positively impacted the sector.

"Enhancing affordable housing options has had a positive impact on the market," she explained.

Furthermore, Bahraini banks have started offering mortgages with good rates for investors, some without a down payment requirement, further attracting investors to the real estate market.

Seef and Juffair have consistently shown high demand and return on investment for residential and commercial properties. However, in recent months, Bahrain Bay and Marassi have gained traction among foreign investors.

Vishu Mahotsavam 2024 celebration successful

TDT | Manama

The Vishu vishu mahotsavam -Muraleeravam 2024, organised in association with Bahrain India Cultural and Arts Services (BICAS), was celebrated in the Gulf Air Club auditorium in Salmabad.

Chief Guest H.E. Sara Ahmed Buhiji, Chief Executive Officer Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority (BTEA), inaugurated the function.

Mr. Bhagwan Asarpota, Hon. President BICAS, Mr. Jaydeep Bharatji, Joint Managing Director, Devji Group Co., WLL, and Muraleeravam Patron, Mr.



H.E. Sara Ahmed Buhiji at the event

Rajesh Nambiar attended the inaugural function.

In her inaugural address, Ms. Buhiji stated that Vishu is celebrated by Keralites across the globe and is the festival of harmony. Mr. Asarpota, Mr. Jayadev Bharatji, and Mr. Nambiar delivered felicitation addresses.

The programme started with the National Anthem of Bahrain and India, followed by a skit called 'Vishukkani'. Three hundred participants performed various cultural activities depicting Indian cultural values. Mr. Asarpota handed over the memento to the chief guest, Ms. Buhiji.

NMS-Bahrain celebrates Earth Day in style

TDT | Manama

Continuing with its relentless efforts to sensitize its students about the environmental issues of the current time and to motivate them to wake up to their responsibilities towards Mother Earth, The New Millennium School-Bahrain heralded the Earth Day celebration on the 22nd April, 2024.

This year's Earth Day celebration at NMS saw the students participating in a gamut of activities designed to inspire, educate and help them make a tangible difference towards saving our planet.

The spirited millennials actively participated in a series of activities that included Best out of Wastes, Poster designing, Slogan and Jingle writing, PPT & movie making, Making of Paper and T-shirt bags and Group discussions and speech delivery



NMS-Bahrain officials and students at the event

on issues of environmental sensitivity.

The students adopted the Green NMS pledge and voiced their support towards making their school clean and Green. Students pledged to grow more trees and consume fruits and vegetables as part of their diet. They also pledged to reduce

their consumption of packaged food and felt motivated to spread their message

Solidarity with nature

Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma, in his message to the students touched upon the role of schools in instilling in the students the need to adapt to a life-

style that promotes solidarity with nature.

School Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director, Mrs Geetha Pillai appreciated the whole-hearted efforts put in by the students, teachers and parents in proving that in line with the vision for the school they were true patrons of responsible, committed global citizens.



BisB launches “Win a month’s salary” campaign for personal finance

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of digital banking services in Bahrain, has launched “Win a month salary” new campaign for personal finance taking place from 15 April to 31 May 2024.

The campaign highlights the bank’s ongoing efforts to facilitate money matters and offer



Fatema AlAlawi, BisB

customers simplified and diverse financing solutions. The campaign enables the bank’s new customers, or current customers who wish to top-up their existing financing by applying for a new personal finance. Applicants will have the opportunity to enter a draw and become one of 5 winners to receive a one-month salary worth up to BD 1,000 to be deposited in their

Tejoori Al Islami accounts.

Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, said: “We are pleased to announce the launch of our latest promotional campaign “Win a month’s salary” designed for customers seeking new or additional personal financing. We are committed to providing comprehensive financing solutions that meet our customers’ needs, enhance their

banking experience, and simplify their financial matters. We invite all customers interested in benefiting from this campaign to submit their applications during the campaign period to be among the lucky winners of a one month’s salary prize.”

Winners will receive the prize in their Tejoori accounts, and in the event that the winner does not have a Tejoori Al Islami ac-

count they will be required to open a new account in order to deposit the prize amount, as per the Bank’s policy and procedures.

BisB offers its services through a network of 8 branches and user-friendly digital platforms, including online banking and a mobile app. The bank provides a diverse range of financial products and services.

BCCI and Hong Kong General Chamber forge trade alliance

Deal signed by Sameer Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, and Hong Kong’s Jonathan Lampert

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce have announced an agreement aimed at bolstering trade relations and exploring potential opportunities across various sectors.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Sameer Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, and Jonathan Lampert, Chairman of the Asia, Africa, and Middle East Committee at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, at the Chamber’s premises yesterday. This agreement lays the groundwork for deeper economic ties and mutual growth between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Hong Kong.

During meetings, Nass emphasized the importance of fortifying the economic partnership and facilitating business projects and investments between the private sectors of both countries to drive growth, prosperity, and sustainable development, while advancing the mutual interests of both sides.

The trade delegation from Hong Kong was led by Oscar Chow, the Honorary Consul of Bahrain in Hong Kong, and Jonathan Lampert, Chairman of the Asia, Middle East, and Africa Committee of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Nass commended the increasing trade exchange between the two countries and called for efforts to enhance and strengthen economic cooperation through the implementation of agreements between both sides.



In pictures, officials during the meeting held at Chamber’s premises



Khalid Mohammed Najibi, First Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, highlighted the continuous development and growth of bilateral relations between Bahrain and Hong Kong across various fields. Najibi stressed the importance of improving coordination between the private sectors of both countries to maximise trade volume.

Oscar Chow underscored the significant role played by the Joint Business Association between Bahrain and Hong Kong, established in 2003, in enhancing economic relations between Bahrain and the Peo-

ple’s Republic of China, particularly Hong Kong. He noted that the trade delegation’s visit to Bahrain marked the largest since the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting a genuine desire to promote investment and development.

Similarly, Jonathan Lambert emphasised the longstanding trade relations between the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. He urged the activation of mutual agreements to achieve desired growth in these relations, translating into increased trade and economic

cooperation between both sides. Ian Lindsay, Advisor to the Economic Development Board, underscored the importance of economic relations between Bahrain and Hong Kong, highlighting numerous promising opportunities for investment partnerships between the two.

During bilateral meetings, economic developments in Bahrain and Hong Kong were discussed, with a focus on renewable energy, industrial projects, construction, healthcare, general trade, and financial technology sectors.

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India’s Reliance sees revenue bump as consumer businesses shine

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries reported a double-digit jump in fourth-quarter revenue yesterday, helped by steady growth in its consumer-facing businesses.

Reliance is led by Asia’s richest man Mukesh Ambani and is India’s most valuable company by market capitalisation.

Operating revenue rose over 11% to 2.41 trillion rupees (\$28.8 billion) in the January-March quarter, it said in an earnings release.

But consolidated net profit fell 1.8% to 189.5bn rupees, hurt mainly by higher expenses.

The Mumbai-headquartered enterprise has been driven by its oil and petrochemicals businesses, before diversifying in recent years.

The company’s consum-

er divisions remain bright spots with its retail arm reporting a 11.7% increase in profit, while its telecom unit added 10.9 million net subscribers during the fourth quarter.

Its topline growth was also helped by a 10.9% year-on-year revenue bump in its key oil-to-chemical (O2C) segment, which a Reliance statement attributed to higher volumes and prices.

“Strong demand for fuels globally, and limited flexibility in refining system worldwide, supported margins and profitability,” Ambani said.

Full-year revenue to March 31 came in at \$119.9bn, up 2.6% on-year, with net profit up 7.2% to \$9.47bn.

Reliance Industries shares ended up 0.77% in Mumbai on Monday, before the figures were released.

Malaysia to build massive chip design park: PM

AFP | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia’s leader yesterday announced plans to build a massive semiconductor design park, aiming to boost the Southeast Asian nation’s role in the global chip industry.

A prominent player in the semiconductor industry for decades, Malaysia accounts an estimated 13 percent of global back-end manufacturing, according to German tech giant Bosch.

Now it wants to go beyond production and emerge as a chip design powerhouse too, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Monday.

“I am pleased to announce the largest IC (integrated circuit) Design Park in Southeast Asia, that will house world-class anchor tenants and collaborate with global companies such as Arm,” Anwar said in a speech, referring to the British chip design giant.

The park will be located in Selangor state, he said, without offering any details on costs and timelines.



Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim

AFP has reached out to Arm for comment.

The project would mark a significant step for Malaysia, which has long been a chip manufacturing hub, with its northern island of Penang home to a number of facilities and is often dubbed the country’s Silicon Valley.

