

Bahrainis set for Jordan test

Kingdom's senior men's national football team play decisive, must-win game in AFC Asian Cup in Doha | P12

WORLD **6** Trump-Biden rematch looms after New Hampshire win



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Tamkeen supports Al Salwa Meat Factory expansion

Nine die in tank shelling at UN shelter in Gaza

AFP | Gaza

Tank shelling on a UN shelter yesterday killed nine people in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis, said the Gaza head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

"Two tank rounds hit building that shelters 800 people - reports now 9 dead and 75 injured," Thomas White, UNRWA's Gaza director, said on X.

The US deplored the attack, and called again for civilians to be protected in the bloody war with Israel, a State Department spokesman said.

"We deplore today's attack on the UN's Khan Yunis training center," spokesman Vedant Patel said.

Bahrain, UAE vow to bolster ties and cooperation

Abu Dhabi

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, reviewed the deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and the UAE, asserting keenness to further strengthen cooperation and coordination to serve joint interests, development, and prosperity of the two countries.

This came as HM the King met the HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed at His Majesty's residence in Abu Dhabi.

They affirmed the importance of further consolidating joint Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) action to serve the interests of its member states and fulfill the aspirations of their peoples.

The two leaders also dis-



HM King Hamad holds talks with HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed

cussed the developments in the Middle East, underscoring the importance of mobilising efforts to achieve fair and comprehensive peace to secure stability,

development and prosperity for the people of the region.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander; and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA) and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC).

The meeting was also attended by Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court; His Highness Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Ruler's Representative in the Al Dhafra Region, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD); Shaikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Affairs; and Ali Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for National Security.

Houthis launch missiles at ships in Red Sea: US

AFP | Dubai

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired three missiles at two merchant ships in the Red Sea yesterday in their latest attack in the commercially vital waterway, the White House said.

The report came after the Houthis vowed to keep up their attacks despite repeated US and British strikes against them.

Genocide verdict set

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

The UN's top court said it would hand down its landmark ruling tomorrow in the case against Israel over alleged genocide in Gaza, a verdict likely to be watched closely around the world.

POW plane crashes

'Kyiv shot it down,' Russia claims; 65 Ukrainian prisoners among dead

● **Ukraine launches probe**

AFP | Moscow

Russia yesterday accused Ukraine of shooting down a military transport plane carrying dozens of Ukrainian prisoners headed for a prisoner exchange, killing everyone on board.

Kyiv confirmed that a prisoner exchange was due to take place yesterday, but said it had no reliable information on the passengers of the downed plane.

"We currently do not have reliable or comprehensive information on who was on board the plane or in what number," Ukraine's main intelligence agency said in a statement.

Two people were also killed in a Russian rocket strike in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, local authorities said.

Videos on social media showed a large plane in Russia's western Belgorod region falling from the sky on its side before crashing in a fireball.

Russia's defence ministry said the IL-76 plane was carrying 65 Ukrainian soldiers captured in



A church service for those killed in the Russian military transport plane crash in the Belgorod region, in the village of Yablonovo near the crash site. (AFP)

Russia's offensive, six crew and three escorts.

It claimed Ukrainian forces stationed in the Kharkiv border region had fired two missiles at the transport aircraft and described the incident as a "terrorist act".

A Ukrainian government body responsible for issues linked to prisoners of war said earlier that

it was probing Russia's claims.

AFP could not independently verify the Russian claims but the incident would represent one of the single most deadly episodes of the full-scale conflict in weeks.

The Russian defence ministry said the crash had come just hours ahead of the planned prisoner exchange at a border

crossing in Belgorod.

"The Ukrainian leadership was well aware that, in accordance with established practice, the Ukrainian servicemen to be exchanged would be transported by military transport aircraft to the Belgorod aerodrome today," it said.

Ukraine's intelligence agency denied this and accused Russia

of "endangering the lives and safety of prisoners".

"The Ukrainian side was not informed about the need to ensure the security of the airspace in the area around the city of Belgorod at a set time, as has been done many times in the past," the intelligence directorate said.

Russian rocket

The threat facing Ukraine was highlighted later yesterday when two people, including a 16-year-old, were killed and eight wounded when a Russian rocket hit the village of Girnyk, Donetsk regional head Vadim Filachkine said, accusing Moscow of targeting civilians.

Local Ukrainian media initially cited defence sources saying that the Ukrainian army had downed the plane, and that it was carrying missiles. The claim was later retracted.

In a carefully worded statement published hours after the crash, the Ukrainian army said it would continue to target Russian aircraft in Belgorod region.

It said that a number of shelling attacks on Ukrainian territory were "directly related" to Russian military transport aircraft flying to Belgorod airfield.

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'Strengthen Bahrain's global tourism position'

TDT | Manama

Tourism Minister, Her Excellency Fatima Al Sairafi, has emphasised the need to intensify efforts to bolster the Kingdom of Bahrain's position on the global tourism stage.

Al Sairafi, also Chairperson of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), said this strategic endeavour entails nurturing partnerships with key players in the tourism sector, such as hotels, restaurants, tourism and travel companies, while strengthening coordination with government and private entities.

The overarching objective is to propel the tourism sector's overall development, increase its contribution to the GDP, and create meaningful opportunities for the citizens, she added.

The Minister was speaking as she presided over BTEA's Board of Directors.

The meeting was attended by Sara Ahmed Buhiji, the newly appointed CEO of BTEA, as well as several directors and staff members of the authority.

She expressed gratitude for



HE Fatima Al Sairafi chairs the BTEA board meeting

the unwavering dedication and sincere efforts demonstrated by all employees of the Ministry of Tourism and BTEA and acknowledged their collective commitment that led to the successful implementation of various initiatives, projects, and plans in the past year, encompassing tourism, entertainment, and other programmes.

Preparations

The Board also reviewed BTEA's preparations to host the DP World Tour Championship for the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 1 to 4 next February, in addition to the Kingdom's hosting of the 20th anniversary of the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix, the opening



The meeting also focused on fortifying Bahrain's position as a leading destination for exhibition, conference, and business tourism.

round of the World Championship for the 2024 season, which is scheduled to be held from February 29 to March 2, and to determine the readiness of the dedicated team from the Authority to meet the requirements for the desired success of this global tournament.

The panel also discussed the latest developments in the tourism sector for the fourth quarter of last year, progress in implementing the overall objectives and pillars of the tourism strategy of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the years 2022-2026, the most prominent tourism projects that were launched, and their implications for enhancing the contribution of the tourism sector to the gross domestic product.

'Protect civilians and facilitate aid delivery in Gaza'

Call for ceasefire

TDT | Manama

The international community and the United Nations Security Council must ensure the protection of civilians and the speedy unimpeded entry and delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaiee, Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the UN in New York, as he chaired the Arab Group at the open debate of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian cause.

He said that it is in line with Security Council resolutions 2712 and 2720 to address the dire humanitarian situation in the war-torn Gaza.

During his speech, Ambassador Al Rowaiee called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to end the suffering of more than 2.3 million Gazans.

The Permanent Representative underscored the need to support the efforts of Sigrid



HE Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaiee speaks at the open debate

Kaag, Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator in Gaza, in fulfilling her responsibilities and enabling her to fulfill her duties in the implementation of Security Council resolution 2720, which includes creating a UN mechanism to facilitate the entry and monitoring of humanitarian and relief assistance into Gaza.

