

**Bahrain capture Esports, cycling medals**

Noof Bakhit claims silver medal after losing to counterpart from Saudi Arabia in FIFA HD gold medal match | **P12**

**Bahrain expresses sympathy with flood-hit India and Bangladesh**

TD | Manama

Bahrain has expressed its sympathy with India and Bangladesh due to the floods that swept the north-east parts of both countries several days ago.

The floods caused the collapse of several bridges, roads, buildings, homes, infrastructure and power outages, leading to many deaths and injuries.

Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, and to both countries' governments and peoples.

**Six Palestinian jailbreakers get five years in jail**

Tel Aviv

An Israeli court yesterday sentenced six Palestinian inmates to five years in prison for tunneling out of their cell last year and escaping from a high-security facility in the biggest prison break of its kind in decades.

The jailbreak sparked a massive manhunt in the country's north and the occupied West Bank in search for the men, who were members of Palestinian militant groups.

They were recaptured days later.

The bold escape dominated newscasts, sparked heavy criticism of Israel's prison service and prompted the government to launch an inquiry.

# Strategic alliance

Saudi Arabia and US reiterate common vision to confront Iranian threats in the region

Washington

Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud and US State Secretary Antony Blinken have affirmed their countries' common vision to confront Iran's destabilising policies in the region.

The two, who met in Washington on Saturday, reviewed the strategic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the US and ways to strengthen them, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

Blinken reiterated the US commitment to strengthen Saudi Arabia's defenses, efforts to counter Iranian threats, and the importance of maintaining strong international support for Ukraine. They also discussed managing pressures in global energy markets stemming from Russia's invasion.

Prince Khalid welcomed US affirmation of the Kingdom's support in developing its military capabilities and meeting its defense needs.

The Saudi deputy defense minister also met US Special Envoy for Yemen Timothy Lenderking and discussed the latest developments in Yemen.

"I affirmed to him the Saudi-led coalition's backing of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council and its supporting entities, and our aspirations for reaching a comprehensive political resolution to the crisis that will lead Yemen into peace and prosperity," Prince Khalid said in a tweet.



Saudi men near a US Army defence system on display at World Defense Show in Riyadh in March. (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

They discussed the latest developments in Yemen and expressed strong support for the UN-negotiated truce, with Prince Khalid reaffirming Riyadh's aspirations for the Yemenis "to reach a comprehensive

political solution that would move Yemen to peace and development."

On Thursday, the new US military commander in the Middle East said that Iran remains the most destabilising force in the

region, calling for coordinated efforts to confront the threats by Iran.

General Erik Kurilla of CENTCOM said that Iran's uranium enrichment, ballistic missile development, and regional

proxies, particularly the Houthis in Yemen, had repeatedly been central to his conversations with America's strategic partners during his recent tour of Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

**Moving forward**

## Draft work plan discussed at TRA Open Forum

Staff Reporter  
TD | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA) yesterday held an Open Forum at its headquarters in the Seef District, which provided stakeholders with a platform to share their thoughts on the TRA's 2022-2023 draft work plan.

The draft work plan was published on 24 April, and it includes the TRA's work streams with the intention of achieving objectives based on four key themes.

Specifically, the TRA aims to meet the government policy outlined in the Fifth National Telecom Plan, to ensure network security and resilience, to provide a reliable broadband service for all, and to ensure



Mr Marnick speaks at the Open Forum

consumer empowerment and protection.

Among those attending were representatives of the telecom-

communications industry, from the Ministry of Transportation and

Telecommunications, as well as consumer advocacy organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Philip Marnick, General Director of the Telecommunications Authority, commented on the event, saying, "We were pleased so many attended our first TRA Open Forum."

"It enabled stakeholders, especially consumers, an opportunity to share their ideas and help shape our work. At the end of the day, the work we do here is for the people of Bahrain, so talking to one another helps us serve our community better."

Mr Marnick added that "We expect to hold more Open Forums on future draft publications, so that we can remain in touch and engage with all our stakeholders".

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

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**ACTIVE CASES**  
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**DEATHS**  
1482

**DISCHARGED**  
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**NEW CASES**  
574

**CRITICAL**  
4

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## HH Shaikh Khalid opens Elements Academy new hall



HH Shaikh Khalid at the venue  
TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa opened the new hall of the Elements Academy.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by GSA Deputy Chairman, GSA Chief Exec-

utive Officer Dr Abdulrahman Saqid Askar and other officials and invitees.

HH Shaikh Khalid toured the new facility and was briefed by its owner, Ali Sina Munfaradi, about services provided to sportspeople.

He stressed the importance of such venues in promoting sports and healthy lifestyles among the community as part of efforts to further social development.

## Online lecture on knowledge management

TDT | Manama

General Organisation of Governorates Coordination has organised an online lecture on knowledge management in the public sector

for employees from the four governorates and the Interior Ministry.

The lecture aimed to inform the participants of the importance of knowledge gaining.

# Congratulations pour in for HH Shaikh Nasser

TDT | Manama

Bahrain rejoiced at His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Royal Endurance Team Captain, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for winning the 160-km race in the Montalcino International Championship in Rome.

They lauded the efforts and contributions of HH Shaikh Nasser to sports in Bahrain and his honourable achievements, as well as the advanced level at-



HH Shaikh Nasser

tained by the Royal Endurance Team.

They also praised His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's

care attached to sports in Bahrain, hailing the follow up and support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Those who extended sincere congratulations to HH Shaikh Nasser were Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi, Youth and Sport Affairs Minister Ayman bin Tawfiq Al Moayyed, Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, His Majesty the King's Advisor for Media Affairs Nabil bin Yaqoob Al Hamer.

Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport (SCYS), Bahrain Football Association (BFA) Board Chairman, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, BFA Deputy Board Chairman, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa, and Bahrain Table Tennis Federation Chairperson Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz.

## Solid Bahrain-Egypt relations



Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi received yesterday the Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain, Yasser Mohammed Ahmed Shaban. The Minister lauded the deep-rooted solid fraternal Bahraini-Egyptian relations.

## Course on elections security

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of the Commander of the Royal Academy of Police (RAP), Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan, the Officers Training College has organised a training course on the role of public security forces for the safety of elections.

Held from May 18 to 19, the course targeted Interior Ministry officers.

Commander of the Officers Training College, Col. Ammar Al Sayed said the importance of enhancing the skills of the participants in the elections process to ensure the security of the upcoming elections.

## Arab-German health conference

Geneva

Plans are underway for holding an Arab-German conference and exhibition for pharmaceutical industries and medical supplies in 2023 in the Kingdom of Bahrain and providing the necessary support for the health forum.

This was among the issues discussed in the 57th regular session of the Arab Health Ministers Council, which was held in Geneva yesterday in the presence of the member states.

Health Minister Faeqa bint Said Al Saleh and her accompanying delegation took part in the meeting.

Also on its agenda was the draft consolidated speech of the



Health Minister speaks at the event

Arab Health Ministers Council before the 57th session of the General Assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva in May 2022.

The meeting also spotlighted the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, the Arab Fund for Health Development, and the Arab Authority for Blood Transfusion Services.

Discussions also focused on the draft Arab guiding strategy for the nursing and midwifery professions 2022-2023, as well as a project to celebrate the Arab Nursing and Midwifery Day.

In addition to that, participants also shed light on the unification of Arab efforts to combat drugs, along with the results of the meetings of the Higher Arab Food and Drug Authority.

## Performers dazzle audience at Melody Nite 2022



Participants at the event

TDT | Manama

The Performing Arts Centre of iSocial Projects Company successfully concluded with their annual musical event "Melody Nite 2022" at the grand Hawar Banquet Hall, Olive Western Hotel, Juffair on 20 May.

Over 40 students performed to the delight of their parents and well-wishers, who were among the 200 supportive audience.

While the vocalists belted some of the best chartbusters comprising of country, pop, rock and Bollywood hits, the instrumentalists displayed their talent via guitar, keyboard and ukulele accompaniments.

Over 20 music program completers secured their plaques during the event, which were presented by the Guest of Honour - Latesh Chandra, General Manager, Ambassador Stores - one of the key supporters of the musical spectacle.

With the islands leading emcee and DJ in the house, the audience was treated to a fun-filled evening with lots of dancing, music and a sumptuous dinner buffet followed by the astounding performances.

Sonia Prabhu, Director and Mentor, appreciated the efforts of each performer on stage, and expressed her sincerest gratitude to the parents, well-wishers and supporters of the event for their collective contribution in bringing great music to life.

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# New dialysis centre set to upgrade kidney care

KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre in Umm Al Hassam brings services closer to people

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Private healthcare leader, KIMSHEALTH Bahrain has launched its new Dialysis Centre at the recently renovated KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre in Umm Al Hassam.

KIMSHEALTH's foray into establishing a specialised Dialysis Centre forms a part of larger vision to provide a complete Kidney Care Programme.

KIMSHEALTH has already been providing dialysis services at its Royal Bahrain Hospital, and through the addition of the Dialysis Centre, it is bringing its services closer to the people of Bahrain.