Tensions between Washington and Beijing over advanced tech, especially semiconductors, in recent years have forced many firms to look into relocating their manufacturing from China to other countries including Malaysia, Vietnam and India.

World’s largest private firms fail to set climate targets: report

AFP | Paris, France

Only 40 of the world’s 100 largest private firms have set net-zero carbon emissions targets to fight climate change, according to a report released yesterday, lagging far behind public companies.

But for the world to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming 1.5 degree Celsi-

us, all companies need to reduce their planet-heating emissions, the report by the group Net Zero Tracker noted.

The lack of market and reputational pressures on private firms compared to those publicly-listed, along with an absence of regulation are to blame for their slow uptake of climate commitments, John Lange of

Net Zero Tracker told AFP.

“I think things are changing on all three of those fronts,” he added. The report compared 200 of the world’s largest public and private companies based on their reported emissions reductions strategies and net-zero targets.

It found that only 40 of the 100 private firms assessed had net

zero targets, compared to 70 of 100 publicly-listed companies.

Of the private companies that have set targets, just eight have published plans on how they will meet them.

“A pledge without a plan is not a pledge, it is a naked PR stunt,” the report said.

Only two firms -- furnishing giant Ikea and US engineering

giant Bechtel -- ruled out using controversial carbon credits to achieve their net-zero goals, the report said.

Carbon credits allow businesses to offset their emissions by directing money toward a project that reduces or avoids emissions, such as protecting forests, but critics say they allow companies to keep polluting.

Meanwhile, none of the eight fossil fuel companies included in the report was found to have a net-zero target, compared with 76 percent of the sector’s largest public firms. There was also little improvement in the figures compared with a previous analysis done in 2022, “despite a massive uptick in regulation around the world”, Lang said.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SUCCESS COMES BEFORE WORK IS IN THE DICTIONARY VINCE LOMBARDI

TODAY IN HISTORY

214BC

A temple, built on the Capitoline Hill, is dedicated to Venus Erycina to commemorate the Roman defeat at Lake Trasimene



1597 William Shakespeare's 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' is first performed, with Queen Elizabeth I of England in attendance

1968

1st decimal coins issued in Britain (5 & 10 new pence, replacing shilling and two-shilling pieces)

1984

AIDS-virus identified as HTLV-III (acquired immune deficiency syndrome)

News in brief

Thousands of Filipino and American troops kicked off joint military exercises in the Philippines on Monday, as Beijing's growing assertiveness in the region raises fears of a conflict. The annual drills -- dubbed Balikatan, or "shoulder to shoulder" in Tagalog -- will be concentrated in the northern and western parts of the archipelago nation, near the potential flashpoints of the South China Sea and Taiwan. China claims almost the entire waterway, a key route for international trade, and also considers self-ruled Taiwan to be part of its territory.



Philippines, US launch annual joint military drills

Jihadists' kidnap over 110 civilians in Mali Suspected jihadists in central Mali are holding more than 110 civilians they abducted six days ago, local sources told AFP yesterday. Three buses carrying the civilians were stopped on April 16 by "jihadists", who forced the vehicles and the passengers to head towards a forest between Bandiagara and Bankass, a local group of associations and an elected official said. "We demand the release of more than 110 passengers of three buses abducted on Tuesday by jihadists," a member of the group, Oumar Ongoiba, told AFP. An elected official from Bandiagara, who wanted to remain anonymous for security reasons, said: "The three buses and the passengers, more than 120, are still being held by jihadists."

Taiwan's capital was hit by a series of earthquakes on Monday night, with the Central Weather Administration saying the strongest was a magnitude-5.9 tremor originating in eastern Hualien. The region was the epicentre of a magnitude-7.4 quake that hit on April 3, causing landslides that blocked off roads around the mountainous region, while buildings in the main Hualien city were badly damaged. At least 17 were killed in the quake, with the latest body found in a quarry on April 13. Monday's first strong quake -- a magnitude 5.5 -- hit Taiwan at around 5:08 pm (0908 GMT), according to Central Weather Administration, and could be felt in the capital Taipei. It was followed by a series of aftershocks and earthquakes, with the most intense hitting around 10:15 pm (1415 GMT), according to AFP reporters. The Central Weather Administration said it was a magnitude-5.9 quake with a depth of 8.6 kilometres (5.3 miles), though the US Geological Survey put it at 5.8 magnitude.

Taiwan hit by numerous quakes, strongest reaching 5.9 magnitude



Iranians make first umrah pilgrimage since Saudi ties restored



worshippers reach to touch the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, while performing the "Umrah" pilgrimage circumambulation or "tawaf", circling seven times around it at the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca (file)

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranians travelled yesterday to Saudi Arabia for umrah, a year-round pilgrimage they had been barred from for almost a decade over a rift between Tehran and Riyadh, Iranian state media said. "The first group of umrah pilgrims departed Iran for Saudi Arabia through the Imam Khomeini airport in Tehran", official news agency IRNA reported.

Iranian state media has said in recent months that pilgrims would be able to head to the Saudi holy city of Mecca for umrah, but blamed technical difficulties for repeated delays. IRNA said a total of 5,720 Iranian umrah pilgrims were planned to head to Saudi Arabia this year. The Saudi ambassador to Tehran, Abdullah bin Saud al-Anazi, was present at the airport along with several Iranian officials to send off the first group of pilgrims Monday. Muslims can make the umrah pilgrimage to Mecca at any time of the year, in contrast to the hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam which takes place on specific dates according to the lunar calendar.

Iranians have already been allowed back at the hajj pilgrimage last year, but the umrah had remained off-limits for them until now. Saudi Arabia and Iran severed ties in 2016 after Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran were attacked during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Iranian state media has said in recent months that pilgrims would be able to head to the Saudi holy city of Mecca for umrah, but blamed technical difficulties for repeated delays. IRNA said a total of 5,720 Iranian umrah pilgrims were planned to head to Saudi Arabia this year. The Saudi ambassador to Tehran, Abdullah bin Saud al-Anazi, was present at the airport along with several Iranian officials to send off the first group of pilgrims Monday. Muslims can make the umrah pilgrimage to Mecca at any time of the year, in contrast to the hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam which takes place on specific dates according to the lunar calendar.

Venice's 60th Biennale opens on humanity and the fragile planet

AFP | Venice, Italy

Venice's 60th Biennale international art show has opened its doors, exploring humankind's relationship with the fragile planet, from Greenland's icecaps to deforestation in the Amazon. The exhibition showcases artists from across the globe, including pavilions from Japan, Denmark, Brazil and the Czech Republic.

The Biennale Arte 2024, one of the world's leading international art exhibitions, runs until November 24. The exhibition showcases artists from across the globe, including pavilions from Japan, Denmark, Brazil and the Czech Republic.

Biden admin issues rule protecting abortion privacy

AFP | Washington, USA

President Joe Biden's administration announced a new rule Monday to protect the privacy of women who go out of their home state to have legal abortions, amid fears they could be prosecuted upon their return.

The move comes as reproductive rights take center stage in the November presidential election, following a pivotal court decision that abolished or severely curtailed legal abortion in 21 states.

"No one should have to live in fear that their conversations with their doctor or that their medical claims data might be used to target or track them," Melanie Fontes Rainer of the Office for Civil Rights told reporters.

The rule prohibits the disclosure of private health information sought to investigate individuals who seek or obtain reproductive health services that are lawful. It also applies to healthcare providers.

Rainer urged women to come forward and file a complaint if they believed their privacy rights had been violated.

Poland ready to host NATO nuclear weapons

Moscow warned it would take steps to ensure its security

Russia had sent tactical nuclear arms to Belarus, which borders Ukraine and Poland

AFP | Warsaw, Poland



Polish President Andrzej Duda attends the acceptance of the first South Korean K2 battle tanks and South Korean K9 howitzers for Poland in December 6, 2022 at the Baltic Container Terminal in Gdynia.

Poland's president yesterday said his country is ready to host NATO's nuclear arms after Russia reinforced its armaments in neighbouring Belarus and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

Poland, a NATO member and a staunch supporter of Ukraine, shares a border with both Kaliningrad exclave and Belarus, Moscow's ally. "If our allies decide to deploy nuclear arms on our territory as part of nuclear sharing to reinforce NATO's eastern flank, we are ready to do so," Duda said in an interview published by Fakt daily.

Moscow in response warned it would take steps to "ensure its security". Duda spoke to the 'Response steps'

Polish media after a visit to New York, where he held meetings at the UN and discussed the war in Ukraine with former US president Donald Trump. In March, he visited Washington DC, where he met with US President Joe Biden.