Al Rowaiee noted that the Arab Group affirmed its demands for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, calling upon the Security Council to fulfill its responsibility of maintaining international peace and security by ending Israeli violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

Bahrain, Korea ties reach new heights



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh meeting the Korean delegation along with MP Maryam (fourth from right) and other Bahraini officials.

MP Al-Dhaen welcomes diplomatic mission decision

TDT | Manama

Highlighting the deepening ties between Bahrain and the Republic of Korea, MP Dr. Maryam Al Dhaen, Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee, issued a statement commending the bilateral rela-

tions between the two nations. The statement came following a crucial meeting with a delegation of Korea-Bahrain Parliamentary Friendship Association in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. The delegation was headed by its Chairperson Ms. Eun-hee Kwon.

During the meeting, Al-Dhaen emphasized her support for initiatives that contribute to strengthening the bonds between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the friendly Republic of Korea. She underscored the sig-

nificance of enhancing cooperation across various domains with brotherly and friendly nations, aligning with the royal directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Al-Dhaen highlighted the importance of consolidating parliamentary relations as a means of improving the legislative system. The discussions during the meeting focused on ways to deepen the relationship between Bahrain and Korea, emphasizing the need to enhance contributions in the legislative field and exchange experiences.

Bahraini-Saudi cooperation



His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Interior Minister, received Director-General of Passports Lieutenant General Suleiman bin Abdulaziz Al Yahya, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Civil Status in Saudi Arabia. Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence and Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Deputy Chief of Public Security Major General, were present. The meeting discussed cooperation and security coordination between the counterpart ministries and development initiatives to enhance joint work.

Illegal street vendors pose a 'threat' to supermarkets

Shops, supermarkets struggle with higher costs of licence and rent; illegal vendors gain

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The presence of illegal street vendors in Ras Zuwayed has raised concerns among supermarkets as they struggle to compete with the allure of low prices and unregulated operations.

An anonymous investor, speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, revealed that these vendors, primarily dealing in vegetables and fruits, have set up shop in an empty ground.

Capitalizing on the influx of potential customers on Fridays, these vendors attract buyers with significantly lower prices.

The investor highlighted the financial burden that licensed shops bear, exacerbating the impact of the illicit competition. The cost of opening a shop alone amounts to approximately BD300, followed by monthly Commercial Registration (CR) charges of around BD250. Furthermore, shop owners are



Unregulated vendors in an empty ground raise concerns about public health and safety

burdened with hefty rental expenses.

"In my case, the monthly shop rent amounts to a staggering BD3,500," the investor shared. "In addition, there are employee salaries that total around BD1,000 per month, as well as EWA expenses ranging from BD700 to BD800 monthly. Moreover, the Health Ministry conducts annual inspections to

ensure product safety and quality."

Contractual obligations

Compounding the problem, contractual obligations prevent shop owners from easily terminating their agreements in case of losses. This predicament leaves them unable to adapt to changing market dynamics and intensifies the financial strain

caused by the illegal vendors. "When we have such substantial expenses, we expect corresponding sales to recoup our investment. However, our ability to sell products is increasingly hampered by the presence of street vendors offering lower prices," the investor lamented.

Concerns were also raised regarding the potential risks as-

sociated with purchasing food from these unregulated vendors. The investor emphasised that the lack of proper storage facilities and disposal methods leads to the sale of subpar and potentially unhygienic items at heavily discounted prices.

Food items

"It is evident that the food items being sold by the ille-

“It is evident that the food items being sold by the illegal vendors are neither fresh nor of good quality. They are storing the fruits and vegetables in cartons and tied up outside, exposed to rats and other rodents.”

- INVESTOR

gal vendors are neither fresh nor of good quality. They are storing the fruits and vegetables in cartons and tied up outside, exposed to rats and other rodents

"Their inability to maintain proper storage and handle leftover items forces them to reduce prices by over 70 percent which attracts the customers," the investor revealed.

New BTEA Chief Executive Officer assumes office

TDT | Manama

Her Excellency Sarah Ahmed Buheji, CEO of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, met with HE Dr. Nasser Ali Al Qaedi to assume the duties of BTEA.

Buheji affirmed her keenness to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism sector and achieve the goals of the comprehensive development process, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime



HE Sarah Ahmed Buheji with HE Dr. Nasser Ali Al Qaedi

Minister.

She commended Al Qaedi's efforts during his tenure as CEO of BTEA and the achievements in the tourism sector which enhanced Bahrain's position as a popular tourist destina-

tion, underscoring keenness to continue efforts to develop the sector.

Dr. Al Qaedi congratulated Buheji on her appointment as CEO of BTEA, wishing her success in her duties.

Mysterious death uncovered in Maqaba apartment

TDT | Manama

In the quiet neighborhood of Maqaba, a suburb known for its peaceful atmosphere, a shocking discovery was made by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Evidence.

The lifeless body of a 47-year-old Asian national was found inside his apartment.

Preliminary information suggests the presence of a potential criminal suspicion surrounding the incident. Authorities are diligently carrying out the necessary legal procedures to uncover the truth behind this mysterious death.

The General Directorate has promptly informed the Public Prosecution about the incident, and their involvement is imminent.

The police have cordoned off the area, and forensic experts are meticulously examining the crime scene.

50-year-old man on trial for assaulting younger brother

● Victim suffers 10% permanent disability in his right foot

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court commenced the trial of a 50-year-old man accused of assaulting his brother, causing him permanent disability assessed by the medical committee at 10% in his right foot.

The incident stemmed from a dispute over parking spaces. The court decided to adjourn the next session until January 30th to appoint a defense lawyer for the accused.

The victim, a 47-year-old man, had filed a complaint stating that on the day of the incident, an argument erupted between him and his accused brother regarding parking spaces.

The accused verbally abused him, followed by physical assault, pushing him from behind and kicking him. He forcefully brought him to the

ground, sat on his chest, and delivered several blows to his chest and face. The incident occurred in the presence of their father and an Asian man.

Altercation

The accused's father and the victim also testified that on the day of the incident, an altercation occurred between them. The accused assaulted the victim, verbally and physically, and requested passersby to intervene, leading an Asian man to break up the fight.

The Public Prosecution attributed to the defendant that in April 2022, he assaulted the victim, causing injuries described in the forensic report, which resulted in a permanent disability assessed by the medical committees at 10%, without intending to cause such harm.

Additionally, the victim accused the defendant of defamation and dishonor. The trial will resume on January 30th, where the court will assign a defense lawyer for the accused to present his case before the court.

AI tools course to combat online child exploitation



HE Major General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa with security officials and personnel, along with event participants

TDT | Manama

Deputy Chief of Public Security Major General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa opened a training course on using artificial intelligence tools in investigations into crimes of electronic sexual exploitation of children, which was organized by Cyberspace Child Protection Unit in asso-

ciation with (AI for Safer Children).

Competent Ministry of Interior directorates and specialised Arab officers took part.

Deputy Chief of Public Security welcomed the attendees asserting the importance of the course held in the implementation of the directives of His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to benefit from

successful experiences in the child protection field.