The Dialysis Centre is located on the second floor of the KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre and comprises 10 dialysis units and three private rooms with two having isolation facilities.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Dr M I Sahadulla, Group Chairman and Managing Director at KIMSHEALTH, said: "I welcome you to the newly renovated modern facility of our KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre. The inauguration of Dialysis Centre is one of the key initiatives planned under the Total Kidney Care Programme, which includes a robust plan that is ready for execution. The Dialysis Centre will provide advanced hemodialysis and plans are afoot to implement peritoneal dialysis soon."

Ahmed Jawahery, Chairman, KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre and President, Royal Bahrain Hospital, said: "Since 2004, KIMSHEALTH has always strived to provide new services to its patients and tend to their healthcare needs. Through the Dialysis Centre we intend to deliver a



Dr. M I Sahadulla speaking at the event



Mr. Ahmed Jawahery cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the centre in the presence of Dr. M I Sahadulla, Jacob Thomas and Jordan's Ambassador to the Kingdom Ramy Al Adwan and other dignitaries



Mr. Ahmed Jawahery speaking at the event

**"I welcome you to the newly renovated modern facility of our KIMSHEALTH Medical Centre. The inauguration of Dialysis Centre is one of the key initiatives planned under the Total Kidney Care Programme, which includes a robust plan that is ready for execution. The Dialysis Centre will provide advanced hemodialysis and plans are afoot to implement peritoneal dialysis soon."**

- DR M I SAHADULLA, GROUP CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR AT KIMSHEALTH

new line of treatment for patients with kidney ailments."

The Dialysis Centre is set in a serene, state-of-the-art facility



The dialysis facility at the centre

offering exceptional renal care for patients on dialysis supervised by American Board Certified nephrologists, working together under the umbrella of Arab Renal Care Group (ARCG). The Centre is well-equipped to deliver the best experience through modern dialysis technology, fully trained and qualified dialysis technicians and nurses and pleasant ambience.

Talking about the Dialysis Centre, Dr. M I Sahadulla, Group Chief Executive Officer at KIMSHEALTH, said: "Our ob-

jective is to provide cost-effective dialysis treatment to our patients, with the best quality, expertise and technology. Patients will now be able to access hemodialysis easier in an outpatient setting in the community rather than needing to go to a hospital setting."

Jacob Thomas, Group Executive Director at KIMSHEALTH further explains: "The Dialysis Centre is essentially an outpatient one and is meant to provide a walk-in walk-out environment without a hospital feel to the pa-



A cake was cut to mark the inauguration ceremony

tients with the comfort of complimentary pick up and drop from their home or work place. The Royal Bahrain Hospital and KIMSHEALTH Hospital will continue to offer only inpatient ICU dialysis."

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, on the sidelines of the event, Dr. M I Sahadulla said: "Our core objective is to provide a comprehensive renal care for patients. There are a lot of things that should be taken care while offering treatment to kidney patients beyond dialysis. We now

have all the laboratory facilities and expertise. Hemodialysis is only one modality; we will be soon establishing peritoneal dialysis.

"We will be soon starting kidney transplant procedures along with Arab Renal Care Group and KIMSHEALTH India after receiving required approvals from the Kingdom's Ministry of Health. In this regard, clinical protocols and expertise are already in place and we are just waiting for approvals from the part of authorities."

## COURT STORIES

### Asian man on trial for 'smuggling' 5kg of shabu

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court is hearing the case of an Asian man who was caught attempting to smuggle 5kg of shabu into the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The defendant hid the drugs inside his personal bag thinking that he would be able to enter the Kingdom without being

caught. He used an artistic way to make the drugs look like they were part of the bag cover.

He was caught by customs officials who suspected him as he appeared disturbed when he arrived in the country.

The defendant initially claimed that the bag didn't belong to him and that he didn't know that he put it among his luggage.

### Man cleared of charge denying former wife from seeing children

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has acquitted a Bahraini man of refusing to allow his children to return to his former wife.

According to court files, the defendant's divorcee filed a

complaint after their children didn't want to return to her following the conclusion of the hours set aside to meet their father at the Child Protection Centre. Investigations confirmed that the children cry uncontrollably whenever they meet their father.

## Indian Club all set for 'May Queen 2022' contest

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Preparations are in full swing for one of the iconic events on The Indian Club's social calendar, 'The Indian Club - Beyon Money May Queen 2K22 Powered by BIRA'.

An evening of beauty, talent and entertainment will take place at The Indian Club, Gudaibiya premises on Friday May 27, 2022 starting from 7:30pm onwards, with an expected audience of more than 1,000 including VIPs, dignitaries, Club Members and invited guests. Sixteen contestants will be displaying their talents on the walkway.

The contestants are from different nationalities and they will compete over three rounds (casual, ethnic and eveningwear) followed by Q and A for the final round. Along with the Crown, First Runner Up, Second Runner Up, and other four individual category awards - Best Walk, Best Smile, Best Hair-Do and Audi-



Indian Club officials at the Press conference

ence Choice, will be awarded to the respective winners.

The title of the event is sponsored by Beyon Money, and the show is powered by BIRA, along with Event Partner PICO. The Fashion Partners associated with this event are Nourin, Joz Salon, and many other lead sponsors for this mega event.

Nourin will be providing a significant level of event support in the part of clothing and accessories for all the contestants in the Performance round. Hairstyle for all the contestants will be done by Joz Salon, said

a press release issued by the Indian Club.

The beautiful 'would be' May Queens will be expertly choreographed by Ms Abhirami Aji Subha and Ms Roshni Ravindran; and the show will be controlled by professional MC's, with the stage set-up, light and sound being provided by Pico.

Along with the great exposure; a wide range of prizes, including cash prizes, travel tickets, jewelry, vouchers, consumer electronics, beauty products, gift hampers etc, are awaiting for the winners as well as the

contestants.

In addition to the fantastic splendour, colour and pageantry of The May Queen competition, the audience will also get to enjoy a wonderful array of dance talents with performances by a variety of dance groups.

For further details of the Event, please contact the General Secretary Mr. Satheesh Gopinathan on 34330835 or The President Mr. K.M. Cherian on 39427425 or The Convener Mr. Jyothi Menon on 39851646 or the Coordinator Mr. Aji Bhasya on 38809471.

# Al Fateh project in full swing

TDT | Manama

The concrete pouring for the reverse circulation bridge at the entrance to Al Fateh Corniche has begun as part of Al Fateh Street Development Project.

Excavation work has also begun in preparation for the start of tunnel development at the junction of Al Fateh Center.

This was according to the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Engineer Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf who visited the project's site.

He was accompanied on the visit by the Assistant Undersecretary for Roads, Eng. Kazem Abdullatif, Director of Roads Projects and Maintenance, Eng. Sayed Badr Al Alawi, and Samir Nass, representing a coalition of the Bahraini Nass Contracting Company and Huta Hegerfeld Saudi Arabia, and the project consultant, Parsons Company.

The visit was part of a series of events planned by the Ministry of Works to update the media on the project's progress.

Khalaf said that the main



Eng. Khalaf is briefed on the project's progress as excavation work goes full blast

works of the project include the expansion and development of Al Fateh Street to four lanes in each direction with a length of approximately 3 kilometres, as well as the construction of a tunnel with three lanes in both directions with a length of 595 metres at the intersection of the Gulf Hotel to transport traffic between north and south on the ground level.

The project also includes the construction of a one-way flyover with two lanes for those coming from Manama to the north on Al Fateh Street towards

Prince Saud Al Faisal Street, as well as the cancellation of the current traffic light at the intersection of Al Fateh Street and Sheikh Duaij Street to free up traffic and make it non-stop. It also includes the building of a flyover with two reverse circulation lanes at the Al Fateh Corniche entry for northbound traffic.

The ministry had already arranged the temporary works required for the building of the reverse circulation bridge without interfering with the number of lanes and traffic on this essential roadway.

It was aimed at providing a space to work on tunnel construction, beginning with piling works, in preparation for the start of tunnel excavation and construction works.

The project works require the implementation of traffic diversions in several stages to reduce the impact on traffic movement due to the importance of this street and its impact on the Kingdom's road network.

The Minister added that the ministry has completed 31% of the construction of all the



**The Al Fateh Street development project extends from Shaikh Hamad Bridge in the north to Mina Salman intersection in the south, and includes the development of the intersection of Shaikh Duaij Street, the intersection of the Gulf Hotel, Al Fateh Mosque and the Juffair intersection with the aim of providing smooth traffic in both directions.**

foundations and columns of the upper bridge for reverse circulation. It is scheduled to open to traffic in the last quarter of this year.

Work is also ongoing to lay the foundations for the one-way upper bridge at the intersection of Shaikh Duaij Street, which is expected to open to traffic by the second quarter of 2023.

The Al Fateh Street development project extends from Shaikh Hamad Bridge in the north to Mina Salman intersection in the south, and includes the development of the intersection of Shaikh Duaij Street, the intersection of the Gulf Hotel, Al Fateh Mosque and the Juffair intersection with the aim of providing smooth traffic in both directions.