Discussions about nuclear co-operation between Poland and the United States have been going on "for some time", he said. "I have already talked about this several times. I must admit that when asked about it, I declared our readiness," Duda said. "Russia is increasingly militarising Kaliningrad. Recently it has been relocating its nuclear weapons to Belarus," he added.

Speaking to reporters later on Monday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said he "would have to understand the president's intentions," suggesting the matter had not been discussed between them. "I would have to know all the circumstances that prompted the president to make this declaration," Tusk said. "I'm looking forward to meeting President Duda, because the matter directly and very clearly concerns Polish security," Tusk added.

He also said he would host NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in Warsaw on Tuesday. Pro-EU coalition leader Tusk has frequently clashed with the right-wing Polish president, but their views on supporting Ukraine and defying threats from Russia have so far been largely similar. The Kremlin said it would respond if Poland hosted nuclear weapons. "The military will of course analyse the situation and in any case will take all necessary response steps in order to ensure our security," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

In June 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed that Russia had sent tactical nuclear arms to Belarus, which borders Ukraine and Poland. During the last NATO summit in Vilnius, the allies pledged to "take all necessary steps to ensure the credibility, effectiveness, safety and security of the nuclear deterrent mission."

EU threatens to suspend TikTok Lite app's 'addictive' rewards

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday launched a probe into TikTok's spinoff Lite app and threatened to suspend an "addictive" feature on it that rewards users for watching and liking videos, amid child-safety concerns.

TikTok Lite arrived in France and Spain in March allowing users aged 18 and over to earn points that can be exchanged for goods like vouchers or gift cards through the app's rewards programme.

The European Commission said in a statement it has concerns about the app's "risks of serious damage for the mental health of users", including minors.

BETTER YOU KNOW The probe is the EU's second against TikTok under a sweeping new law, the Digital Services Act (DSA), that demands digital firms do more to police content online.

Gaza health system 'completely obliterated': UN expert

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Israel's war in Gaza has from the start been a "war on the right to health" and has "obliterated" the Palestinian territory's health system, a UN expert said yesterday.

Taleng Mofokeng, the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to health, accused Israel of treating human rights as an "a la carte menu". Amid the unrelenting Israeli



Taleng Mofokeng, UN expert, said the Gaza health system has been working under dire conditions with very limited access to medical supplies, she said.

The World Health Organization said earlier this month that Al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital, had been reduced to ashes by an Israeli siege, leaving an "empty shell" with many bodies. "The destruction of healthcare facilities continues to catapult to proportions yet to be fully quantified," said Mofokeng.

Iran's president in Pakistan to mend ties after January strikes

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

The three-day visit follows tit-for-tat missile strikes in January

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi held talks with Pakistani leader Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday, in what experts said was a "significant" visit aimed at mending ties after the neighbours traded deadly cross-border strikes earlier this year.

Prime Minister Sharif's office said the pair had a "vibrant discussion" on advancing bilateral relations -- specifically in trade and communication -- and also agreed on the necessity for joint efforts by both countries to combat terrorism.

Pakistan's foreign ministry also released photos of top diplomat Ishaq Dar meeting with Raisi, saying in a statement that the pair "discussed regional and global developments and affirmed commitment to peace and constructive dialogue".

Before leaving Tehran, Raisi said the "discussions with the government of Pakistan will be on the border issues between the two countries". The three-day visit follows tit-for-tat missile strikes in January in the region of Balochistan, which straddles the two nations' porous border. Tehran carried out the first strikes against an anti-Iran group inside Pakistan, with Islamabad retaliating by hitting "militant targets" inside Iran. Both nations have previously accused each other of harbouring militants in the border region.

Raisi's visit is an "opportunity to put the relationship back on track and to repair the damage that was done" in January, said Maleeha Lodhi, a former Pakistani diplomat and foreign affairs analyst. "A key challenge is border management, as there are militants on both sides of the Pakistan-Iran border, so the visit may yield some agreement on this," Lodhi said. A visit to Islamabad by Tehran's foreign minister in late January led to the two sides pledging to improve dialogue and install liaison officers. Raisi's trip seeks to "diminish mistrust" between the neighbours, said security analyst Qamar Cheema. "But the visit is also significant in commercial terms. We foresee forthcoming enhancements in border management and a transition towards more formalised trade practices, thereby mitigating informal trade and smuggling activities along the border region," Cheema added.

Raisi has said the visit is also aimed at boosting overall trade between the countries, which currently stands at around \$2.5 billion a year. Pakistan is counting on a joint gas project with Iran to solve a long-running power crisis that has sapped its economic growth.

Tehran has constructed its portion of the 1,800-kilometre (1,100-mile) pipeline intended to connect its South Pars gas fields to Nawabshah in Pakistan, close to Karachi. Pakistan's caretaker government sanctioned an 80-kilometre pipeline section in February to prevent hefty penalties owed to Iran from prolonged project delays.

Washington has warned the pipeline could violate sanctions on Iran, and that Pakistan could face sanctions itself if the project goes forward. Treme right-wing group and the first online terrorist network to be proscribed in the UK, putting it alongside the likes of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. A draft proscription order laid before parliament on Monday is expected to pass and come into effect from Friday, the Home Office said.

Top BBC news anchor resigns following furore over intimate photos

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Veteran news anchor Huw Edwards resigned from the BBC yesterday on "medical advice", the broadcaster said, nine months after he became embroiled in a scandal over sexually explicit images involving a teenager.

Edwards, 62, had been the BBC's lead presenter in key events, such as the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, but was suspended in July 2023 when allegations first emerged. "Huw Edwards has today resigned and left the BBC," the broadcaster said in a statement.

"After 40 years of service, Huw has explained that his decision was made on the basis of medical advice from his doctors. "The BBC has accepted his resignation which it believes will allow all parties to move forward. We don't believe it appropriate to comment further."

Earlier this year the BBC apologised to the family of the man who the broadcaster said Edwards had paid for sexually explicit pictures when he was a teenager. As the accusations became front-page news last July, Edwards' wife Vicky Flind said the father-of-five was "suffering from serious mental health issues" and had been admitted to hospital. The man's family had complained to the BBC about Edwards in May 2023. But it was only two months later, when The Sun tabloid was ready to publish a story detailing the allegations, that senior leaders were informed of a report commissioned by the broadcaster.

The family said the man, a teenager when he had worked with Edwards, had used the money to fuel a crack cocaine addiction. However the man, whose identity has never been given, has dismissed those allegations as "rubbish". Edwards himself has not publicly commented.



Huw Edwards

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Nobel laureate urges Iranians to protest 'war against women'

AFP | Paris, France

Jailed Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi urged Iranians to protest a "full-scale war against women" after authorities intensified a crackdown obliging women to obey the country's Islamic dress code.

Mohammadi, who is held in Tehran's Evin prison, urged Iranian women to share their stories of arrest and sexual assault at the hands of the authorities via her Instagram page. With international tensions surging in the Middle East, Iranian authorities this month announced a nationwide operation to enforce the wearing of the Islamic headscarf by women, which has been obligatory since shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Activists have reported that women have been arrested and taken away to police stations by the so-called morality police with the Persian hashtag "war against women" trending on social media. "People of Iran, I ask you, artists, intellectuals, workers, teachers, and students... inside and outside the country to protest against this war against women," Mohammadi said in a message posted late Sunday by her supporters. "Do not underestimate the power of sharing your experiences. Doing so will expose the misogynistic government and bring it to its knees," she added.



Narges Mohammadi

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UK to ban far-right Terrorgram online group

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The UK government yesterday said it would outlaw the far-right Terrorgram network as a terrorist organisation, making membership and support a criminal offence. Terrorgram produces and disseminates violent propaganda on multiple platforms online. It will be the sixth extreme right-wing group and the first online terrorist network to be proscribed in the UK, putting it alongside the likes of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. A draft proscription order laid before parliament on Monday is expected to pass and come into effect from Friday, the Home Office said.