He clarified that the course aimed to enhance professional awareness and competence to perform duties and combat crimes within the framework of the joint efforts to implement the National Strategy for Child Protection in Cyberspace (2023-2026), which aims to spread the safe use of the Internet.



Bahrain-UN projects

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, received Firas Gharaibeh, Acting Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bahrain. The meeting discussed the UNDP Strategic Plan 2025-2029, and highlighted ways to enhance cooperation with the UNDP through joint projects such as the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project. Dr. Bin Daina affirmed Bahrain's keenness to promote partnership with the UNDP to achieve SDGs and accelerate economic growth.

Paternity rights triumph

Bahraini father secures passport for six-year-old daughter after lengthy legal battle

TDI | Manama

A Bahraini husband has emerged triumphant through a court ruling from the Civil Court, granting him the right to obtain official documentation and a passport for his six-year-old daughter.

The ruling comes in the aftermath of a year-long separation from his wife.

Representing the husband, lawyer Zahraa Nama, revealed that her client sought legal recourse through the civil judiciary after fathering a child six years ago during a period of marital separation that endured for a year.

The pivotal factor in this case



Image used for illustrative purposes only

was a favorable court ruling from the Supreme Sharia Court, which confirmed the existence of their marital relationship,

verified the husband's paternity, and issued an authoritative document certifying these facts. The Civil Court, in its ver-

dict, underscored the veracity of the submitted documents. These compelling records establish beyond doubt that the plaintiff's daughter was born in a hospital to a Bahraini father, as evidenced by the inclusion of his Bahraini passport, which was attached to the lawsuit.

Furthermore, the court emphasised the conclusive nature of the secondary ruling from the Supreme Sharia Court, which definitively settled the issue of paternity.

As a result, the child has been recognised as a Bahraini citizen since birth, entitling her to the full rights associated with Bahraini nationality, including the

acquisition of a Bahraini passport and identification card, as mandated by the court.

Consequently, the court has issued a compelling order, binding the first defendant, the Information and eGovernment Authority, to expedite the issuance of an identification card for the plaintiff's daughter, while ensuring its proper registration in their official records.

The second defendant, the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs, has likewise been directed to promptly issue a Bahraini passport for the plaintiff's daughter and ensure its official registration.

Bahrain and UN agencies discuss ways to enhance ties, cooperation

TDI | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Political Affairs Undersecretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, has lauded the solid partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UN, especially its specialised agencies, in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

He also commended the constant joint efforts to consolidate security, peace, stability and prosperity at the local, regional and international levels, in line with the sound directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the policies of the government, led by the Deputy King His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed was speaking during the consultative workshop devoted to discussing and determining cooperation priorities between the Government of Bahrain and the United Nations, held at the Conventions Hall at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manama.

Indian Club announces 'Bahrain Junior Ranking Circuit 1 – 2024'

TDI | Manama

In an exciting development for the thriving sports scene in Bahrain, The Indian Club - Bahrain, in collaboration with The Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation, has unveiled 'The Bahrain Junior Ranking Circuit 1 – 2024.'

The prestigious badminton event is scheduled to take place from the 4th to the 10th of February 2024 at the Indian Club premises.

The tournament, held under the esteemed patronage of H.E. Dr. Sawsan Taqawi, the President of The Bahrain Badminton and Squash Feder-

ation, promises to be a highlight on the junior badminton calendar.

Designated as a 'Bahrain Junior ranking points' event, it exclusively caters to eligible Bahrain residents within the age group of 5 to 19 years, encompassing both boys and girls categories. The competition will

feature singles and doubles, adding an extra layer of excitement for participants and spectators alike.

Commencing daily from 4 pm to 9 pm at the Indian Club premises, the tournament will reach its pinnacle on Saturday, the 10th of February 2024, with the Grand Finals Day promising

intense and thrilling matches.

Those seeking more information about 'The Bahrain Junior Ranking Circuit 1 – 2024,' are encouraged to reach out to The Club's badminton secretary, Arunachama T., at 35007544 or contact the tournament director, Anil Kumar Koliyadan, at 37733499.

Board of Directors Nomination Announcement

INOVEST.

Invest B.S.C would like to announce the opening of the election for candidacy of (7) Board of Directors membership for a three year term (2024 -2027). The election process will be carried out during the Annual General Meeting dated 20th March 2024.

Conditions for nominations:

- 1- He/she must be fully qualified to act.
- 2- He/she must not have been convicted in a crime involving negligent or fraudulent bankruptcy or a crime affecting his/her honor or involving a breach of trust or in a crime on account of his/her breach of the provisions of this law, unless he/her was reinstated.
- 3- He/she shall not be prohibited from being a member in the Board of Directors of a joint stock company in accordance with the provisions of this law or any other laws enforced in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- 4- He/she must not have more than (2) directorships in investment firm licensees inside Bahrain.
- 5- With respect to the board's chairman or the deputy chairman positions, the candidate must not hold any of the aforementioned positions simultaneously with the position of the CEO of the company or its equivalents.
- 6- Any other condition, which may be specified in the Company's Memorandum or Articles of Association.

Required Documents:

- 1- Curriculum vitae, including academic and professional qualifications
- 2- Any act that he/she performs directly or indirectly, that amounts to competition with the company
- 3- Names of companies and entities in which he/she works or is a member of their boards of directors
- 4- Any position he/she occupies that requires more than a small part of his time
- 5- Any other information specified in the Implementing Regulation.
- 6- Fill and complete the CBB's Application for Approved Person Status "Form 3" , which can be downloaded from (link)

(https://cbben.thomsonreuters.com/sites/default/files/net_file_store/Vol_4_Form_3_January_2022.pdf)

Every candidate wishing to nominate himself/herself or a representative is invited to furnish the Company with all required documents mentioned in this announcement either by submitting by hand or via renowned international courier service to be delivered to the Company's address (BFH east tower, 35th Floor) or by email to (boardelections@inovest.bh). Such documents need to be provided to the Company no later than (7th February 2024) in order to be approved by the regulatory authorities in a timely manner, prior to the meeting.

The Candidates' names and relevant information will be disclosed on the Bahrain Bourse's and Company's website, simultaneously with the publication of the general meeting agenda on 27th February 2024.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on (17 155 705), (boardelections@inovest.bh).

Additional Instructions regarding Nomination Form:

- Provide certified copies of Candidate's Passport and National ID as per the requirements of the Form 3
- Provide candidate's latest Curriculum Vitae (C.V)
- Provide certified copies of academic qualification, certification and professional memberships referred to in the C.V and the Form 3
- Provide recent Credit Reference Report from a Credit Bureau (BENEFIT in Bahrain or equivalent in GCC or foreign countries)

Mohamed Hamed Al Shalfan
Chairman



Bahrain-UK partnership

His Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, received Alastair Long, Ambassador of the UK to Bahrain. The meeting reviewed cooperation, especially in the youth sector, and discussed joint initiatives for youth training. The minister highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-UK relations, affirming the kingdom's keenness to develop cooperation in the youth sector. The ambassador praised Bahrain's progress in the youth sector and emphasised his country's commitment to advancing partnership.

Sacred Heart Church to hold Family Day on Feb. 9

TDI | Manama

The Sacred Heart Church in Manama is buzzing with excitement as it prepares to host its much-anticipated Family Day and solemn mass celebration on February 9.

This year, the event is themed "Reaching for Hope, Branching Together," emphasizing the unity and togetherness of the community.