## Manama Central Market facilities upgraded

TDT | Manama

The Capital Municipality is keen to strengthen its partnership with the merchants of the Manama Central Market by discussing rehabilitation and development projects, as well as obstacles to maintenance and organisation work and ways to address them.

This came during a visit to the Manama Central Market by the Director General of the Capital Municipality, Eng. Muhammad Saad Al Sahli, to review the progress of maintenance work and discuss the merchants' needs for services that would improve the existing facilities.



Eng. Al Sahli visits the Manama Central Market

Al Sahli pointed out that the development of the central market requires effective community partnership to provide an integrated service environment for all.

"As part of efforts to improve the level of services at the Manama Central Market, the Capital Municipality has completed the replacement of all concrete tables covered with ceramics

in the fish market according to the specifications approved by the Ministry of Health," he said.

He added that the Capital Municipality is continuing to implement internal and external maintenance plans for the Manama Central Market, which include maintaining the efficiency of air conditioners, strengthening lighting, ensuring the effectiveness of the sewage network, and periodic fault detection with an integrated maintenance team equipped with the latest maintenance tools and techniques and working 24 hours a day, in addition to providing hygiene services throughout the market.

## Tree of Life Social Charitable Society's role and services hailed



Humaidan with Al Dailami and the Society's members

TDT | Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan has praised the Tree of Life Social Charitable Society's role, contributions and services in the social, humanitarian and charity fields.

He affirmed the Ministry's support for the efforts of civil society organisations and keenness to remove all obstacles facing them, in accordance with the regulations and laws in force.

This came as Humaidan met yesterday the Society's Board of Directors Chairman, Khalil Ahmed Al Dailami, and several members.

The Minister also commended the role played by

Al Dailami in promoting the culture of voluntary and humanitarian work, describing him as one of the exemplary pioneers in this field, citing the Society's initiatives to take care of orphans' affairs.

They discussed the main challenges facing the work of the Tree of Life Social Charitable Society, and ways of facilitating procedures for it so as to enable it to enhance its role and improve its performance in serving society.

Al Dailami reviewed the Society's initiatives and achievements in the field of charity work, highlighting its goal of becoming a role model for charity and humanitarian work in the kingdom, in cooperation with the relevant public and private institutions.

## Scientific project



Shaikh Issa bin Ali Secondary School for Boys has presented a scientific project focusing on recycling old and used car wheels and utilising the rubber in them to make high-quality and low-cost traffic accident shock absorbers for various vehicles. This came within the "Science is Our Life" exhibition, which was organised by Al Hoora Secondary School for Girls, which included experiments, projects and applied scientific research. Several government schools took part to contribute to preserving the environment and supporting sustainable development efforts. The participating team from Shaikh Isa bin Ali High School confirmed that the use of rubber in the manufacture of shock absorbers and safety barriers in the car contributes to reducing the impact of collision during traffic accidents, based on a physical principle derived from Newton's second law.

## DANAT concludes six-day 'Pearl Program' course with flying colours

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has organised the "Pearl Program".

The program is an integrated training course that combined everything on natural, cultured and imitation pearls with a snorkeling expedition and a visit to the Pearl Path (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in Bahrain.

The six-day course offered a holistic approach to pearl studies.

This included analysis of pearls using basic gemological tools and fundamental scientific



Jamsheer with course participants

instruments to characterise pearls such as X-ray micro-radiography, X-ray micro-computed tomography, X-ray luminescence and EDXRF. Studies were accompanied by laboratory sessions and practical experience with pearl and shell samples from DANAT's collection.

"This course was part of DANAT's efforts to train, qualify, and improve the capabilities of more cadres in this significant field, in addition to enhancing awareness of the heritage of pearls in Bahrain, and its role in the economic and social development," DANAT CEO Noora

Jamsheer said.

Jamsheer said that course participants were able to build a better understanding of pearls, with a focus on natural pearls, noting that the institute will organise a similar course in June.

"DANAT offers these training courses as part of its core objective to develop the Bahraini pearl sector within the framework of the Kingdom's national plan, and to enhance the Kingdom's reputation as a leading center of expertise in the field of pearls and gemstones, as part of the Bahrain Economic 2030 vision," she said.

# SICO Bank, Beyon Cyber for Cyber Security Services join hands

Multi-year contract for Managed Cyber Security Services by Beyon Cyber

TDI | Manama

**S**ICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, market maker, and investment bank has signed a contract with Beyon Cyber for managed cyber security services.

The partnership, which was signed by SICO CEO Najla Al Shirawi and Beyon Cyber's CEO, Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Duaij Al Khalifa, will lead to enhancing the cyber security maturity of SICO's IT Infrastructure to accelerate its digital transformation journey further.

SICO's CEO Najla Al Shirawi said, "We are pleased to partner with a distinguished national company providing sophisticated and much needed cyber security solutions enabling us to manage and mitigate business risk." SICO's Head of Information Technology Mohammed Ibrahim added, "The rapid growth of digitization in recent years has led to increased opportunities for potential cyber-attacks and that is the reason we are



Officials after the deal signing posing for a family photo

working side by side on the cyber security enhancements as well as the digitalization strategy ensuring the strongest cyber security measures are in place."

Beyon Cyber's CEO, Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Duaij Al Khalifa

commented, "This partnership allows us to bring our years of experience in cyber threat monitoring and response to SICO to help protect them against advanced cyber threats."

Beyon Cyber, which launched

in January, is a subsidiary of Batelco and is focused on offering advanced end-to-end cyber-security solutions, with managed services and advisory to organizations across Bahrain and across the region.

# Edamah launches Sitra Industrial Park Expansion



● The 87,382 sqm Park includes a total of four existing facilities with two new covered facilities and dry storage plots for industrial, commercial and logistical use.

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah), the real estate arm of the Kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company announced the availability of agile industrial locations at its Sitra Industrial Park.

The 87,382 sqm Park includes a total of four existing facilities with two new covered facilities and dry storage plots for industrial, commercial and logistical use. Edamah is keen to tailor its features to accommodate tenants' re-

quirements. The Park is to be expanded with an additional 8,000 sqm of industrial space with construction about to commence on the site.

Edamah CEO Amin Al Arayed said, "We noticed that corporate actors in the sector were seeking more flexible partnerships with regard to their industrial needs and not solely warehousing units in the Kingdom, and the Sitra Industrial Park will help serve this demand."

Most particularly we are looking at expanding this facility in a manner that specifically caters to individual needs of tenants by offering them customised solutions to their Logistical, manufacturing, commercial and industrial requirements."

Edamah's diverse portfolio spans retail, hospitality, commercial and industrial properties across the Kingdom. It aims to drive sustainable economic growth while also creating benefits for local communities.

# NBB signs deal with Majestic Car Centre

TDI | Manama

**T**he National Bank of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Majestic Car Centre to further extend the collaboration between the two entities, and provide NBB customers with competitive car financing offers as part of the bank's "Auto Loan" product.

The signing ceremony was held at NBB's headquarters, in the presence of Ebrahim Al Snan and Najem Al Snan from the Majestic Car Centre, alongside Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani and Ahmed Al Maskati from the National Bank of Bahrain.

Customers of Majestic Car Centre opting for an Auto loan from NBB will avail a range of benefits, such as a fast and smooth approval process, competitive interest rates, optional salary transfer, and no down



The signing ceremony was held at NBB's headquarters, in the presence of Ebrahim Al Snan and Najem Al Snan from the Majestic Car Centre, alongside Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani and Ahmed Al Maskati from the National Bank of Bahrain.

payment required. The Bank is additionally presenting five lucky winners with an oppor-

tunity to win a cash prize of BHD 1,000 each from NBB's Auto Loan campaign, set to run until

2nd June 2022.

And as part of NBB's efforts to introduce eco-friendly offers that align with the Bank's commitment to promote sustainable solutions across its community, customers looking to purchase hybrid and electric cars will enjoy special interest rates and zero processing fees.

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive Retail Banking at NBB, said: "We continue to elevate our auto loan product by partnering with multiple car dealerships in the Kingdom to meet all our customers' needs."

Ebrahim Al Snan, Chairman at Majestic Car Centre, said: "We are delighted at this collaboration with the National Bank of Bahrain to provide its customers with exclusive offers on a range of our cars."

# India considering spending additional \$26 billion to fight inflation

Reuters | New Delhi

**T**he Indian government is considering spending an additional 2 trillion rupees (\$26 billion) in the 2022/23 fiscal year to cushion consumers from rising prices and fight multi-year high inflation, two government officials told Reuters. The new measures will be

double the 1 trillion rupees hit government revenues could take from tax cuts on petrol and diesel the finance minister announced on Saturday, both the officials said. India's retail inflation rose to an eight-year high in April, while wholesale inflation rose to at least a 17-year high.

# Al Salam Bank opens educational mock-up branch

TDI | Manama

**A**l Salam Bank has announced the opening of its educational mock-up branch at the Canadian School Bahrain (CSB), the first certified BC Curriculum school in Bahrain, as part of its Junior Banking Programme.