TOP 4 TWEETS



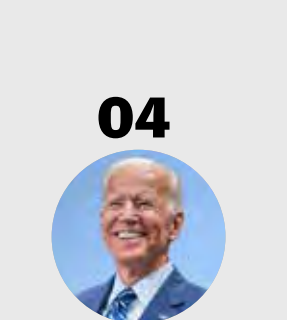
01 On #EarthDay, we must stand for our planet. A planet threatened by climate change, by pollution, by biodiversity loss. A planet that needs to be rescued. So we must unite. And we must mobilize all our efforts for #ClimateAction. @antoniogetherres



02 Attended the Civil In-Vestiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan where the Padma Awards were conferred. India is proud of all the recipients, who have excelled in diverse fields and brought a positive change in the lives of crores of people. @narendramodi



03 We are ready. Plans are in place. No foreign court will stop us getting flights off. @RishiSunak



04 On Earth Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the need to protect our precious Earth -- and to heed the call to combat climate change while growing the economy and creating a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. @JoeBiden

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

celebs

Post Malone 'beyond honoured' to work with Taylor Swift



Post Malone
Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Post Malone is "beyond honoured" to have collaborated with Taylor Swift. The 28-year-old singer has teamed up with the pop superstar on 'Fortnight', the lead single from her new album 'The Tortured Poets Department', and the 'Sunflower' hitmaker hailed his new friend as a "once in a lifetime" talent, who left him "floored".

Sharing a photo of them together on Instagram, he gushed: "It's once in a lifetime that someone like @taylorswift comes into this world.

"I am floored by your heart and your mind, and I am beyond honored to have been asked to help you with your journey. I love you so much. Thank you Tay."

Taylor's boyfriend, Travis Kelce, liked the post.

When the 'Karma' hitmaker announced details of the single last week, she admitted she was a "huge fan" of her collaborator, whose real name is Austin Post.

She wrote on Instagram: "I've been such a huge fan of Post because of the writer he is, his musical experimentation and those melodies he creates that just stick in your head forever.

"I got to witness that magic come to life first-hand when we worked together on 'Fortnight'."

Meanwhile, Jack Antonoff - who co-produced 'The Tortured Poets Department' with The National's Aaron Dessner and Taylor herself - recently admitted he'd been left "overwhelmed" by the reaction to the record, just hours after its release.

Taylor Swift still 'can't forgive' Kim Kardashian

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift has hinted she still "can't forgive" Kim Kardashian for their headline-grabbing feud.

The 34-year-old pop superstar went to ground back in 2016 after being branded a snake and a "liar" when a public dispute between her and Kim's then husband Kanye West led to the reality TV star releasing a private telephone call between the pair - and Taylor appears to have brought the bad blood back to the surface by working Kim's name into the title of a song on her new album 'The Tortured Poets Department'.

In the track 'thank you aMee' certain letters have been capped up to spell out the name 'Kim' and the lyrics suggest Taylor is describing the aftermath of

the pair's fall out.

She sings: "When I picture my hometown / There's a bronze spray-tanned statue of you / And a plaque underneath it / That threatens to push me down the stairs, at our school ...

"All that time you were throwin' punches, I was buildin' somethin' / And I can't forgive the way you made me feel / Screamed 'F**k you, Aimee' to the night sky, as the blood was gushin' / But I can't forget the way you made me heal."

She goes on to add: "And it wasn't a fair fight, or a clean kill / Each time that Aimee stomped across my grave / And then she wrote headlines / In the local paper, laughing at each baby step I'd take."

Taylor concludes by con-

firming she's changed the name of the woman she's singing about - further fuelling speculation the track is about Kim.

She goes on to sing: "And so I changed your name, and any real defining clues / And one day, your kid comes home singin' / A song that only us two is gonna know is about you."

Taylor and Kanye fell out in 2016 over his song 'Famous' which included the lyric: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex / Why? I made that **** famous."

Kanye claimed the singer had approved the words, but Taylor insisted she didn't and Kanye's partner Kim later released a phone call between the pair which suggested the pop star had indeed given the rapper permission to use those lyrics.

Taylor is believed to have subsequently decamped to London where she spent time with her then-boyfriend, actor Joe Alwyn, and in a recent interview with Time magazine she claimed the incident ruined her life.

She said: "You have a fully manufactured frame job, in an illegally recorded phone call, which Kim Kardashian edited and then put out to say to everyone that I was a liar.



Taylor Swift

Britney Spears in talks for biopic based on The Woman in Me

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Britney Spears' memoir is being made into a film.

The 'Lucky' singer released her autobiography 'The Woman in Me' last year and she is now said to be in advanced talks to adapt the tome for the big screen with a female-only writing team set to pen a script and a number of her songwriters being spoken to about the potential of using her music in the project.

A source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper's No Filter column: "Britney's book was a groundbreaking best-seller and raised the public's consciousness with regards to how the entertainment industry and conservatorships work.

"She's in advanced talks to turn it into a cinematic release and her songwriters have been informed that some of her songs will

be used once it is greenlit...

"Female writers are being approached to turn the book into a script because only a woman can understand the nuances that made Britney's role in her family, and position in pop culture, so complicated."

Sony Pictures are said to be leading the negotiations for the adaptation, but there is also potential it could be a limited series instead of a film.

The insider said: "If necessary, the project could become a mini-series in the style of 'Genius: Aretha'."

Topics covered in 'The Woman in Me' included Britney having an abortion while she was dating Justin Timberlake because the 'SexyBack' singer didn't feel ready for fatherhood, being under her controversial 13-year conservatorship, and an explanation as to why she shaved her own head in 2007.



Britney Spears

Dua Lipa started planning third album before her debut was finished

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Dua Lipa was planning her third album before her debut.

The 'Illusion' hitmaker is set to drop new LP 'Radical Optimism' on May 3, and the idea of the record being produced by Tame Impala's Kevin Parker goes back to before she finished work on her 2017 self titled LP.

Dua, 28, told Time100 magazine: "I remember when I was working on my first album, I was making notes on what my third album was going to be.

"It's mad to think about, but I remember speaking to my close friend and A+R Joe, 'Maybe album three, I could work with Kevin Parker', and he was like, 'Alright, hold your horses, let's take baby steps.'"

However, Dua was already full of ambition and was planning for her first two albums to prove she was "deserving to be in a room" with someone respects "so deeply".

She added: "Since I was very little, I've jotted down things I dreamt for myself. I've always planned ahead.

"Although surprises arise that I evaluate in the moment, there's always been a long-term goal."

She is a big believer in "manifesting" your goals, and she encouraged people to write their dreams down to help make them come true.

She explained: "It's important to just write things down, you never know what could come true. Manifesting is a big thing for me.



Dua Lipa

Johnny Depp tried to talk Maiwenn out of casting him in Jeanne du Barry

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Johnny Depp attempted to talk director Maiwenn out of casting him as French King Louis XV in 'Jeanne du Barry'.

The 60-year-old actor admitted to feeling "strangely, oddly, perversely lucky" at being offered the chance to play royalty in his first major film role since his high-profile defamation case against his ex-wife Amber Heard concluded.

Speaking at the movie's UK premiere on Monday, Johnny said: "I feel very lucky to have been (offered the role) - strangely, oddly, perversely lucky.

"Because when Maiwenn and I first actually met and talked about the notion of me doing the film and playing Louis XV, the King of France - see that's when instantly what happens in your brain is you instantly go back to Kentucky, where, like, everything is fried.

"So you realise that you've

come from the bellybutton of nowhere and suddenly you end up playing the King of France."

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor added: "It made no sense to me. I tried to talk her out of it. But she wasn't hearing it and she had great courage to take me into her cast.

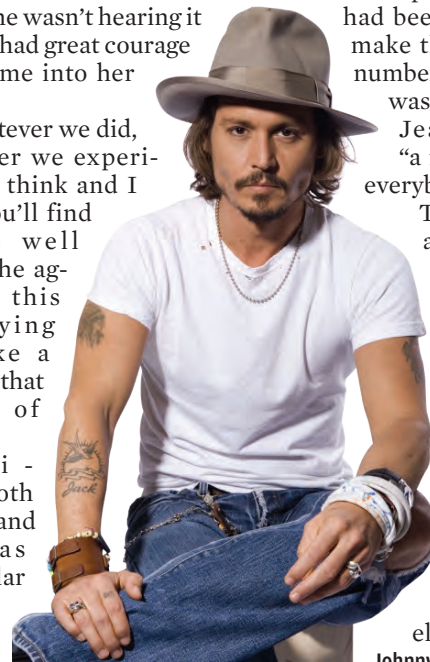
"Whatever we did, whatever we experienced I think and I hope you'll find it was well worth the agony of this kid trying to make a film for that length of time."

Maiwenn both directs and stars as the titular character in

the film, which tells the story of how working-class Jeanne du Barry climbed the social hierarchy in France to attract the attention of Louis XV.

She explained how she had been desperate to make the movie for a number of years as she was fixated on how Jeanne became "a feminist before everybody else".