The community-focused event aims to bring together families, friends, and congregants in a joyous celebration of unity, love, and faith. H.E. Bishop Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T., Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia, encouraged everyone to "flourish together, love each other, and come together to enjoy and celebrate unity in one Lord and spirit in the patroness of Our Lady of Arabia."

"We are the people of one God; therefore, we are one fam-



Sacred Heart Church

ily. We may come from different countries, speak different languages, and uphold diverse cultures and traditions, but we are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ as one family. This family day is an opportunity to express the spirit in Christ as one family. I take this opportunity to invite all of you to Family Day 2024," expressed the parish priest of

Sacred Heart Church, Fr. Francis Padavapurackal Joseph.

The Family Day celebration is scheduled to take place within the church premises, starting at 8am and continuing throughout the day. Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including cultural performances, musical acts, games, and more.

Tamkeen supports Al Salwa Meat Factory expansion

To build capacity, raise exports, and create quality jobs

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced its support for Al Salwa Meat Factory's expansion project, to help the company build production capacity while providing quality employment opportunities for approximately 30 Bahrainis. Tamkeen's backing of the initiative falls under the umbrella of its Business Growth programme, which helps local enterprises diversify their resources and enter new markets, both locally and internationally. It is also in line with Tamkeen's ongoing efforts to empower the national workforce and support Bahrain's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector.

The expansion will see the introduction of a state-of-the-art production line that will double the factory's capacity. The factory will also launch a range of high demand products and raise



The deal signing

its export capabilities, helping it to enter new regional and international markets.

Commenting on this initiative,

Her Excellency Ms. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" said: "We are pleased

to support the Al Salwa Meat Factory expansion, which will help to build its production capacity and directly support the

growth of the FMCG industry, a key contributor to the national economy and exports. Creating many high-quality employment opportunities for Bahraini talent, this high potential sector has demonstrated consistent growth over the years, driven by demographic shifts and evolving consumer tastes. This has transformed FMCG into a driving force for economic development, both in the Kingdom and the broader Middle East."

Mr. Mohammed Abdul Amir, CEO of Al Salwa Meat Factory, said: "We are proud to be entering this fruitful agreement with Tamkeen, which will contribute to our business growth, provide quality employment opportunities for Bahrainis, and enable us to diversify our product range. Tamkeen's support will play a crucial role in helping us achieve our strategic goals, particularly our expansion into

new international markets in the GCC region, Morocco, and Algeria. This will consolidate our regional and international presence, while highlighting the quality of Bahraini products and enhancing their competitiveness on the global stage."

Al Salwa Meat Factory aims to provide 30 new middle management and leadership positions to qualified Bahrainis by 2025. Tamkeen's support of the initiative is in line with its key strategic priorities for this year, which include supporting private sector enterprises to drive employment of Bahrainis, ecosystem and labor market development, facilitating increased economic participation for Bahrainis and establishing new employment channels, expanding on career development support through wage increments and upskilling, all with the aim of enhancing economic impact and supporting sustainable growth.



Tamkeen's executive management met with Ibn Al Nafees Hospital as part of the ongoing visits to introduce the new enhanced programs to private sector enterprises and highlight ways to benefit from them to employ and upskill Bahraini talent.

QatarEnergy says Red Sea attacks 'may impact' gas shipments

Doha, Qatar

Qatar's liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries may be delayed by attacks in the Red Sea, QatarEnergy warned yesterday, stressing that production had not been impacted.

The state-owned giant confirmed in a statement that "Qatar's LNG production continues uninterrupted, and our commitment to ensuring the reliable supply of LNG to our customers remains unwavering".

"While the ongoing developments in the Red Sea area may impact the scheduling of some deliveries as they take alternative routes, LNG shipments from Qatar are being managed with our valued buyers," it added.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels began strikes in the Red Sea in November, saying they were targeting Israeli-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza, which has been ravaged by the Hamas-Israel war.

To avoid the conflict, rather than use the key route between Asia and European markets, which normally carries about 12% of global maritime trade, some shipping companies are now taking a major detour around southern Africa.

Earlier this month, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said LNG shipments would be affected, like other merchant shipping, by the Houthi strikes and called the crisis in the Red Sea "the most dangerous escalation" in the region because of its impact on global trade.

His intervention came amid reports of at least five LNG vessels operated by Qatar stopping en route to the Red Sea.

US and British forces carried out a first wave of strikes against the Iran-backed rebel group earlier this month and followed that with further joint strikes on Tuesday.

The Houthis have since declared US and British interests to be legitimate targets as well.

China to cut amount banks hold in reserve, to boost lending: official

Beijing, China

China yesterday said it would next month cut the amount banks must hold in reserve in order to boost lending, state media reported, as officials look to reignite stuttering growth.

The decision comes with the world's second-largest economy facing multiple head-

winds, including a prolonged crisis in the property sector, sluggish domestic consumption and weakening foreign demand.

"People's Bank of China Governor Pan Gongsheng said at a press conference of the State Council Information Office on January 24 that the reserve requirement ratio

(RRR) will be lowered by 0.5 percentage points on February 5," state broadcaster CCTV reported.

The move will provide "one trillion yuan (\$140 billion) of liquidity to the market", it added.

China last cut its RRR in September, by 0.25 percentage points to around 7.4 percent. The latest decision is "another

step in the right direction, but monetary policy by itself is not enough to boost economic momentum", Zhiwei Zhang, President and Chief Economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, told AFP.

"A more proactive fiscal stance focusing on consumption is more important and effective," said Zhang.

Luxury pedicure icon Bastien Gonzalez opens exclusive Pedi: Mani: Cure studio at the Ritz-Carlton SPA

TDT | Manama

Elevating the standard of luxury pedicure and manicure to new heights, The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Bahrain announced the grand opening of an exclusive Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by renowned podiatrist and beauty artisan, Bastien Gonzalez. Situated within the serene ambiance of the resort's award-winning spa, the new studio promises an unparalleled indulgent experience for discerning patrons seeking meticulous care and opulent treatments for their hands and feet.

"Bastien Gonzalez, celebrated worldwide for his unique approach to foot and hand care, brings his signature expertise and luxurious techniques to the heart of Bahrain, where guests can immerse themselves in a world of top-tier foot and hand care services and innovative beauty rituals. The partnership



RCB Bastien Gonzalez PediManiCure Studi

between Bastien Gonzalez and The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Bahrain embodies a shared commitment to delivering exceptional wellness and beauty experiences, setting a new standard for luxury spa offerings in the region." Michelle Reynolds, Director of Spa, commented.

Known for his transformative approach to foot care, nails, and skincare, Bastien Gonzalez has garnered global acclaim for his

discerning clientele, including celebrities, royalty, and beauty enthusiasts. The launch of his exclusive Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio at The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Bahrain marks a significant milestone in the realm of high-end beauty and wellness, introducing a fusion of luxury and advanced podiatry techniques that redefines the art of pampering.

The Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by Bastien Gonzalez, exquisitely



Bastien Gonzalez

designed to reflect elegance and sophistication, will offer a curated range of lavish treatments, from Bastien's famed signature pedicures and manicures to specialized services.

The incorporation of innovative techniques and premium products ensures that each guest is treated to a bespoke and transformative experience that transcends traditional foot and hand care.