The one-of-a-kind initiative aims to provide Grade 5 and 6 students essential financial literacy skills in order to develop a solid foundation of knowledge, by embedding a heightened awareness of financial responsibility and equipping students with core life skills in the likes of the basics of money management and healthy saving habits.

At the end of the programme, the students will be taken on a tour of one of Al Salam Bank's branches to witness firsthand the ins and outs of branch operations, and receive a participation



Educational Mock-up Branch Ribbon Cutting

certificate from the Bank. Abby Saadeh, Canadian School Bahrain Principal, said, "The programme is currently available for elementary students, with plans to increase

the number of graduates of this program across all academic levels by gradually introducing it to intermediate and secondary level students."

Mahmood Qannati, Head of



Officials during a group photo opportunity

Marketing and Communication at Al Salam Bank revealed, "Al Salam Bank representatives will ensure that the students are provided with the support and guidance needed for them to gain a

comprehensive and integrated educational experience, and we look forward to expanding this programme to other educational institutions in the Kingdom in the future." This initiative comes

in line with the Bank's Brand DNA Guiding Pillar, 'Inspire our People', which is driven by the Bank's human desire to make a difference in the lives of its people and the greater community.

News in brief

◆ **Australia's Labour Party will form the country's next government** today as unprecedented support for the Greens and climate-focused independents ended nearly a decade of rule by the conservative coalition. Centre-left Labor remains four to five seats short of a majority of 76 in the 151 seat lower house with about a dozen electorates too close to call, television channels reported on Sunday. Labor may need the support of independents and smaller parties to return to power for the first time since 2013. Labour leader Anthony Albanese said he will be sworn in as the 31st prime minister on Monday along with four senior party members, before heading to Tokyo to attend a "Quad" summit on Tuesday with U.S. President Joe Biden and the prime ministers of Japan and India.



Australia's Labour to retake power after 9 years

Powerful storm rips through Ontario, killing at least two



◆ **A thunderstorm** that nearly packed the power of a tornado rolled through Ontario on Saturday killing at least two people and left parts of Canada's most populous province without power, authorities said. Emergency crews were inundated with calls after the storm uprooted many trees, disrupting traffic and damaging homes. Police said one person died and two others were injured after a tree fell on their camping trailer in Brant County, in southern Ontario, while a woman in her 70s died after being hit by a tree during the thunderstorm.

◆ **The Russian-appointed head** of the occupied Ukrainian town next to Europe's largest nuclear power plant was injured in an explosion yesterday, a Ukrainian official and a Russian news agency said. Andrei Shevchuk, who was appointed mayor of Enerhodar following the Russian army's occupation of the town, was in intensive care following the attack, Russia's RIA news agency reported, citing a source in the emergency services. "We have accurate confirmation that during the explosion the self-proclaimed head of the 'people's administration' Shevchuk and his bodyguards were injured," Dmytro Orlov, who Ukraine recognises as mayor of the town said in a post on the Telegram messaging app.

Russia-backed mayor of Ukraine nuclear plant town wounded by explosion

◆ **Finnish President Sauli Niinisto** said on Saturday he had held "open and direct" talks with Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan to discuss Finland's bid for NATO membership. Erdogan has publicly questioned whether

Finland's president held "open and direct" talks with Turkey's Erdogan



Finland and Sweden should be allowed to join the military alliance. "I stated that as NATO allies Finland and

Turkey will commit to each other's security and our relationship will thus grow stronger," Niinisto tweeted after the call. "Finland condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Close dialogue continues."

# WHO expects more cases of monkeypox

Key facts

- ◆ Monkeypox is caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.
- ◆ It is a viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- ◆ Typically presents clinically with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications.
- ◆ Usually a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks. Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around 3-6%.
- ◆ Transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus.
- ◆ Transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- ◆ The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. Monkeypox is less contagious than smallpox and causes less severe illness.
- ◆ Vaccines used during the smallpox eradication programme also provided protection against monkeypox. Newer vaccines have been developed of which one has been approved for prevention of monkeypox
- ◆ An antiviral agent developed for the treatment of smallpox has also been licensed for the treatment of monkeypox.



Reuters | London

The World Health Organisation said it expects to identify more cases of monkeypox as it expands surveillance in countries where the disease is not typically found. As of Saturday, 92 confirmed cases and 28 suspected cases of monkeypox have been reported from 12 member states that are not endemic for the virus, the U.N. agency said, adding it will provide further guidance and recommendations in coming days for countries on how to mitigate the spread of monkeypox. "Available information suggests that human-to-human transmission is occurring among people in close physical contact with cases who are symptomatic", the agency added. "What seems to be happening

WHO surveillance

- Suspected case:** An acute illness with fever >38.3 degree C, lymphadenopathy, back pain, myalgia and three days later by a progressively developing rash (most dense) and then spreading elsewhere on the body, including the palms of hands.
- Probable case:** A case that meets the clinical case definition but does not have an epidemiological link to a confirmed case.
- Confirmed case:** A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

now is that it has got into the population as a sexual form, as a genital form, and is being spread as are sexually transmitted infections, which has amplified its transmission around the world," WHO official David Heymann, an infectious disease specialist, told Reuters. Heymann said an international committee of experts met via video conference to look at what needed to be studied about the outbreak and communicated to the public, including whether

there is any asymptomatic spread, who are at most risk, and the various routes of transmission. He said the meeting was convened "because of the urgency of the situation". The committee is not the group that would suggest declaring a public health emergency of international concern, WHO's highest form of alert, which applies to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said close contact was the key transmission route, as lesions typical of the disease are

Reduce the risk of zoonotic transmission

Over time, most human infections have resulted from a primary, animal-to-human transmission. Unprotected contact with wild animals, especially those that are sick or dead, including their meat, blood and other parts must be avoided. Additionally, all foods containing animal meat or parts must be thoroughly cooked before eating.



Human monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a 9-year-old boy in a region where smallpox had been eliminated in 1968. Since then, most cases have been reported from rural, rainforest regions of the Congo Basin, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and human cases have increasingly been reported from across Central and West Africa.

Since 1970, human cases of monkeypox have been reported in 11 African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the United States.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	84,984,459	1,028,902	527,380,611
2 India	43,136,371	524,413	
3 Brazil	30,780,028	665,657	Deaths
4 France	29,337,985	147,780	6,300,088
5 Germany	26,085,508	138,712	Recovered:
6 UK	22,238,715	177,977	497,341,739
7 Russia	18,293,450	378,350	New cases
8 S. Korea	17,957,697	23,965	+385,940
9 Italy	17,229,263	165,918	New deaths
10 Turkey	15,061,376	98,921	+330
11 Spain	12,238,073	105,947	
12 Vietnam	10,708,887	43,075	
13 Argentina	9,135,308	128,776	
14 Japan	8,587,421	30,292	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	763,042	+467	9,130	+2	747,492	6,420
UAE	904,830	+364	2,302		888,584	13,944
Kuwait	632,474		2,555		629,392	527
Oman	389,473		4,260		384,669	544
Qatar	367,099	+147	677		365,415	1,007

Newly appointed French minister denies rape accusations

Reuters | Paris

Damien Abad, France's newly appointed minister for Solidarity and the Disabled, strongly denied he raped two women, following accusations published on Sunday by the Mediapart website in an article based on interviews with the women. The women quoted by Mediapart said Abad had forced them to have unwanted sexual relationships with him. The actions happened in late 2010 and early 2011, they said. One of the women filed a complaint to the police against Abad in 2017 which was closed without further action, Abad and Mediapart said. "I contest with the greatest force these accusations of



Member of Parliament Damien Abad

sexual violence," he said in a statement sent to Reuters. "The sexual relations that I have had throughout my life have always been by mutual consent." Abad said his disability, a disorder called arthrogyposis that affects all four of his limbs, made it physically impossible for him to commit the acts he was accused of.

Abad joined the government formed on Friday after President Emmanuel Macron's re-election. Asked to comment on the accusations against Abad, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said she was not aware of them when he joined the government. "I will be very clear: on all these subjects of harassment, sexual assault, there can be no impunity and we must continue to act so that women who may be victims of assault, harassment, can speak freely," she said. Borne said her government would bear the consequences of appointing Abad, "if there are new elements and a new case is opened." She did not give more details.

Biden in Japan to

Reuters | Tokyo

President Joe Biden arrived in Japan yesterday to launch a plan for greater US economic engagement with the Indo-Pacific, facing criticism even before the programme is announced that it will offer scant benefit to countries in the region. On the second leg of his first Asia trip as president, Biden is to meet with leaders of Japan, India and Australia, the "Quad," another cornerstone of his strategy to push back against China's expanding influence. Biden meet with Japanese business leaders, including the president of Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T), at the ambassador's residence in Tokyo shortly after arriving, said a person familiar

1785

Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals

1813

South American independence leader Simón Bolívar enters Mérida, leading the invasion of Venezuela, and is proclaimed El Libertador ("The Liberator")



Mao Zedong starts the "Great Leap Forward" movement in China

1958

1998

The Good Friday Agreement is accepted in a referendum in Northern Ireland with 75% voting yes.