The 47-year-old actress said: "It's a movie that I have wanted to make since 2016, and I was obsessed by Jeanne du Barry for many years because she was a feminist before everybody else."



Johnny Depp

SUDOKU

6			5			1		7
	5			4	3	1		8
			4					
	1	8	7					6
9	3						8	1
4					9	3	2	
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2			3	5	8		1	
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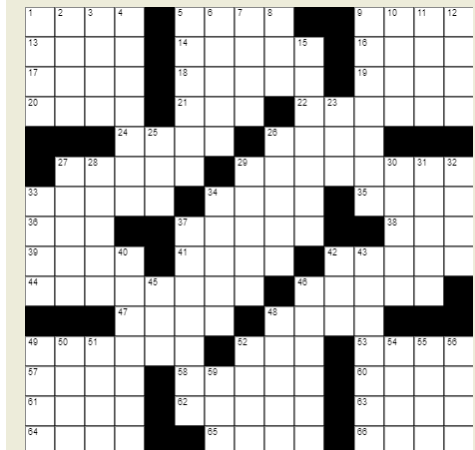
Yesterday's solution

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

How to play

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Litter's littlest; 5- General ___ chicken; 9- Encounter; 13- Son of Rebekah; 14- Tirades; 16- Peruvian of yore; 17- Titanic's undoing; 18- As ___ resort; 19- Sleuth Wolfe; 20- Yemeni, for one; 21- Lair; 22- Womb; 24- Cries at the bullfight; 26- Aroma; 27- Rubber-stamps; 29- Previous to birth; 33- Happpy; 34- Principal; 35- Actor Rob; 36- High mountain; 37- Aspect; 38- Fuel type; 39- Greek T's; 41- Like Nash's lama; 42- Clear the state; 44- Planetoid; 46- Rubbish; 47- ___ boy; 48- Perceived; 49- Sliding compartment of furniture; 52- Cath. or Prot.; 53- Put your hands together; 57- Able was ___; 58- Actor Ryan; 60- Auditorium; 61- Sneaky guy; 62- Name; 63- Vogue rival; 64- Arctic transport; 65- Lascivious look; 66- Tabula ___;

Down

1- First name in country; 2- Computer owner; 3- Japan's first capital; 4- Harbor helper; 5- Swaps; 6- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 7- ___ even keel; 8- Ave. crossers; 9- Ore; 10- Cabinet dept.; 11- Beige cousin; 12- Town near Santa Fe; 15- Scholar; 23- Large amount; 25- Caustic chemical; 26- Corbeled bay window; 27- Paella pots; 28- Done for; 29- Walked back and forth; 30- Roman garments; 31- Covered with water; 32- ___ majeste; 33- I could ___ horse; 34- Craze; 37- Hoof infection of sheep; 40- Kelp; 42- Before, once; 43- Ben Cartwright, for one; 45- Road map abbr.; 46- Bank employee; 48- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 49- Immerses; 50- Film spool; 51- Johnson of "Laugh-In"; 52- Nerve network; 54- In ___ land; 55- ___ well...; 56- "Not guilty," e.g.; 59- Nada;

Yesterday's solution

A	S	P	S	V	E	E	R	S	F	O	N	T
G	A	L	A	A	L	L	E	E	O	L	E	O
U	N	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	D	O	D	E
A	G	A	P	E	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	
E	P	E	E	A	V	I	D	S	T	A	G	S
G	E	M	O	M	I	T	I	C	E	C	A	P
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W	A	L	T	C	E	N	S	O	R	S	H	I
A	T	E	E	T	R	E	N	D	I	O	N	E
S	E	E	D	S	T	O	O	D	N	O	E	S

Classifieds



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VACANCIES AVAILABLE

NESTO HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1727206 or WESTERNBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

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

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

MC6 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402050 or operation@mcsix.me

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

JELLY FISH FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

MAYSHA MASSAGE AND SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66996941 or MARWA.ALAWADHI@HOTMAIL.COM

LEGACY GENTS SALOON CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38881547 or HGDYNAMIC@GMAIL.COM

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

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

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

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

ALAKBAR TECHNOLOGY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33871955 or farsanabahrain@gmail.com

CIGALAH GULF MEDICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232170 or HANY@ATELCO.COM.BH

SARA LINE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33631966 or SARAHAMAD2009@YAHOO.COM

NOOF TRENDS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464449 or NOOF@FALKHOR.COM

Land of style saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39078885 or K-PAXCO@HOTMAIL.COM

AL ERSHAD INFOTECH CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290097 or NOUFAL@ALERSHADGROUP.COM

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

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

YOUSIF SHOWAITER SWEETS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39087776 or YOUSIFSHOWAITER@YAHOO.COM

MEXICO SALON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17554202 or sales@hejaigarden.com

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

ALNAJJAR GATE TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17162416 or NAJJAR500@HOTMAIL.COM

SMART BODY has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33090330 or MAJJEED.DHAIF@GMAIL.COM

BAB ALMORAD GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 36600882 or ALIABDULLA157@GMAIL.COM

GHAREEB EXPRESS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66648111 or SAMIALLMULLA15@GMAIL.COM

MIDDLE ASIA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39391449 or rajeeefpm@gmail.com

Al Rawnaq Palace Trading has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33114441 or aidanwish1974@gmail.com

PINK SADAF ELECTRONICS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39132894 or PINKSADAF91@GMAIL.COM

KARACHI STAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33949195 or DAR-ALZAIN-SWEET@HOTMAIL.COM

Bu kowarah palace keys has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777728 or SHAWQI.ALMEER64@HOTMAIL.COM

AQUA UTILITIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32200623 or INFO@AQUA-UTILITIES.COM

Security Solutions Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or GOVERNMENT@MRE.CO

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

JELLY FISH FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

KFC has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@americana-food.com

KARAK89 has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668868 or JUBRANFOODSTUFF@GMAIL.COM

Delhi darbar restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39778212 or FLAVOUROFINDIA151@GMAIL.COM

LATIFIA LADIES BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17412266 or SARAH@LATIFIASALON.COM

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

MOHAMED JALAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536956 or RASHID_BUALI@JALAL.COM

AL KARAM AL IRAQI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36006991 or ali.moosa2711@gmail.com

AHM CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227838 or SARDARGROUP254@GMAIL.COM

PROMADO INTERNATIONAL has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17004030 or ALI.HI.MART@GMAIL.COM

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

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

Fast & Furious logistics co. w. l.l. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34166900 or WFATHAR@YAHOO.COM

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

EDSAR TECHNICAL SERVICES AND TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33199120 or SARUN.N@EDSARTECH.COM

THE TAVERN EATERY AND HOBBIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36391000 or SADEQ.ALBAHARNA@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN BIRD CONSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38404056 or FIAZ.FIZZY@GMAIL.COM

MIAN HAIR SALOON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36164926 or MIAN09372@GMAIL.COM

MEZAN ALWI FOR TIRES AND CAR SUPPLIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923343 or MHANO599@GMAIL.COM

PICK & SHOP MART W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33708296 or PICKSHOPMART@GMAIL.COM

KANJIPPURA RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39050360 or AUNAIS783@GMAIL.COM

JET FOR CARS SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39998404 or MU.SH9200@GMAIL.COM

ZAMAN CARGO AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32138818 or BOSSBABAR302@GMAIL.COM

GREEN PALACE GENTS SALON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66388642 or A.ASEM62@YAHOO.COM

UNIFORM EXPRESS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112786 or uniformexpressbh@gmail.com

KC GULZAR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33879802 or GULZARAHMAD748@GMAIL.COM

CAFE LACO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39469641 or HRBUALIGROUP@GMAIL.COM

ROBY NAZ BUSINESS SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077280 or AHMADABDULSAMAD574@GMAIL.COM

MUDSTONE CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39299932 or NMF.BH@GMAIL.COM

RESTFUL THAI MEN MASSAGE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66688611 or SARTAJALAM87@HOTMAIL.COM

ANWAAR ALQAMAR CURTAIN TAILORING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39137358 or HAMIM9892@GMAIL.COM

A R SHINE SECOND-HAND GOODS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39508650 or ABCDEARF@GMAIL.COM

PAK CITY INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007389 or MUHAMMADJAWAD1982@GMAIL.COM

SUPER VIEW MANAGEMENT COSULTANCY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39839739 or HAYAKGLOBAL@GMAIL.COM

BAQIN TIRES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32199556 or MIND.CHANAER91@GMAIL.COM

WEST POINT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33923239 or FATIMA_ALSELAITI@HOTMAIL.COM