General Manager, Bernard de Villele, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to introduce Bastien Gonzalez's revered Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio to The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Bahrain, offering our guests a coveted opportunity to indulge in world-class luxury spa services. This collaboration exemplifies our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional wellness and beauty experiences,

further solidifying our position as a premier destination for luxury and indulgence in Bahrain."

The grand opening of the new Pedi:Mani:Cure by Bastien Gonzalez at The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Bahrain signals a new era of luxury nail care and beauty refinement, inviting patrons to embark on a journey of rejuvenation, opulence, and impeccable wellness.

QUOTE OF THE DAY THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT IF YOU CAN TRUST SOMEBODY IS TO TRUST THEM RNEST HEMINGWAY

TODAY IN HISTORY

156

Battle at Talikota India: Deccan sultanate destroy Vijayanagar's army and the last Hindu kingdom of Southern India



1840 American naval expedition under Charles Wilkes is first to identify Antarctica as a new continent

1949

First Israeli election won by David Ben-Gurion's Mapai party

1971

Military coup in Uganda under Major General Idi Amin

News in brief

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi flew to Turkey yesterday for twice-delayed talks aimed at ironing out past differences between the two neighbours and trying to halt the spread of the Israel-Hamas war.



Iran's Raisi flies to Turkey for delayed Gaza talks

The World Tourism Organisation announced yesterday that it had changed its name to UN Tourism, to make clear that the Madrid-based agency is part of the United Nations.

The Russian parliament yesterday passed a resolution addressed to French lawmakers denouncing the alleged presence of French 'mercenaries' in Ukraine.

UN unveils streamlined name for global tourism agency

Russian lawmakers adopt resolution slamming French 'mercenaries' in Ukraine



tourism congress. "By moving away from acronyms, UN Tourism adopts a more approachable stance," the body said in a statement.

NATO kicks off largest military exercise in decades

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

NATO yesterday began its biggest military exercise since the Cold War with a US warship leaving the United States for transit across the Atlantic to alliance territory in Europe.

The Western military alliance has said some 90,000 troops will take part in the months-long Steadfast Defender 24 exercise designed to test its defences in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

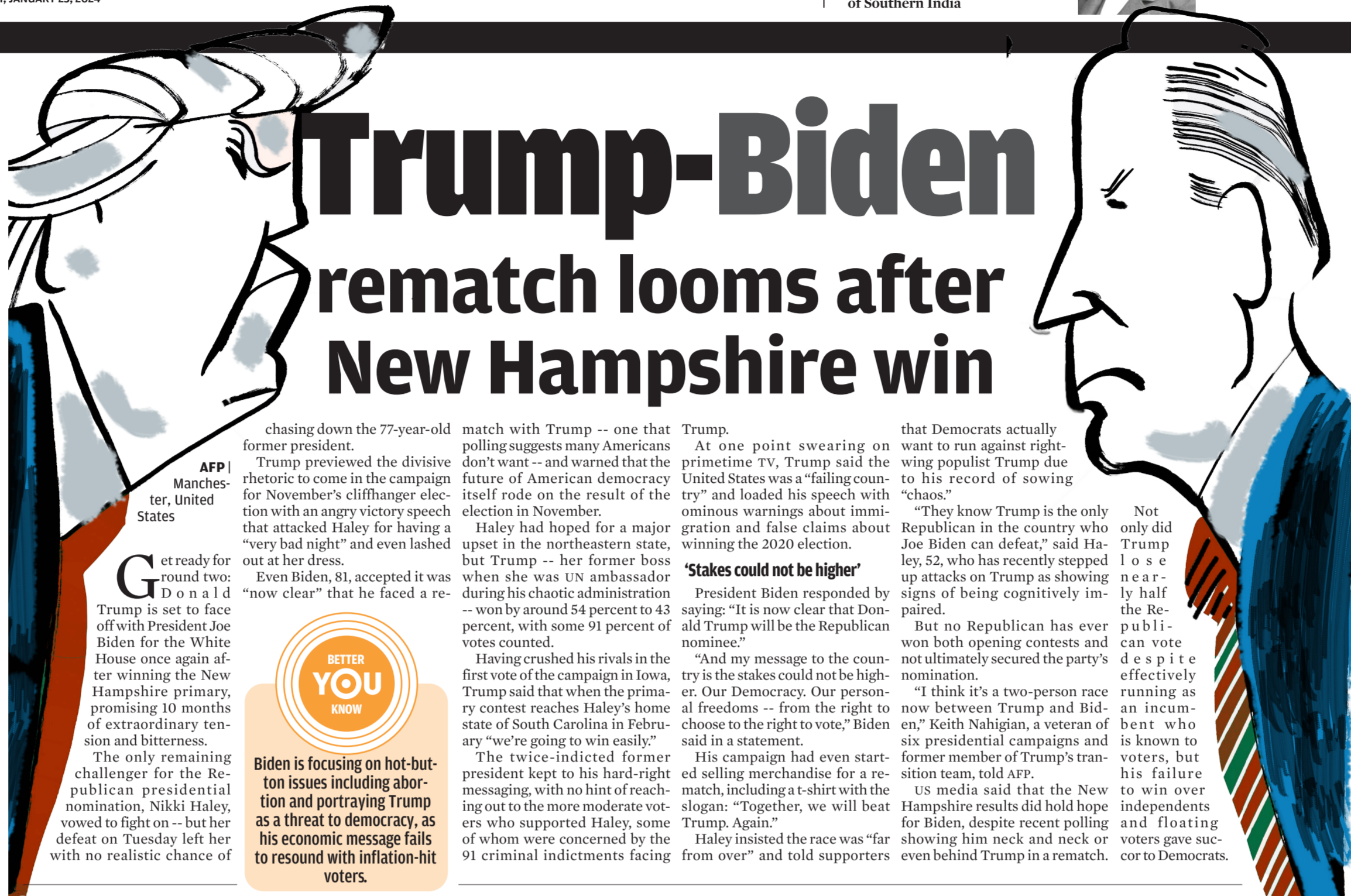
"The alliance will demonstrate its ability to reinforce the Euro-Atlantic area via trans-Atlantic movement of forces from North America," said General Christopher Cavoli, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

"Steadfast Defender 2024 will be a clear demonstration of our unity, strength, and determination to protect each other, our values and the rules-based international order."

It will be composed of a series of smaller individual drills and will span from North America to NATO's eastern flank, close to the Russian border.

Some 50 naval vessels, 80 aircraft and over 1,100 combat vehicles will take part.

The exercise -- the biggest since the 1988 Reforger drill during the Cold War -- comes as NATO has overhauled its defences since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



Trump-Biden rematch looms after New Hampshire win

AFP | Manchester, United States

Get ready for round two: Donald Trump is set to face off with President Joe Biden for the White House once again after winning the New Hampshire primary, promising 10 months of extraordinary tension and bitterness.

The only remaining challenger for the Republican presidential nomination, Nikki Haley, vowed to fight on -- but her defeat on Tuesday left her with no realistic chance of



Biden is focusing on hot-button issues including abortion and portraying Trump as a threat to democracy, as his economic message fails to resound with inflation-hit voters.

chasing down the 77-year-old former president.