# more cases to emerge

## case definition

Celcius (101degree F), intense headache, and intense asthenia followed one to ooping rash often beginning on the face ere on the body, including soles of feet

tion, is not laboratory confirmed but ed or probable case.

atory confirmed.

very infectious. For example, parents caring for sick children are at risk, as are health workers, which is why some countries have started inoculating teams treating monkeypox patients using vaccines for smallpox, a related virus.

Many of the current cases have been identified at sexual health clinics.

Early genomic sequencing of a handful of the cases in Europe has suggested a similarity with the strain that spread in a limited fashion in Britain, Israel and Singapore in 2018.

Heymann said it was "biologically plausible" the virus had been circulating outside of the countries where it is endemic, but had not led to major outbreaks as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns, social distancing and travel restrictions. He stressed that the monkey-

monkeypox have tries - Benin, Republic, the ngo, Gabon, the Republic South Sudan.

## How can people protect against infection?

The UK has begun to inoculate healthcare workers who may be at risk while caring for patients with the smallpox vaccine, which can also protect against monkeypox. The US government says it has enough smallpox vaccine stored in its Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to vaccinate the entire US population.

There are antiviral drugs for smallpox that could also be used to treat monkeypox under certain circumstances, a spokesperson for the US Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement.

More broadly, health officials say that people should avoid close personal contact with someone who has a rash illness or who is otherwise unwell. People who suspect they have monkeypox should isolate and seek medical care.

monkeypox outbreak did not resemble the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic because it does not transmit as easily. Those who suspect they may have been exposed or who show symptoms including bumpy rash and fever,

## What might be behind the spike in cases?

"Viruses are nothing new and expected," said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

Rasmussen said a number of factors including increased global travel as well as climate change have accelerated the emergence and spread of viruses. The world is also more on alert to new outbreaks of any kind in the wake of the COVID pandemic, she said.

should avoid close contact with others, he said.

"There are vaccines available, but the most important message is, you can protect yourself," he added.

The incubation period of monkeypox can range from 5 to 21 days. The febrile stage of illness usually lasts 1 to 3 days with symptoms including fever, intense headache, lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes), back pain, myalgia (muscle ache), and an intense asthenia (lack of energy). The febrile stage is followed by the skin eruption stage, lasting for 2 to 4 weeks. Lesions evolve from macules (lesions with a flat base) to papules (raised firm painful lesions) to vesicles (filled with clear fluid) to pustules (filled with pus), followed by scabs or crusts. The proportion of patients who die has varied between 0 and 11% in documented cases and has been higher among young children.

The identification in May 2022 of clusters of monkeypox cases in several non-endemic countries with no direct travel links to an endemic area is atypical. Further investigations are underway to determine the likely source of infection and limit further onward spread.

## Pounded by Russian offensive in the east, Ukraine rules out ceasefire

Ukraine rules out ceasefire, concessions

Russia launches assault in Luhansk, Mykolayiv

Ukraine must decide own future, Polish president says

Reuters | Kyiv

Ukraine ruled out a ceasefire or any territorial concessions to Moscow while Russia stepped up its attack in the eastern Donbas region and stopped sending gas to Finland in its latest response to Western sanctions and its deepening international isolation.

Polish President Andrzej Duda told lawmakers in Kyiv that the international community had to demand Russia's complete withdrawal from Ukrainian territory and that sacrificing even an inch of it would be a "huge blow" to the entire West.

"Worrying voices have appeared, saying that Ukraine should give in to (President Vladimir) Putin's demands," Duda said, the first foreign leader to address Ukrainian lawmakers in person since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion.

"Only Ukraine has the right to decide about its future." Shortly after he finished speaking, an air raid siren was heard in central Kyiv, a reminder that the nation remained at war even as the front lines have shifted hundreds kilometres to the south and east.

After ending weeks of resistance by the last Ukrainian fighters in the strategic south-eastern port of Mariupol, Rus-

sia is waging a major offensive in Luhansk, one of two provinces in Donbas.

Russian-backed separatists already controlled parts of Luhansk and the neighbouring Donetsk province before the invasion, but Moscow wants to seize the remaining Ukrainian-held territory in the region.

The Russian defence ministry said on Sunday its forces pounded Ukrainian command centres, troops and ammunition depots in Donbas and the Mykolayiv region in the south with air strikes and artillery.

Ukraine's general staff reported continued heavy Russian shelling of twin cities Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk in the Luhansk region.

The cities, separated by the Siverskiy Donets River, form the eastern part of a Ukrainian-held pocket that Russia has been trying to overrun since mid-April after failing to capture Kyiv and shifting its focus to the east and south of the country.

Reuters was unable to independently verify those battlefield reports.

Ukraine's lead negotiator, speaking to Reuters on Saturday, ruled out a ceasefire that would involve Russian forces remaining in occupied areas or any deal with Moscow that involved ceding territory. Making concessions would backfire because Russia would hit back harder after any break in fighting, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said.

"The war will not stop. It will just be put on pause for some time," Podolyak said in an interview in the heavily guarded presidential office. "They'll start a new offensive, even more bloody and large-scale."

## launch regional economic plan to counter Beijing



US President Joe Biden shakes hands with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi upon his arrival at Yokota U.S. Air Force Base in Fussa, on the outskirts of Tokyo

He and Kishida are expected to discuss Japan's plans to expand its military capabilities and reach in response to China's growing might.

Biden today plans to roll out the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a programme to bind regional countries more closely through common standards in areas including supply-chain resilience, clean energy, infrastructure and digital trade.

Washington has lacked an economic pillar to its Indo-Pacific engagement since former President Donald Trump quit a multinational trans-Pacific trade agreement, leaving the field open to China to expand its influence.

But the IPEF is unlikely to include binding commitments, and Asian countries and trade experts have given a decidedly lukewarm response to a programme limited by Biden's reluctance to risk American jobs by offering the increased market access the region craves.

The White House had wanted it the IPEF announcement to represent a formal start of negotiations with a core group of like-minded countries, but Japan wanted to ensure broader participation to include as many Southeast Asian countries as possible, trade and diplomatic sources said.

Given this, Monday's ceremony will likely signal an agreement to start discussions on IPEF rather than actual negotiations, the sources said.



A woman with a child evacuates from a residential building damaged by shelling, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Kyiv, Ukraine



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



While people suffer from high prices at the pump, the oil & gas industry is raking in billions from a distorted market. Every minute, coal, oil & gas receive \$11M in subsidies. Governments must shift subsidies away from fossil fuels to protect the poor & most vulnerable people.

@antonioguterres  
02



As the caretaker of the euro, we @ecb want to keep an open dialogue with the people we serve. I had the pleasure to answer students' questions about inflation, the war in Ukraine and my career.

@Lagarde

03



This evening, I will be leaving for Japan to take part in the second in-person Quad Summit. The Quad leaders will once again have the opportunity to discuss the various Quad initiatives and other issues of mutual interest.

@JoeBiden

04



Unions allow workers to maintain their dignity. It's a lot more than just paychecks and benefits, it's about the dignity of workers.

@JoeBiden

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



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# Slower progress on climate-related disclosures in leading banks' annual reports

Latest KPMG benchmarking report highlights the need for globally consistent sustainability reporting standards

- Banks are aware of the relevant climate-related risks
- Seventy seven percent of the banks surveyed disclose that they are integrating 'climate-related risks' into their wider risk management framework
- Many of the banks also acknowledge that 'climate-related risk' is an overarching risk

TDT | Manama

Progress on climate-related disclosures in annual reports by some of the world's leading banks slowed down in 2021, according to a new report from the KPMG International Standards Group. The annual benchmarking analysis, now in its second year, looked at climate-related disclosures in the most recent annual reports of 35 major banks, based in territories around the world – offering insight to investors, regulators, preparers and other interested key stakeholders.