SEVEN HORSES INTERNATIONAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34035539 or SUKHDEVSE@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33692533 or AHADBOCH71@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ADNAN INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34585622 or RIMONMIAH728@GMAIL.COM

EVEMEN PACKING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35935010 or TABASSUMFAROOQ61@GMAIL.COM

FADHEL ABBAS ALI MAKI/METHAQ - 10036 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39333467 or FADELMAK1810@GMAIL.COM

IDREES YUNES MOHAMED SALEH A.RAHMAN JANAHI has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244244 or IJDXB77@GMAIL.COM

KFC has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@americana-food.com

JELLY FISH FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L.) has

a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aamass.net

MASKATI BROTHERS & COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464646 or jobs@maskatibros.com

BAHRAIN TOURISM COMPANY - CROWNE PLAZA BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17746318 or hussain.almajed@ulhotelsgroup.com

PAPILLON Restaurant CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (PURCHASING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17243953 or EALFARIS@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMED JALAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536956 or RASHID_BUALI@JALAL.COM

TAFCO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33502933 or naveel.shahzadhb@gmail.com

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

KING HAMAD AMERICAN MISSION HOSPITAL N.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of MEDICAL CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748885 or CATHERINE@AMH.ORG.BH

Kadi One Construction W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440279 or SINOALAN180@GMAIL.COM

MANDALI KABAB RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34413413 or mandali.1930@gmail.com

JELLY FISH FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

KHALIL INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or RUBH0808@GMAIL.COM

REGAL MAINTENANCE & SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17489336 or regal@rmswll.com

MALAM JABBA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or WADISHAWWAL@GMAIL.COM

UNION PRESS COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36988968 or MD@UNIONGROUP.CC

GULF FENCING & SPECIALIST SURFACING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of CRANE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17591197 or rasha@gfss.com.bh

AALI POTTERY FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17641050 or POTTERY1960@GMAIL.COM

NAJIM SEHAH ALYEMEN RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37555999 or FOREX_UMACBH@YAHOO.COM

ABU HAMEED BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17595954 or STARFIVE858@YAHOO.COM

Almusharak cafe/tery has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39294964 or BURASHED1984@GMAIL.COM

ALAMTHAL LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714174 or HBOKHMAS@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALAYAM PUBLICATION ESTABLISHMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17617777 or ALIYAHMADI@ALAYAM.COM

BINT ALKHOZAMIA MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39757064 or MARIAMALKHOZAMI@HOTMAIL.COM

Kottaram restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39412355 or JAFFALBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

GULF TAPEI CHAINES RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454272 or KHALILDAWANI@YAHOO.CO.UK

ALSAFWA RECRUITING MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33248058 or SALAH.ALMODAWEB@GMAIL.COM

SMART CHECK CAR INSPECTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33330979 or Aldoserifaisal@yahoo.com

AL MARJAN LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified

applicants can contact 38885838 or K.AL MUTAWA3@GMAIL.COM

ABDULJALIL HASAN GENERAL TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36662199 or ABDULJALILM.SJEN@GMAIL.COM

DERDY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000585 or hrsupport@alshammmarygroup.com

DERBAY CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000585 or HRSUPPORT@ALSHAMMARYGROUP.COM

THAMSEENA RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36391819 or IJAZUK28@GMAIL.COM

SANA KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39822984 or E.ALSAEED68@GMAIL.COM

BINT SUHAILBEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642117 or bintsehal@HOTMAIL.COM

BASHAYER ALKHAIR LAIDIES TAILORING - Simple Comandite Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR(LADIES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33661616 or bashayer.alkhair.group@hotmail.com

JELLY FISH FACTORY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33323995 or clearance@JARADAHFISH.COM

CLEANING LEADERS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347766 or PERWALZ_I@HOTMAIL.COM

AL HELLI SUPERMARKET B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33572333 or hanan@ALHELLI.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

NESTO SUPERMARKET & DEPARTMENT STORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39151200 or WESTERNBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

MANGUARD SECURITY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or SECURITY@MANGUARD.COM.BH

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajj Hassan.com

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

Kentaly has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@ulfair.com

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

DAWOD SALMAN AL MUDAWIB CONTRACTING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39802060 or FUTUREDOCUMENT@GMAIL.COM

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

MILLENIUM CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35588880 or milleniumbh183@gmail.com

ANSAR GALLERY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140001 or pr@ag-bh.com

BAHRAIN COFFEE BREWERS COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39379127 or Aneesh@foodvestholding.com

Burj Mushraf Contracting Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36167111 or bmc.bahrain111@gmail.com

WASAYA FOODSTUFF CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact

33719149 or MOHD.H.NA@GMAIL.COM

NELOVA TRADING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33303731 or MOHDOSMAN69@GMAIL.COM

AALIA ISLAMABAD DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37212164 or KMS041448@GMAIL.COM

A B A R SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36384774 or AQIB.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD NABEEL NAWAZ DECORE CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34577927 or NABEELNAWA2237@GMAIL.COM

TEEN AL SHAM GENERAL TRADE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33371333 or RESHNASERNCES@GMAIL.COM

AL HELLI SUPERMARKET B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

Ahmed Mansoor AlAali B.S.C. Closed - Structural and Mechanical Division has a vacancy for the occupation of ESTIMATOR(COST), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17265509 or aedeel.hameed@al-aali.com

AALI ESSA ALDAAYSI CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33661030 or hr@aldaaysiholding.com

911 MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310077 or Majeedthanal@gmail.com

BAHRAIN GAS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531111 or HRBG.BAH@GMAIL.COM

FISH LOUNGE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of BUTCHER (ANIMALS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777738 or SALAHNASAEER38@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL MARINE DREGGING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SHIP'S OILER AND GREASER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or sayed.saeed@ncbahrain.com

National Redymix Co WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786665 or HASHIM.AL@NCCBAHRAIN.COM

AL AWATAN RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36364349 or LAYLA.ALONAI@GMAIL.COM

MUSALIM TO SELL SWEET WATER AND ICE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17600003 or HASSAIN857@GMAIL.COM

AL-BOROJO BUILDING CARPENTRY TOOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666274 or ABOAMMARMJ01@GMAIL.COM

FALAFEL ALNUWAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39860011 or F.ALQADHI@HOTMAIL.COM

SHOOT SPORTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530705 or JENANTHONYPD@GMAIL.COM

ALDOY INTERNATIONAL SPORTS AND MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17651126 or DOYSTKD@YAHOO.COM

WAAD CAFITARYA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39857572 or HIND.ALTHAWADI@GMAIL.COM

ALGASSAB CONSTRUCTION & TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TRENCHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669917 or rommenzo@gmail.com

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

MAYZON PHONE INTRNATIONAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737322 or kcsname@gmail.com

Studio 9 Cafe W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39485644 or STUDIO9CAFEBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

RIVOLI EYEZONE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES SUPERVISOR (RETAIL TRADE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17561504 or pro.bahrain@rivoligroup.com

SHELL FISHERIES COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777383 or mgr-hr@shell-fisheries.com

KRONOS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564981 or ashokrma@gmail.com

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

MUNSI KHAN RESTURENTE has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39071916 or KHALIFA.ALDOSER188@GMAIL.COM

MORNING STAR CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39498344 or generaltrading@morninggroupbh.com

FIRST KID TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36404200 or SINTHUJANT@GMAIL.COM

AL-ALAWI DENTAL TECHNOLOGIES has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(DENTAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39689993 or MOHANAD72@GMAIL.COM

First motors has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICAL SALESMAN (SPARE-PARTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39931932 or mirza@alzayani-investments.com

MANGUARD SECURITY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or SECURITY@MANGUARD.COM.BH

NESTO HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17227206 or WESTERNBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

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'I have nothing to hide' says motorsport boss Ben Sulayem

AFP | London

Motorsport boss Mohammed Ben Sulayem says he has "nothing to hide" and "I play by the rules" after being cleared of accusations that he interfered with the organisation of the inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix.

The president of governing body the FIA had been accused of asking officials "to find some concerns to prevent the FIA from certifying the (Las Vegas) circuit" before it hosted a grand prix for the first time in 2023, according to an internal FIA report.

The United Arab Emirates national, a former rally driver, was also cleared by the FIA ethics committee of influencing the results of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix last year.

"I wish it was only an accusation, but I was already convicted in the court of public opinion. I have nothing to hide. I'm proud of the work I've accomplished

MOHAMMED BEN SULAYEM

ence in the sport between the FIA and American group Liberty Media, who own the commercial rights to Formula One and organised the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

But Ben Sulayem said his relationship with Formula One Management (FOM) was "very good".