Trump previewed the divisive rhetoric to come in the campaign for November's cliffhanger election with an angry victory speech that attacked Haley for having a "very bad night" and even lashed out at her dress.

Even Biden, 81, accepted it as "now clear" that he faced a re-

match with Trump -- one that polling suggests many Americans don't want -- and warned that the future of American democracy itself rode on the result of the election in November.

Haley had hoped for a major upset in the northeastern state, but Trump -- her former boss when she was UN ambassador during his chaotic administration -- won by around 54 percent to 43 percent, with some 91 percent of votes counted.

Having crushed his rivals in the first vote of the campaign in Iowa, Trump said that when the primary contest reaches Haley's home state of South Carolina in February "we're going to win easily."

The twice-indicted former president kept to his hard-right messaging, with no hint of reaching out to the more moderate voters who supported Haley, some of whom were concerned by the 91 criminal indictments facing

Trump.

At one point swearing on primetime TV, Trump said the United States was a "failing country" and loaded his speech with ominous warnings about immigration and false claims about winning the 2020 election.

"Stakes could not be higher"

President Biden responded by saying: "It is now clear that Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee."

"And my message to the country is the stakes could not be higher. Our Democracy. Our personal freedoms -- from the right to choose to the right to vote," Biden said in a statement.

His campaign had even started selling merchandise for a rematch, including a t-shirt with the slogan: "Together, we will beat Trump. Again."

Haley insisted the race was "far from over" and told supporters

that Democrats actually want to run against right-wing populist Trump due to his record of sowing "chaos."

"They know Trump is the only Republican in the country who Joe Biden can defeat," said Haley, 52, who has recently stepped up attacks on Trump as showing signs of being cognitively impaired.

But no Republican has ever won both opening contests and not ultimately secured the party's nomination.

"I think it's a two-person race now between Trump and Biden," Keith Nahigian, a veteran of six presidential campaigns and former member of Trump's transition team, told AFP.

US media said that the New Hampshire results did hold hope for Biden, despite recent polling showing him neck and neck or even behind Trump in a rematch.

Not only did Trump lose early half the Republican vote despite effectively running as an incumbent who is known to voters, but his failure to win over independents and floating voters gave succor to Democrats.

SPOTLIGHT

Saudi to allow alcohol sales to non-Muslim diplomats: sources

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia plans to allow alcohol sales to non-Muslim diplomats for the first time, two sources familiar with the plan told AFP on Wednesday, modifying strict rules governing liquor in the conservative country.

Alcohol "will be sold to non-Muslim diplomats" who previously had to import alcohol via a diplomatic pouch, or sealed official package, one of the sources said.

Prohibition has been the law of the land in Saudi Arabia since 1952, shortly after one of King Abdulaziz's sons got drunk and, in a rage, shot dead a British diplomat.

A Saudi government statement on Wednesday said authorities were introducing "a

new regulatory framework... to counter the illicit trade of alcohol goods and products received by diplomatic missions".

The statement added: "The new process will focus on allocating specific quantities of alcohol goods when entering the Kingdom to put an end to the previous unregulated process that caused an uncontrolled exchange of such goods in the Kingdom."

The policy "will continue to grant and ensure that all diplomats of non-Muslim embassies have access to these products in specified quotas."

Under Saudi law, penalties for consumption or possession of alcohol can include fines, jail time, public flogging and deportation for foreigners.

At least 39 dead in central China fire

AFP | Beijing, China



The deadly fire breaks out in the basement of a shop

At least 39 people died and nine were receiving treatment for injuries yesterday after a fire broke out at a store in the central Chinese province of Jiangxi, state media reported.

"At 3:24 pm (0724 GMT) on January 24, a fire broke out on the below-ground level at a store... in Xinyu, Jiangxi," the country's state broadcaster CCTV reported. "Up until now, the accident has resulted in the death of 39 people, injuries to nine people, and others are still trapped," state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for "resolute containment" of deadly accidents in the country, in a statement. Xi "issued important instructions... requiring resolute containment of the frequent occurrence of various safety accidents to ensure the security of people's lives and property and overall social stability", CCTV reported.

Military intervention in Pakistan disrupts democracy, rule of law

TDI | Manama

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan on (October 19, 2023), said that he was "open for dialogue" and "ready to talk," indicating his willingness to mend ties with the powerful establishment ahead of next month's general elections.

The 71-year-old founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has been incarcerated at a high-security jail facing multiple cases for more than six months. The nomination papers of Khan and his party leaders have been rejected by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Various courts have been turning down his and his party's pleas against these decisions clearly demonstrating the power of the Pakistan Army to make or break the political landscape.

While referring to the prevailing political landscape in the country, Imran Khan said that steps were being taken to form a "controlled parliament adding that his "biggest mistake was to accept a weak government. Instead of a weak government, I should have held elections again. It would be better to sit in the opposition rather than a weak coalition government." Given Imran's present predicaments, one wonders how he will spring a surprise, as he claims, with a Plan C on 8 February is beyond imagination. Imran opines that his plan would work, after the failure of Plan A and Plan B. Despite a protracted crackdown on his political party, a buoyant Khan made claims about the surprise "Plan C" while speaking to reporters at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. A day earlier, PTI



Pakistan's former prime minister, Imran Khan (R) signs on surety bonds for bail in various cases, at a registrar office at the High court in Lahore

were re-drawn to allegedly benefit his opponents. Former PM Imran Khan's own nomination papers have been rejected. He has already been convicted in the Toshakhana corruption case and is under trial for multiple other cases. It is ironic that in 2018, Imran Khan was the Army's favourite to knock out Nawaz Sharif and today it is the exact opposite. As Mohammed Taqi aptly states, the military deployed resources to organize his PTI and herded the army establishment-allied politicians to join him. The Army also got the Pak media to project Imran Khan as the nation's saviour and his opponents as vile and

corrupt. The army even co-opted the judiciary to knock out Nawaz, to pave the way for Khan's installation.

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Shipping giant says two vessels turn back from Red Sea after 'explosions'

Copenhagen, Denmark

Danish shipping giant Maersk said yesterday that two ships belonging to a US subsidiary heading towards the Red Sea had turned back after explosions nearby in a zone where there have been attacks by Houthi rebels.

The Maersk Detroit and the Maersk Chesapeake were transiting the Bab al-Mandeb Strait with a US Navy escort when they heard explosions, the company said.

"En route, both ships reported seeing explosions close by and the US Navy accompaniment also intercepted multiple projectiles," Maersk said in a statement. "The crew, ship, and cargo are safe and unharmed. The US Navy has turned both ships around and is escorting them back to the Gulf of Aden," it added.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden passing next to Yemen. Some 20,000 ships pass through the Suez Canal every year, the gateway for ships entering and leaving the zone.



Representative picture

Mali gold mine collapse kills more than 70

AFP | Bamako, Mali

More than 70 people have been killed after a tunnel collapsed at a Malian gold mining site last week, local sources told AFP yesterday, the latest disaster in a region prone to mining accidents.

Mali, which is among the world's poorest countries, is one of Africa's leading gold producers.

Gold mining sites are regularly the scene of deadly landslides and authorities struggle to control artisanal mining of the precious metal.

"It started with a noise. The earth started to shake," Oumar Sidibe, an official for gold miners in the southwest town of Kangaba, told AFP,

of the incident on Friday.