**In Bahrain, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) published a circular announcing the intent and commitment towards addressing social and climate-related risks within the financial services sector**

JEPAPRIYA PARTIBAN

Despite increasing consensus on the need for enhanced climate impact transparency, the findings reveal that, while many institutions are on a clear journey towards greater voluntary disclosure, with 100 percent of banks analysed providing some form of climate-related disclosures, more detailed progress in annual reports has slowed and varies significantly from territory to territory. Banks based in jurisdictions that have already implemented heightened regulation on climate-related disclosures have made the biggest strides with more enhanced disclosures – with UK banks ahead of the pack. Meanwhile, some jurisdictions

where the base level of disclosure in annual reports was historically lower are catching up with those that have more advanced disclosures. The formation of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) marks a critical milestone in the journey towards a consistent global baseline of investor-relevant sustainability reporting – including on climate related risks. In anticipation of new disclosure standards from the ISSB, there is some anecdotal evidence from KPMG's analysis that some banks may have taken a 'wait-and-see' approach until they have more clarity about the new standards. Jeyapriya Partiban, Partner

and Head of Advisory at KPMG in Bahrain, said: "The report findings revealed that many banks worldwide still do not provide climate-related disclosures in their financial statements and, users of annual reports are increasingly looking for information about the impact from climate-related risks and opportunities as they want to understand how these impacts filter through to their financial statements and influence their bottom-line. However, this trend will eventually change as climate reporting will soon be a part of the mandatory reporting framework. In 2021, the TCFD's (The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures) recommendations became mandatory for UK premium listed banks on a 'comply or explain' basis. Regulators in Australia and certain regulators in Europe have issued guidance on climate-related disclosures and have emphasised the importance of considering climate-related matters in their annual reports." "In Bahrain, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) published a circular announcing the intent and commitment towards addressing social and climate-related risks within the financial services sector. To begin with, licensees

need to understand how climate-related risks an impact on can have the organization and show evidence on how they are considering climate-related risks in terms of monitoring, measuring and managing their risks. The future of this would typically lead towards building a formal framework in terms of risk protocols, compliance requirements and disclosures. Therefore, banks need to start applying an ESG lens on their strategy, business plans, policies and processes, internal culture and their overall organizational activities to ensure they can

**Despite increasing consensus on the need for enhanced climate impact transparency, the findings reveal that, while many institutions are on a clear journey towards greater voluntary disclosure, with 100 percent of banks analysed providing some form of climate-related disclosures, more detailed progress in annual reports has slowed and varies significantly from territory to territory.**

maintain and manage ongoing compliance." Despite slower progress, KPMG's analysis highlights that banks are aware of the relevant climate-related risks, particularly when it comes to describing the risks they have identified and how they have set up their governance structures to manage these risks. Given that banks' traditional focus on risk management, it doesn't come as much of a surprise that most of those analyzed provide detailed disclosure in this area. Seventy seven percent of the banks surveyed disclose that they are integrating 'climate-related risks' into their wider risk management framework and that they are starting to follow the more 'business as usual' processes of identification, assessment, management and reporting of climate-related risks. Many of the banks also acknowledge that 'climate-related risk' is an overarching risk that has an influence on their other risks. Their most impacted other risks are credit risk, reputational risk, compliance risk and operational risk. However, while the 'credit risk' disclosures are typically detailed in annual reports, very few banks are connecting those disclosures with the associated impacts in their financial statements.

# CELEBS

## celebs

### Margot Robbie to star in 'Ocean's Eleven' prequel film

ANI | Washington

Hollywood star Margot Robbie will be starring in the prequel to 'Ocean's Eleven', a heist comedy about con artists who rob hundreds of millions from a Las Vegas casino.

According to Variety, the upcoming film is still in development at Warner Bros. and has not been greenlit. Jay Roach will be directing. He has worked with Robbie in the 2019 workplace sexual harassment drama 'Bombshell'.

A name for this prequel has yet not been confirmed but the 2018 gender-swapped reboot of the franchise, which starred

A name for this prequel has yet not been confirmed

Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett and Anne Hathaway, had al-

ready taken 'Ocean's Eight'. Hence, the studio may have to settle on another title for Robbie's mission.

As per The Hollywood Reporter, in addition to leading the undisclosed cast, Robbie will produce the film through her company Lucky Chap. Roach, whose credits also include "Austin Powers" and "Meet the Fockers," will also serve as a producer.

Margot Robbie



### Victoria Beckham reveals secret to signature smoky eye

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Victoria Beckham has shared the beauty secret to her signature smoky eye.

The former spice girl - who launched her eponymous brand 'Victoria Beckham Beauty' back in 2019 - has revealed the step by step process of her iconic make-up look.

The fashion icon - who often sports smoky makeup on the eyes - described it as "soft, smoky, eye-opening, and a bit undone".

She added: "I love a lot of blended liner under my lashes, the clean, yet undone smoky eye,"

Victoria - whose eyes have "always been part" of her classic look - noted how she has always been keen to "learn as much" as possible, and she's enjoyed helping other people with their makeup.

She told Grazia: "My eyes have always been part of my signature look. I learned a lot about techniques and what works for my eyes while in the make-up chair."

"I've always loved beauty, so over the years I've tried to learn as much as I can. I love playing make-up artist."

Earlier this year, the former Spice Girls singer took to Instagram and shared a simple makeup tutorial to her millions of followers.

The demo was accompanied by captions on how to achieve the signature look.

Post read: "My signature @victoriabeckhambeauty smoky eye in two simple steps

"1. Trace a thick line along the upper lashes and a finer line along the lower lash line (this is Ash, which I love for something a little different but I usually go for Cocoa for everyday).

"2. Blend out with the sponge tip into the desired shape. Add more colour to the lash line if needed."



Victoria Beckham

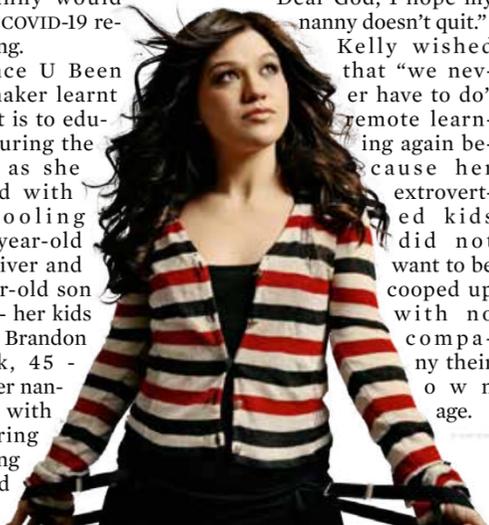
### Kelly Clarkson was scared her nanny would quit during COVID-19 remote learning.

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kelly Clarkson was scared her nanny would quit during COVID-19 remote learning.

The 'Since U Been Gone' hitmaker learnt how hard it is to educate kids during the pandemic as she was tasked with homeschooling her seven-year-old daughter River and her six-year-old son Remington - her kids with her ex Brandon Blackstock, 45 - with only her nanny for help with lessons during the beginning of the spread

Kelly Clarkson



of the virus.

The 40-year-old pop star told PEOPLE magazine: "I was like, 'Dear God, I hope my nanny doesn't quit.'"

Kelly wished that "we never have to do" remote learning again because her extroverted kids did not want to be cooped up with no company their own age.



It was very hard, like [them] learning how to read. I've always held teachers in the highest of regard, but people that didn't really think about it before got a real eye-opening experience at how hard teachers work. I'd hear people in the industry in interviews be like, 'Oh my God, I'm trying to wrangle these two or three kids.' But imagine having 26 to 30, because that's what a teacher has

KELLY CLARKSON

She said: "I hope we never have to do it again, because my kids are very creative, outgoing and social, and did not want to be at home with an adult."

'The Kelly Clarkson Show' host found it "an eye-opening experience" despite "always" respecting teachers and how they do "a crazy hard job".

Kelly said: "It was very hard, like [them] learning how to read. I've always held teachers in the highest of regard, but people that didn't really think about it before got a real eye-opening experience at how hard teachers work. I'd hear people in the industry in interviews be like, 'Oh my God, I'm trying to wrangle these two or three kids.' But imagine having 26 to 30, because that's what a teacher has."

### Kit Harington lands role in Mary's Monster

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kit Harington is set to star in 'Mary's Monster'.

The 'Game of Thrones' actor has been cast alongside Clara Rugaard in the film about the life and times of the 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley.

The period movie will deal with Mary's mental torment as she tries to write her iconic horror novel. Clara will portray the author while Kit will be 'the monster'.

An official synopsis for the movie reads: "Mary is seduced by her own inner monster catapulting her into a dangerous, destructive psychological romance. Realising the monster is inextricably linked to her own mental

state, her only route to salvation is in bringing him to life."

The film is on sale at the Cannes market and production is set to begin in the UK in August. Ferdia Walsh-Peelo will also star in the movie with additional casting underway.

Farren Blackburn is to direct the movie from a script by Deborah Baxtrom and Stephen Hallett. Fulwell 73's Leo Perlman and Heather Greenwood will produce with Richard Kondal and Patrick Fischer serving as executive producers for the company.

Harington said: "Mary's Monster" is a brilliantly original and fascinating script and I'm relishing the idea of depicting the unique part of 'The Monster'. An embodiment of Mary Shelley's psyche. I'm excited by Farren's vision and passion for the project."

Rugaard - the rising Danish actress who starred in the TV series 'The Rising' - said: "I am incredibly honoured to jump on board this project and be a part of telling the story of such an influential and revolutionary woman. I'm beyond excited to be bringing this celebrated female voice to life and to further delve into the world and psyche of Mary Shelley."

Mary's Monster is a brilliantly original and fascinating script and I'm relishing the idea of depicting the unique part of 'The Monster'

KIT HARINGTON



### Kendall Jenner had 'toxic' relationships

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kendall Jenner has been in "enough toxic relationships".