"FOM is our partner," said Ben Sulayem. "I don't have any problems. I just want to continue doing business with them."

As for the past allegations against him, Ben Sulayem was adamant that he played it by the book.

However, there have been claims of tensions over influ-



Mohammed Ben Sulayem

"I wish it was only an accusation, but I was already convicted in the court of public opinion. I have nothing to hide. I'm proud of the work I've accomplished

MOHAMMED BEN SULAYEM

Thunder edge Pelicans in thriller, Celtics, Bucks and Clippers win playoff openers



Jayson Tatum of the Boston Celtics raises his hands after making a three point basket against the Miami Heat

AFP | Los Angeles

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander drained a go-ahead basket with 32.5 seconds left on Sunday as Western Conference top seeds Oklahoma City clawed out a 94-92 victory over New Orleans in their NBA playoff opener.

Hours after he was named a finalist for NBA Most Valuable Player along with Denver star Nikola Jokic and Luka Doncic of the Dallas Mavericks, Gilgeous-Alexander scored 28 points to lead the Thunder.

The Pelicans were missing star Zion Williamson because of a hamstring strain but they refused to buckle at Oklahoma's Paycom Center.

A pulsating contest featured 20 lead changes and was a marked contrast to the wins posted earlier by the Boston Celtics, Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers, who all roared out of the gates on the way to dominant victories.

The Celtics, fueled by Jayson Tatum's first career playoff triple-double, parlayed a 14-0

"We didn't execute down the stretch the way we wanted to. We let them believe, but we did enough to get the 'W'

GILGEOUS-ALEXANDER

start to a 114-94 victory over the Miami Heat.

The Clippers shrugged off the absence of Kawhi Leonard, bullying the Mavs early on the way to a 109-97 victory over the Mavericks -- who put up just eight points in the second quarter.

In Milwaukee, Damian Lillard scored all 35 of his points in the first half as the Bucks built a 69-42 halftime lead and held on to beat the Indiana Pacers 109-94 despite the absence of Giannis Antetokounmpo.

The first half in Oklahoma City saw a dozen lead changes and ended deadlocked at 43-43.

Arsenal boss warns of Chelsea danger

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says Chelsea deserve higher league position as teams prepare for London derby

● **Arteta praises Chelsea squad and manager Mauricio Pochettino**

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta says Chelsea deserve to be higher in the Premier League table as he prepares his title-chasing Arsenal team for a testing London derby on Tuesday.

The Gunners returned to the top of the league at the weekend, beating Wolves 2-0 to leapfrog defending champions Manchester City.

They are level on 74 points with second-placed Liverpool but have a superior goal difference. City are one point behind with a game in hand.



Arsenal's Spanish manager Mikel Arteta (2R) speaks with his players during a break in play

Mauricio Pochettino's Chelsea were beaten by City in their FA Cup semi-final on Saturday but are unbeaten in eight league games, with four wins coming in that spell.

Arteta said Saturday's win

against Wolves was crucial after last week's league defeat to Aston Villa and a Champions League exit at the hands of Bayern Munich.

"We are in a great position in the Premier League," the Span-



iard told reporters yesterday.

"We've been like this for nine months, nine-and-a-half months, and we want really to give it a real go and be really determined to do what is in our hands to try to lift that trophy and tomorrow we are going to have a very tough opponent in front of us."

Pochettino, speaking at his own press conference, said a late call would be made over the fit-

ness of top-scorer Cole Palmer, who had missed training due to illness.

But the Argentine said his team could win with or without their talisman.

"The most important thing is the team and the collective," he said. "He is an important part of the team and is doing fantastic for us, but we are Chelsea and we have plenty of players that can perform and do the job."

'Incredible manager'

Arteta said ninth-placed Chelsea would be dangerous opponents regardless of whether Palmer was fit, praising the squad and "incredible manager" Pochettino.

"Whoever they put out there, when you look at the squad they have, the quality they have, it's great," he said.

"I think they are doing very, very well. I think they're do-

ing much better than people are talking."

Arteta added: "They deserve to be in a much higher position in the league when you look at what they've done and what they've produced in games."

"They have reached a final (League Cup), they have reached a semi-final (FA Cup), they could have been through. I think what Mauricio is doing is really impressive and I'm sure he's going to get them there."

Arteta said his players were full of energy despite a gruelling season as the club hunt their first Premier League title for 20 years.

"When I saw them this morning I had to stop them because winning is a big boost of energy and after their performance against Wolves, winning and having to play a London derby tomorrow, everybody is ready for it."

Wolff, Horner clash anew over Verstappen's Red Bull future

AFP | London

Toto Wolff and Red Bull counterpart Christian Horner have reignited their war of words over Max Verstappen after the Mercedes boss again hinted at poaching the three-time world champion.

Verstappen's future at Red Bull was thrown into doubt last month after his father, Jos, said the team was in danger of being "torn apart" if Horner remained its principal.

It came after allegations against Horner of inappropriate behaviour towards a woman colleague. He denied the claims and an internal investigation cleared him of wrongdoing.

Verstappen has publicly committed his future to Red Bull, but following the Dutchman's dominant victory at the Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday, Mercedes boss Wolff stirred the pot anew.

Wolff told reporters in Shanghai that "everyone is waiting to see what he (Verstappen) is going to do".



Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen (L) talks to team principal Christian Horner in the garage ahead of the qualifying session of Saudi Arabian GP (file photo)

"There are so many factors that play a role for a driver joining," said Wolff, who needs to replace seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, who is leaving for Ferrari next year.

"Clearly, from the most rational point of view, that's the quickest car in the hands of the quickest driver," said Wolff.

"But I don't think this is the

only reason you stay where you are."

Earlier this season Wolff said that he "would love" to sign the reigning world champion Verstappen if he became available.

His latest comments triggered a prickly response from Horner, who said that Wolff should focus on trying to revitalise Mercedes following a poor

There are so many factors that play a role for a driver joining. Clearly, from the most rational point of view, that's the quickest car in the hands of the quickest driver. But I don't think this is the only reason you stay where you are

TOTO WOLFF

start to the season by their high standards.

"Why would you want to leave this team?" Horner said.

"Mercedes are third behind their customers (McLaren and Aston Martin).

"His time would be better spent perhaps focusing on the team rather than the driver market.

"I can assure you that there is no ambiguity about where Max Verstappen will be next year."

Jokic, Doncic and Gilgeous-Alexander finalists for NBA MVP award

AFP | Los Angeles

Denver Nuggets star Nikola Jokic, the Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic and Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander are the three finalists for the NBA Most Valuable Player award, the league said Sunday.

The league unveiled three finalists for each of its individual awards for the 2023-24 regular season.

Serbia's Jokic is an MVP finalist for the fourth straight season while France's Victor Wembanyama is in the running for both Rookie of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors.

Jokic, who led the Nuggets to the title in 2023, won the MVP in 2021 and 2022 and finished runner-up in voting behind Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers last season.

This season Jokic averaged 26.4 points, 12.4 rebounds and 9.0 assists for Denver, which finished tied atop the Western Conference with Gilgeous-Alexander's Thunder but are seeded second in the playoffs as the Thunder own the tie-breaker.

Gilgeous-Alexander averaged 30.1 points, 5.5 rebounds, 6.2 assists and 2.0 steals this season. Doncic led the league in scoring, averaging 33.9 points, to go along with 9.2



Luka Doncic #77 of the Dallas Mavericks and Nikola Jokic #15 of the Denver Nuggets talk during a break in the action (file photo)

rebounds and 9.8 assists for the Mavs.

Gilgeous-Alexander's teammate Chet Holmgren and Charlotte Hornets forward Brandon Miller joined San Antonio's sensational Wembanyama in the battle for Rookie of the Year.

Wembanyama set a slew of records in his first NBA season, averaging 21.4 points, 10.6 rebounds, 3.9 assists, 3.6 blocks and 1.2 steals, while Holmgren averaged 16.5 points and 7.9 rebounds for Oklahoma City after missing the 2022-23 season with a foot injury.

Miller averaged 17.4 points and made 184 three-pointers this season.

Nerve-wracking finishes light up day 6 of inter-hotel cricket tournament



Sharath Udaya (Trader Vic's Bahrain) receiving "Man of the Match" certificate from Siraj Baputty (Security Manager, The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain)

TDT | Manama

The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Inter-Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament witnessed another day of thrilling action on Day 6, with five closely contested matches played on April 21.