"There were over 200 gold miners in the field. The search is over now. We've found 73 bodies," he said.

The same toll was given by a local councillor.

Mali's ministry of mines in a statement on Tuesday had announced the death of several miners but did not give precise figures.

The government offered its "deepest condolences to the grieving families and to the Malian people".

It also called on "communities living near mining sites and gold miners to scrupulously respect safety requirements and to work only within the perimeters dedicated to gold panning".

N. Korea fires several cruise missiles towards Yellow Sea: Seoul military

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea fired several cruise missiles towards the Yellow Sea yesterday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a series of tension-raising moves by the nuclear-armed state.

Pyongyang has accelerated weapons testing in the new year, including tests of what it called an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile.

"Our military detected several cruise missiles launched by North Korea towards the Yellow Sea at around 7:00 am today," the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a state-



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast

ment.

"The detailed specifications are being closely analysed by South Korean and US intelligence authorities," it added.

Unlike their ballistic counterparts, the testing of cruise missiles is not banned under current UN sanctions against Pyongyang.

Turkey ratifies Sweden's NATO membership after protracted delay

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Turkey's parliament on Tuesday ratified Sweden's NATO membership after more than a year of delays that upset Western efforts to show resolve in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Lawmakers voted 287-55 in favour of the Nordic nation's bid to become the 32nd member of the alliance after it won the public backing of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Turkish leader is expected to sign Sweden's ratification document and conclude Ankara's role in the protracted saga in the coming days.

"Today we are one step closer to becoming a full member of NATO," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on social media after the vote.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg welcomed Turkey's move and called on Hungary to do the same, urging Budapest to "complete its national ratification as soon as possible".

Britons should be prepared to fight a land war: army chief

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British citizens should be prepared to fight in a potential land war, the highest ranking army officer General Patrick Sanders said yesterday.

The chief of the general staff said any conflict would need to be a "whole-of-nation undertaking" and that citizens should be trained and equipped.

The general's remarks come after the UK defence ministry said last year that it would cut overall numbers in the UK's professional army from 82,000 to 73,000 by 2025.



General Patrick Sanders

"Taking preparatory steps to enable placing our societies on a war footing when needed are now not merely desirable but essential," Sanders said in a speech at an armoured vehicles conference in southwest London. "Within the next three years, it must be credible to talk of a British Army of 120,000, folding in our reserve and strategic reserve."



Representative picture

TOP 4 TWEETS



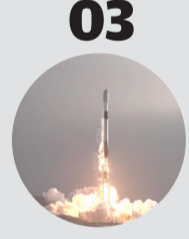
Only 16 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are even partly functional. Disease is spreading as the health system collapses. The people of Gaza not only risk being killed or injured by relentless bombardments; they also run a growing chance of contracting infectious diseases.

@antoniooguterres



The United States applauds the Turkish parliament's decision to approve the accession protocols for Sweden's membership into NATO. Sweden's membership in the Alliance will make it stronger and more united than ever.

@SecBlinken



Falcon 9 launches 22 Starlink satellites to orbit from California

@elonmusk



Today we are one step closer to becoming a full member of NATO. Positive that the Grand General Assembly of Türkiye has voted in favour of Sweden's NATO accession.

@SwedishPM

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

celebs

'Oppenheimer' tops Oscar nods with 13

Christopher Nolan's film tops with 13 nominations, while "Barbie" falls short of expectations with eight nominations

● **Female-focused "Poor Things" earns 11 nominations, while Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" follows with 10, making it a competitive race**

AFP | Los Angeles

"Oppenheimer" -- Christopher Nolan's masterly portrait of the father of the atomic bomb -- dominated the Oscar nominations Tuesday, earning an impressive 13 nods including for best picture.

It was followed by "Poor Things," a female-focused take on the Frankenstein myth, on 11, and Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" on 10, in the race for Hollywood's most prestigious awards.

But it was a somewhat disappointing day for "Barbie," the other half of last summer's "Barbenheimer" box office phenomenon and the year's highest-grossing film.

The comedy had to settle for eight nods -- not bad for a satire based on a popular line of plastic dolls, but lower than many had predicted, and missed out on key nominations for Greta Gerwig as director, and star Margot Robbie

for best actress.

Those snubs drew outrage from supporting actor nominee Ryan Gosling.

"There is no Ken without Barbie, and there is no 'Barbie' movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie," he said.

"To say that I'm disappointed that they are not nominated in their respective categories would be an understatement."

"Oppenheimer," which came out in theaters on the same day as "Barbie" and grossed almost \$1 billion, led the way with nods for its director Nolan, and stars Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Emily Blunt.

Murphy told The Irish Times he was at his parents' house in Cork when he heard the news, and celebrated in a low-key -- but very Irish -- way.

"We were just having a cup of tea, and then my mum brought out the cake -- so we had tea



Robert Downey Jr

and cake," the star said.

"Oppenheimer" -- which is the clear favorite to win best picture, the industry's top prize, at the 96th Academy Awards on March 10 -- also racked up nods in an array of technical categories.

"Killers of the Flower Moon," Scorsese's three-and-a-half-hour true crime opus on murders ripping through the oil-rich Osage community in early 20th century Oklahoma, made history.

Star Lily Gladstone became the Oscars' first Native American nominee for best actress.

She will now go head-to-head with Emma Stone, the star of "Poor Things," which also earned an acting nod for Mark Ruffalo, along with a swathe of technical nominations, from cinematography to costume design.

But there was disappointment for "Killers" star Leonardo DiCaprio, who failed to earn a best actor nomination, and the movie also missed



Record year for women directors

It proved to be a record year for female directors. Three movies helmed by women -- French courtroom thriller "Anatomy of a Fall," "Barbie" and Korean-American romantic drama "Past Lives" -- were nominated for best picture, for the first time in more than nine decades of Academy Awards.

Only 19 films by female directors had previously ever been nominated for best picture.

Tuesday's announcement was a big success for "Anatomy" -- despite its not being France's official entry in the international film category, a decision that has caused some hand-wringing in Paris.

Director Justine Triet secured a nod that had been widely predicted to go to Gerwig, and the film also earned recognition for editing and original screenplay. Star and



Ryan Gosling



Christopher Nolan's film secures 13 Oscar nominations, including best picture, director, and acting nods for Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr., and Emily Blunt

Other strong performers included Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers," about a teacher, a cook and a student holed up in a boarding school over the festive season.

It took five nominations, including acting nods for Paul Giamatti and Da'Vine Joy Randolph, who are both now considered strong contenders in their respective categories.

And it was a good morning for "American Fiction," a deft satire on race, publishing and Hollywood, which also had five nominations including for stars Jeffrey Wright and Sterling K. Brown.

The best picture category was rounded out by "Past Lives," about love, friendship and how things change but stay the same, and bleak Nazi drama "The Zone of Interest."

Actors Zazie Beetz and Jack Quaid hosted the nominations announcement from a still-dark Los Angeles at 5:30 am (1330 GMT) Tuesday.



Emily Blunt



George Clooney encourages positive atmospheres when directing films

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

George Clooney refuses to be unpleasant when directing films.

The 62-year-old star has helmed the sports drama "The Boys in the Boat" and has learned from bad experiences on past film sets in terms of treatment of the cast and crew.