The 26-year-old model - who is dating basketball player Devin Booker and has previously been romantically linked to the likes of Harry Styles, Nick Jonas, A\$AP Rocky, Blake Griffin and Ben Simmons - explained she

"shut off" after getting into a huge fight with Scott Disick about his lack of invitation to her birthday celebrations and family Thanksgiving arrangements because she didn't want to be part of anything negative because of her past.

On this week's episode of 'The Kardashians', Kendall called her half-sisters, Khloe and Kourt-

ney Kardashian and told them she'd been in a "huge fight" with the Poosh founder's former partner.

After meeting with the pair, Kendall said: "He's talking through me the whole time and I'm like, 'I don't do that.' I've been in enough toxic relationships and I can't stand it anymore, so I just shut off..."

"I walked out mid-conversation and he's still talking."

In a confessional, Kendall claimed Scott - who has three children with Kourtney - had been "victimising" himself.



#### SUDOKU

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

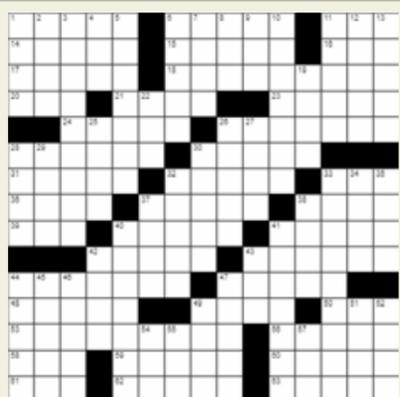
Yesterday's solution

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

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- Get to know; 6- Rub out or remove from memory; 11- Notable time; 14- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 15- Composer Ned; 16- Court cry; 17- Clear of vermin; 18- Institute; 20- Latin 101 verb; 21- Speed contest; 23- Rate; 24- Passed out; 26- Gives slack; 28- Rebuke; 30- On the up-and-up; 31- Shut; 32- Egg exterior; 33- Kind of fingerprint; 36- Cupola; 37- Expeditiously; 38- Intend; 39- Hydrocarbon ending; 40- "Quiet!"; 41- Nun wear; 42- Butler's love; 43- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 44- Spider's traps; 47- Horse race venue in England; 48- Broadcaster; 49- Mont. neighbor; 50- Nile reptile; 53- Capital of Mongolia; 56- Fine fur; 58- Not sweet; 59- Deadly virus; 60- Lace tip; 61- Before; 62- "Presumed Innocent" author; 63- Garden intruders;

Down

1- Moon of Jupiter; 2- K-6; 3- Airport; 4- Genetic material; 5- River pollutant; 6- Set up; 7- Wine choice; 8- Illustrative craft; 9- Multitude; 10- Embrangle; 11- Upper crust; 12- Pine sap; 13- A Musketeer; 19- Final; 22- Bass, e.g.; 25- The life of Riley; 26- Hanger-on; 27- Look at lustfully; 28- A follower; 29- North Carolina university; 30- Potala Palace site; 32- Urges; 33- Open to question; 34- Neat rival; 35- Word that can precede war, biotic and climax; 37- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 38- Mackerel shark; 40- Fruit-flavored ice; 41- Fine-toothed blade; 42- Western writer Wister; 43- NATO member; 44- Bring about; 45- Fuel transport; 46- Clamp; 47- End in ...; 49- ... contender; 51- Hill toy; 52- Teachers' favorites; 54- "Aladdin" monkey; 55- Rocky pinnacle; 57- Candle count;

Yesterday's solution

F	E	R	L	E	A	F	E	L	L	A
G	R	E	A	R	E	A	S	X	I	A
I	E	V	P	R	O	X	I	T	A	L
S	S	E	S	O	N	N	A	R	R	O
N	E	E	R	M	A	D	E			
S	A	G	A	S	L	I	G	A	M	E
P	S	E	T	S	O	L	O	L	E	T
A	C	A	M	O	N	G				
T	O	A								
E	T	R	E	A	T	S				
S	I	Z	E							
E	M	E	N	I	S	A	T			
X	E	N								
I	T	A								
T	A	L								

# Royal Endurance Team crowned at Montalcino endurance championship

HH Shaikh Nasser wins 160 km race, Royal Endurance Team win 120 km and 100 km races

## ● HH Shaikh Nasser applauds the results

TDI | Manama

The Organising Committee of Montalcino International Endurance Championship held an honouring ceremony of the winners of the races held in the Championship, which witnessed His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and Captain of the Royal Endurance Team, winning the 160 km race amidst the participation of a number of European riders, while the winning riders from the Royal Endurance Team in the 120 km race for the general public and the 100 km race for juniors were also honoured.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser asserted that these good results achieved by the Royal



Royal Endurance Team celebrate with the trophies

Endurance Team embody the support enjoyed by equestrian sports in general and endurance sports in particular from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the care and support of His Royal Highness

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

His Highness expressed delight in achieving first place in the 160 km race and winning the 120 km and 100 km races by the Royal Endurance Team,

confirming the high potential of the Team and the outstanding efforts made by the riders in the Championship.

HH Shaikh Nasser said: "The Championship witnessed strong completion and daring challenges, which distinguish it from the

There were great challenges, but we were able to successfully overcome them, and this confirms what the riders enjoy and their successful leadership of the horses throughout the stages

HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

previous edition. It required the ability to ride horses in tough terrains. There were great challenges, but we were able to successfully overcome them, and this confirms what the riders enjoy and their successful leadership of the horses throughout the stages. These good results will motivate the Royal Endurance Team for the next stage, as the Team is preparing for its upcoming participations, most notably the World Champion-

ship, and we will continue making efforts to be fully prepared."

His Highness applauded the exceptional performance shown by the Team's riders in the Championship and the sincere efforts exerted by all members.

Dr. Khaled Ahmed Hassan, Director of the Royal Endurance Team, received the first place award for the 160 km race, and the Royal Team's 120 km race riders were honoured. The honoured riders were Mohammed Abdulsamad, who won the first place, Youssef Al Jubouri, second place winner, and Khalifa Jamal Al Sanadi, who won the third place. Abdulrahman Al Khateri also received the first-place trophy in the 100 km race for juniors.

The closing ceremony witnessed the honouring of the Royal Team with the award for the best horse condition after the end of the race, for the horse Dahess Del Falot, which was led by HH Shaikh Nasser to achieve first place in the Championship.

## Riffa, East Riffa victorious in AFC Cup games

TDI | Manama

Bahrain clubs Riffa and East Riffa were both victorious in their second matches of the AFC Cup 2022 group stage.

Riffa edged past Dhofar FC of Oman 3-2 in their Group B clash to bounce back from an opening-game loss. East Riffa, on the other hand, were reduced to nine men but were still able to come away with a 2-0 triumph against Tishreen SC of Syria.

With those results, both Bahraini sides stayed in contention to advance to the tournament's next stage.

In Riffa's victory, Komail Al Aswad fired in a late winning goal in the first minute of second-half stoppage time.

They had also previously lost a 2-0 advantage in the contest, as Al Aswad scored in the very first minute of the game and then Hashim Sayed Isa doubled their lead just eight minutes later.

Dhofar were quick to reply, however, and Omar Al Malki got one back in the 13th minute. Yazed Al Maashani then equalised for the Omanis in the 60th minute, setting the stage for the exciting finish.

Riffa took their first three points of their group and are second on the table, tied with Dhofar. Al Arabi of Kuwait are in first place with a full six points, while Shabab Al Khalil of Palestine are fourth with zero.

Riffa play their final game against Shabab Al



Riffa's star playmaker Komail Al Aswad celebrates after scoring against Dhofar

Khalil tomorrow at 10pm. Riffa must win to have any chance of advancing to the next round, with only the top team from each of the three West Asian groups going through along with the best second-placed squad.

Meanwhile, East Riffa were on target on either side of the break. Sami Al Hussaini was the first to strike with a goal in the second minute of first-half stoppage time. Nigerian professional Obus Prince Aggreh then supplied the finishing touch, scoring in the 91st minute of play.

East Riffa improved to four points on the Group C table, tied with Nejmeh of Lebanon. Tishreen and Hilal Alquds of Palestine follow with a point apiece.

East Riffa's last match is tomorrow against Hilal Alquds.

## India finish with 23 medals at Bahrain Para Badminton



Indian athletes after the event

PTI | Manama

The Indian para badminton team finished with a rich haul of 23 medals, including seven golds, at the 1st Bahrain Para Badminton International Championships in Manama.

Promising doubles shuttler Manisha Ramdass shot into limelight with her twin gold medal show, while Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan (WS SH6) and Dhinakaran Pandurangan and Sivarajan Solaimalai (Doubles SH6) also claimed the other top honours for India.

Top para shuttlers Pramod

Bhagat and Tarun Dhillon also clinched a couple of gold medals each.

Pairing up with Bhagat, Manisha got the better of Thailand's Siripong Teamarom and Nipada Saensupa 21-14, 21-11 to take the gold in mixed doubles.

Manisha also produced a strong show combining with Mandeep Kaur to win the gold in women's doubles SL3-SU5 finals. They took just 23 minutes to defeat the Paralympian pair of Palak Kohli and Parul Dalsukhbhai Parmar 21-11, 21-11.