In Match 1, Trader Vic's Bah-

rain defeated Le Meridien Bahrain by 5 wickets, with Sharath Udaya named Man of the Match for his impressive performance.

Diplomat Radisson Blu secured a narrow 3-run win over Swiss Belhotel Seef in Match 2, thanks to Tanzil Thakur's exceptional gameplay, earning him



Rakesh (Address Beach Resort) receiving "Man of the Match" certificate from Abdullah Awais (Organizing Committee, The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain)

the Man of the Match title.

Match 3 saw Address Beach Resort beat Sofitel Bahrain by 15 runs, with Rakesh named Man of the Match for his outstanding skills.

Wyndham Grand Manama won a nail-biter against Raffles Al Areen by 2 runs in Match 4,

with Obeidol taking home the Man of the Match award for his crucial contribution.

In the final match of the day, Movenpick Bahrain defeated Ramada Manama City Centre by 8 runs, with Santosh Murudkar named Man of the Match for his impressive performance.

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Barca chief wants Clasico replay if Yamal 'ghost goal' call wrong

Barcelona president Joan Laporta vows legal action as Barcelona aims to overturn Clasico defeat

● **Laporta demands footage and audio recordings to assess the controversial incident**

● **Coach Xavi criticizes absence of goal-line technology in Spanish football**

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona president Joan Laporta said yesterday the club will demand a Clasico replay if they can prove officials made a mistake by not allowing Lamine Yamal's "ghost goal".

The champions fell to a 3-2



Barcelona's Spanish forward #27 Lamine Yamal (C) is tackled by Real Madrid's French midfielder #12 Eduardo Camavinga

defeat against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday in a match which featured multiple controversial incidents, leaving

their arch-rivals 11 points clear at the top of La Liga.

The most debated was 16-year-old winger Yamal's first-half



If it is confirmed that it was a legal goal, as we believe it was, we will go further and ask for a replay of the match, as has happened in another European match due to a VAR error

JOAN LAPORTA

flick from a corner which may have crossed the line before Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin pushed it away.

Without goal-line technology in Spain, officials used VAR to try and confirm if the ball had crossed the line but could not be

certain it had and so play continued with the score level at 1-1.

Laporta demanded the Spanish football federation and the refereeing committee send Barcelona all footage of the incident and audio recordings of the officials' conversations.

"If, once the documentation has been analysed, the club understands that there was an error in the assessment of the play, as we think there was, we will take all the necessary steps to reverse the situation, without ruling out any legal action that may be necessary," said Laporta in a video published by Barcelona.

"If it is confirmed that it was a legal goal, as we believe it was, we will go further and ask for a replay of the match, as has happened in another European

match due to a VAR error."

Laporta was referring to a match between Anderlecht and Genk in January in the Belgian top flight which was initially scheduled to be replayed because of a misapplication of the laws of the game, but in the end it was ruled that Anderlecht's 2-1 win would stand.

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said Sunday it was a "disgrace" that Spanish football did not have goal-line technology.

Laporta also criticised a general "misuse" of VAR, saying there appeared to be "contradictory criteria" for its intervention depending on the teams involved.

Barcelona had two penalty appeals turned down during the Clasico defeat for what they said were fouls on Yamal and Fermin Lopez.

Jaiswal ton powers toppers Rajasthan to big IPL win

AFP | Jaipur

Yashasvi Jaiswal struck form with an unbeaten 104 as Rajasthan Royals consolidated their position at the top of the IPL table with a nine-wicket thrashing of Mumbai Indians yesterday.

Medium-pace bowler Sandeep Sharma took 5-18 to help restrict Mumbai to 179-9 after Yuzvendra Chahal claimed an IPL first of 200 wickets at Rajasthan's home ground in Jaipur.

Jaiswal, a left-handed opener whose previous best this season was 39, steered the team home in 18.4 overs in an innings interrupted by rain.

"I really enjoyed from the start and I made sure I was watching the ball properly and playing proper cricketing shots," said Jaiswal.

"I'm trying to do what I am doing well, some days it comes good and some days it doesn't, I'm not thinking much."

Rajasthan, who won the inaugural IPL in 2008 under late Australian hero Shane Warne, registered their seventh win in eight matches

Jaiswal struck his second IPL



Yashasvi Jaiswal of Rajasthan Royals in action

hundred - both versus Mumbai -- as he smashed nine fours and seven sixes in his 60-ball knock and put on 109 runs with skipper Sanju Samson, who made 38.

Sharma set up victory his first ever five-wicket haul in T20 cricket as he took the spotlight away from Chahal's remarkable feat and was named man of the match.

Chahal sent back Mohammad Nabi caught and bowled for 23 with his leg-spin as he celebrated the achievement with hugs

from teammates.

But Chahal was taken for 48 runs in four overs and Sharma stood out after he took three wickets in the 20th over including Tilak Varma, who top-scored with 65, and Tim David, who made three.

Chahal was substituted with Jos Buttler coming in as impact player and he began with two boundaries in the opening over by skipper Hardik Pandya, who played his landmark 100th IPL match.

Pandya has endured a tough

Scorecard

Rajasthan Royals 183 for 1 (Jaiswal 104*) beat Mumbai Indians 179 for 9 (Tilak 65, Sandeep 5-18) by nine wickets

time this season after he replaced veteran Rohit Sharma as skipper only to be booed by the fans across venues.

"After the game, it's not the right time to go to the players, everyone is professional, they know their roles," said Pandya.

"What we can do is learn from this game and the mistakes which we have made, rectify it and make sure that we don't repeat it."

The left-handed Jaiswal joined in the charge as he hit South African speedster Gerald Coetzee for a six and two fours to get the chase underway.

Rajasthan raced to 61-0 in six overs when rain stopped play and action resumed after 45 minutes.

Piyush Chawla bowled Buttler for 35 after the break but Jaiswal stood firm and in the company of Samson made the chase a cakewalk.

Indian prodigy, 17, makes chess history



Gukesh Dommaraju during a game

AFP | Montreal

A 17-year-old from India will become the youngest player to challenge for the World Chess Championship crown after winning a major tournament in Canada.

Gukesh Dommaraju will face reigning champion Ding Liren from China for another piece of history, after being the youngest player to win the prestigious Candidates Tournament.

"I'm just so relieved, so happy following this crazy game," Gukesh said following his landmark triumph in Toronto on Sunday.

"I was in the right mindset throughout the event. From start to end, I was in good spirits, fully motivated and I really wanted to win the event."

A grandmaster since he was 12, he is now set to be the "youngest World Chess Championship challenger in history", the International Chess Federation said.

Asked how he felt about his history-making feats, the teenager said: "I don't really care about youngest and all these

records, but it's a nice thing to say.

"Right now I'm mostly just happy about winning the tournament."

Gukesh became India's youngest grandmaster when he was just 12 years, seven months and 17 days old, but missed being the world's youngest by 17 days, according to Indian media.

Eight players competed from April 4 in Toronto, but without the Norwegian multiple world champion Magnus Carlsen.

"India is exceptionally proud of Gukesh on becoming the youngest-ever player to win the FIDE Candidates!" Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X.

"Gukesh's remarkable achievement at the Candidates in Toronto showcases his extraordinary talent and dedication.

"His outstanding performance and journey to the top inspires millions."

The date and location of the world championship showdown have yet to be announced.

Ganguly, Ponting back Pant to play T20 World Cup

AFP | New Delhi

Cricket greats Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Ponting yesterday backed India star Rishabh Pant to play the T20 World Cup in June after his return to the Indian Premier League following a serious car crash.

Pant, a wicketkeeper-batsman, took the field in the T20 tournament this season as captain of Delhi Capitals after 14 months away from top-level cricket due to the crash.

The 26-year-old left-handed



Rishabh Pant in action during nets

batter has scored 254 runs including two half-centuries in eight matches and looked sharp

behind the wickets.

"I want every young player to play but unfortunately we can only pick 15," Ganguly, who is Delhi's Director of Cricket, told reporters on Pant's India selection.

"The (more) equipped, the better one's play... I feel Pant is definitely in that bracket. And I am sure he will go to the West Indies."

Ganguly said Pant's ability to hit "big sixes" makes him stand out and advised the Indian players to "just play without fear".

Delhi head coach Ponting said he was sure Indian selectors would choose Pant for the T20's showcase tournament beginning June 1 in the West Indies and the United States.

"I think his batting is getting better and better by the game," Ponting said, calling Pant the "heart and soul" of the franchise.

"I think he has started to get a bit more trust and belief in his body as well. His keeping skills behind the stumps have been really good," he added.