## Verstappen takes F1 lead with win in Spain, agony for Leclerc



Verstappen crosses the line

Reuters | Madrid

Formula One world champion Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix in a Red Bull one-two on Sunday totake over at the top from Ferrari's luckless Charles Leclerc, who retired with an engine failure while leading.

Mexican Sergio Perez finished a dutiful second, 13 seconds behind but with the consolation of a bonus point for fastest lap, after being told to let his team mate pass for a third victory in a row after Imola and Miami.

The 24-year-old Dutch driver is now six points clear of Leclerc after winning four of six races -- all those he has finished.

Britain's George Russell came third for a revived Mercedes and after going wheel-to-wheel with Verstappen early on in a thrilling display of defensive driving as they battled for second place behind Leclerc.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was fourth, after fighting back from a slow start and a spin into the gravel, but it was scant reward for a team who had brought upgrades to try and turn the tables on Red Bull.

## BIC bolsters SUV line-up with addition of Ford Bronco Big Bend for YK Off-Road Experience

TDI | Manama

The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East is celebrating the arrival of its latest SUV, the all-new Ford Bronco Big Bend, which is set to thrill drivers and passengers as part of Bahrain's unique Y.K. Off-Road Experience this summer.

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), in partnership with Y.K. Almoayed and Sons has added the ultra-powerful Ford Bronco Big Bend to its exceptional line-up of 4x4 vehicles available in the Y.K. Off-Road Experience.

The Bronco is a legend amongst high-end SUVs built with the extreme adventure seeker in mind. This makes it



A Ford Bronco Big Bend is seen ahead of Y.K. Off-Road Experience at BIC

perfect for the only off-road experience of its kind available in the region at BIC in Sakhir.

The Y.K. Off-Road Experience is open all year round, including throughout the summer months,

Both driver and passenger will be able to immerse themselves in an exciting adventure through 32 natural and man-made obstacles

with bookings available every day as either a driving or passenger experience.

The Bronco Big Bend boasts a 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine that can generate 275 horsepower and it features a 10-speed automatic transmission. It has four-wheel power disc brakes with a four-sensor, four-channel antilock braking system and electronic stability control,

giving the driver complete manoeuvring ability in the most challenging conditions.

The Bronco Big Bend joins the three other top-of-their-line SUVs already available in the Y.K. Off-Road Experience at BIC, namely the Nissan Super Safari, the Nissan Patrol LE V8 D Spec-2019, and the Nissan Patrol SE T2 V6-2019.

The capabilities of these superb vehicles can be enjoyed either as a driver or passenger in this unique off-roading activity, available only at BIC.

As a driver, participants will be able to harness the power and dynamism of their select 4x4 vehicle like never before, and explore the different terrains

of sand, rock, hill, and water landscapes.

Both driver and passenger will be able to immerse themselves in an exciting adventure through 32 natural and man-made obstacles.

All participants will be guided by BIC's expert team of instructors, who will assist with the technologies that make SUVs such as the Bronco Big Bend and Patrol such incredible vehicles.

The Y.K. Off-Road Experience is available at BD71,500 for drivers and BD13,500 for passengers.

For more information and bookings, visit BIC's official website on [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com) or call the circuit's Hotline on +973-17450000.

A scene from last night's official opening ceremony to the third GCC Games in Kuwait



# Bahrain capture Esports, cycling medals

Nouf Bakhit wins women's Esports silver and Ahmed Madan takes cycling bronze to add to Kingdom's medal haul at third edition of GCC Games, which held its official opening ceremony last night at Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah International Tennis Complex in Kuwait City

● **Nouf Bakhit claims silver medal after losing to counterpart from Saudi Arabia in FIFA HD gold medal match**

● **Ahmed Madan wins second medal of competition after previously taking the team time trial bronze as part of Kingdom's quartet**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's women's Esports player Nouf Bakhit and men's cyclist Ahmed Madan won silver and bronze medals, respectively, yesterday to further add to the Kingdom's medal tally at the third GCC Games in Kuwait.

Nouf clinched her silver in the

Esports FIFA HD event, while Madan secured his bronze in the men's individual time trial.

The GCC Games' official opening ceremony was held last night at Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah International Tennis Complex. In attendance was Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president and the Kingdom's delegation head at the multi-sport event, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, along with other high-ranking officials.

In Esports, Nouf made it all the way to the final of the FIFA HD competition, but

### Medal Tally

	G	S	B	Tot
Kuwait	22	19	18	59
Bahrain	17	17	12	46
Qatar	12	15	12	39
Oman	11	5	10	26
Saudi Arabia	8	9	18	35
UAE	7	9	7	23



that is where she lost to her Saudi Arabian counterpart 0-1 in a tight contest.

Earlier, she won her quarter-final match-up against her Kuwait rival 2-0, but then lost to her Saudi opponent in the semi-finals 0-2.

She then faced off with an Omani opponent for the right to earn a place in the gold medal

Bahraini cyclist Ahmed Madan competes yesterday morning in the individual time trial



Bahrain's Nouf Bakhit, left, celebrates after winning her Esports silver medal last night

match, and she won 2-0 to set up her chance for the title.

Meanwhile, Madan's medal yesterday was the second accolade won at the Games by the up-

and-coming professional, who is a member of Team Bahrain Victorious, which competes in global Union Cycliste Internationale events.

He was also previously part of the men's team that won bronze

in their time trial contest.

Madan was one of 10 competitors going for the podium yesterday. He completed his ride in a time of 31 minutes 46.43 seconds, and was just over a minute behind gold-medallist Saied Alali of Kuwait, who won in 30:39.79. Yousif Mohamed Mirza of the UAE took the silver in 31:27.71.

Madan's countryman Ahmed Naser also had a chance to make it onto the podium, but he narrowly missed out. He finished fourth in 31:57.64.

Nouf's silver and Madan's bronze brought Bahrain's tally so far at the Games to 46—a mark adjusted by organisers on the official medal table after previously not counting the men's team trial bronze in cycling.

The nationals thus have 17 gold medals, 17 silver and 12 bronze medals in second overall on the six-nation standings.

Kuwait continue to lead while third through sixth, respectively, are Qatar, Oman, Saudi and the UAE.

## Men's futsal team lose to Kuwait, women to go for gold today

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national futsal team suffered a disheartening 1-2 loss to Kuwait last night in the men's tournament at the third GCC Games in Kuwait.

The nationals' lone goal in the contest was scored by Ahmed Hamad, while the Kuwaitis had Abdulrahman Altwail and Hamad Alawadh on target.

The men will be back in action in their last game tomorrow and they will be looking to bounce back against the UAE, which is scheduled for a 5pm kick-off.

It will be part of the final day of action in men's futsal and it



Bahrain's Falah Yusuf battles with his Kuwaiti marker during their match last night

will determine the final medal lists of the competition.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's wom-

en's futsal team will be looking to wrap up their dream run in the GCC Games tonight when they take on hosts Kuwait in their tournament's final, scheduled for a 7.30pm kick-off.

The nationals have won all their matches so far leading up to the gold medal match, and they will be looking to end their competition campaign on a positive note.

Also taking place today will be the bronze medal game between the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

There are no men's futsal games this evening.

## Qaed marches through in men's singles tennis

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Yusuf Qaed advanced to the men's singles Round of 16 yesterday following a straight sets victory over Yaqoub Mohammed of Kuwait on the opening day of the tennis competition at the third GCC Games.

Qaed is next set to take on Saud Alhagbani of Saudi Arabia today at 4pm.

Hasan Abdulreda is also in the same stage. He will be taking on Bader Antar of Kuwait in another match at the same time.

Also competing in yesterday's schedule, Bahrainis Youssef Ashraf and Jaber Abdula'al could not advance. They lost their respective Round of 32 matches, with Ashraf succumbing to Qatari Mousa Shannan 1-6, 6-3, 2-6 and Abdula'al lost-

ing to Isa Shannan, also of Qatar, 3-6, 0-6.

All four Bahraini players will also be in action in the men's doubles.

Qaed and Abdulreda will be teaming up to take on Mousa Shannan and Issa Shannan of Qatar, while the pair of Ashraf and Abdula'al will take on the Saudi tandem of Omar Ahmad and Abdullah Alfaraj.

Also yesterday, the men's table tennis tournament got underway and the Bahrainis had mixed results.

They first beat Kuwait 3-2, with

Mohamed Saleh, Alyas Alyassi, and Rashed Rashed each winning a match.

Saleh first beat Marzooq Al Rashidi 3-0 (12-10, 14-12, 12-10). Alyassi then outplayed Jaber Albalhan 3-0 (11-5, 12-10, 11-9), before Rashed defeated Al Rashidi in the last match 3-1 (12-14, 11-5, 12-10, 11-6). Saleh and Rashed had also lost in their other matches to their Kuwaiti counterparts.



Bahrain's Yusuf Qaed looks to hit a backhand return in his win yesterday