George told Total Film magazine: "Well, I've been on sets with miserable directors. I've

been on sets with directors who yell and scream. To me, it doesn't matter what the product is at that point.

"This is a job where there's 300 people on the set trying to do the best they can. There is no reason and no purpose for people being treated badly. I hate it, and I won't do it.

"I've had directors who I like personally, but I know them reputationally, and within the last few months they've come to me and said, 'When are we going to work together?'"

"And I go, 'We're never going to work together, dude. I think you're great, but I'll never work with you because you're mean, and I can't be around it.'"

George Clooney



Kim Kardashian becomes a brand ambassador for Balenciaga

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Kim Kardashian has become a new brand ambassador for Balenciaga.

The 43-year-old beauty has taken social media to announce her new partnership with the luxury fashion house.

Kim wrote in her statement: "For several years now, Balenciaga's designs have been a part of my many looks - and some of my most iconic fashion moments. This historic fashion house embraces modernity, craftsmanship and takes an innovative approach to design under Demna."

Kim has actually been aligned with the brand for a number of years, and

she recently appeared in Balenciaga's campaign for the company's upcoming summer collection.

She said: "For me, this long-standing relationship is built on mutual trust and a commitment to doing what's right. I'm excited about this next chapter for the brand and to become their ambassador."

The fashion house came under fire in 2023, when a campaign showed children holding teddies in bondage costumes.

Kim Kardashian

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

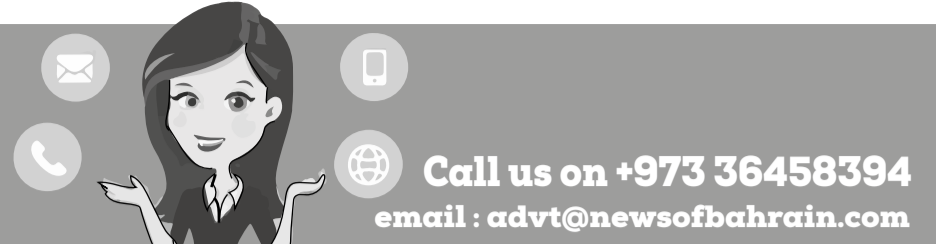
Across
1- Titanic's undoing; 5- Speed contests; 10- Imbroglio; 14- Baseball family name; 15- Clear the boards; 16- Fighting; 17- Baht spender; 18- Burrowing animals; 19- Acting part; 20- Religion of India; 22- Tell me about it; 23- Commedia dell'arte; 24- Select; 26- Sharp pain; 29- Ancestry; 33- de Leon; 34- Layers; 35- Short snooze; 36- "The Morning Watch" author; 37- Family tree member; 38- Roseanne, once; 39- es Salaam; 40- Pig out; 41- Beau; 42- Keep at a distance; 44- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 45- Peter Fonda title role; 46- On top of; 48- Blackboard crayon; 51- Get a letter off; 55- Spy name; 56- Salt water; 58- Gothic-type arch; 59- Get the ground floor; 60- African language group; 61- Alley; 62- Highly excited; 63- Place; 64- Prepare for publication;

Down
1- Alternative to a shower; 2- K-12; 3- Horse of mixed color; 4- Leadership; 5- Pardon; 6- "___ by any other name..."; 7- Composed; 8- End for Siam; 9- Paris possessive; 10- Former monetary unit of Finland; 11- Harrow rival; 12- Structure for storing grain; 13- Do a slow burn; 21- Hankering; 22- Locks up; 24- Portion; 25- Memo opener; 26- Club alternative; 27- Roman garments; 28- Not moving; 29- Feudal vassal; 30- Grind together; 31- Keep an ___ the ground; 32- Carousal; 34- Slight trace; 37- Mudville complement; 38- Skinny kid; 40- Refuse curtly; 41- Old Pontiacs; 43- "The ___ Class" (O'Toole); 46- Utah's ___ Mountains; 47- Prefix meaning "false"; 48- Pet plant; 49- Put up; 50- Buck follower; 51- Pit; 52- Mild oath; 53- Filmmaker Riefenstahl; 54- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 56- Air-gun ammo; 57- Rodent, betrayer;

Yesterday's solution

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

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

Key Arabia services WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601516 or ADILWASIIM@YAHOO.COM

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

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedog.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

JAHECON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAHECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

ABDULRAHMAN EBRAHIM ALMOOSA CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17531235 or GALIBALMOOSA@YAHOO.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

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or HRD1@MACBH.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822202 or info@jssbahrain.com

ZAFEER CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39339337 or ZAFEER2030@YAHOO.COM

BAHRAIN HARBOUR EVENTS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17102116 or ACCOUNTS@APEXBAHRAIN.COM

ZAGHLOUL RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66682309 or SSAMI.SSAAD@GMAIL.COM

ECIOM contracting WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119975 or JEFFREEBH@GMAIL.COM

JANATHA MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of A/C & REFG TECH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39808782 or JANATHAGARAGEWLL@GMAIL.COM

AL MAUSEM RESTAURANT & GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36536665 or MAHDIBZ@HOTMAIL.COM

BANGLA TEXTILES AND GARMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33560520 or MOONSEE1@GMAIL.COM

TWO CORNERS CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33939913 or ATTOOLY@HOTMAIL.COM

RED CROISSANT BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39659666 or ALAWAYAT@GMAIL.COM

MOMENTA MEDIA CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39206007 or SSAMI.SSAAD@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED SECURITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedog.com

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

EZDAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38778480 or EZDANINFO@GMAIL.COM

SHAHZAD FAISAL MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33206015 or zeeshan.ibrahim1971@gmail.co

PAK ELEGANT REAL ESTATE BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77082332 or malikaisifawa05@gmail.com

FRONTLINE SHIPPING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE

ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17601833 or AFSAL@FLOGISTICS.COM

WOODCO TRADING AND CARPENTRY w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32211318 or AYMANALKHUZAEI@GMAIL.COM

AMIR ISHAQ AC REPAIR CO BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36459476 or AAMIRISHAK3@GMAIL.COM

DAR ALRABAT CONSTRUCTING & MAINTENANCE Bahraini partnership comp has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17237371 or KABATDARAL@GMAIL.COM

KHARTOUM CENTER BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33467288 or YAHYA238@CLOUD.COM

KHAN HOUSE FOR TRIBAL RUGS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210070 or ibnclearance1@gmail.com

ELLIE BROKERAGE CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37903487 or ELLIEBSERVICES@GMAIL.COM

SUPER DRUG PHARMACY has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720016 or H.ALJAD@NASSERPHARMACY.COM

AL MAKEENA AUTO SERVICES & SPARE PARTS COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37745987 or GIGGOMAMPILLY@GMAIL.COM

BALAND BAKHAT CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34549667 or BALANDBBC@GMAIL.COM

SAJ CLEANING SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32239227 or AHMAD1001.JANAHI@GMAIL.COM

GULF STRATEGIC PARTNERS COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111343 or SULTAN@GSPWLL.COM

TAIBA SQUARE CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or SADIQAL13371007@GMAIL.COM

CREATIVE CORNER CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33990663 or BH.CREATIVE.CORNER@GMAIL.COM

ANNRIYA AIR-CONDITIONING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39596888 or ANNRIYA.AC@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN HOUSE MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35338470 or ALIMRAN.BH001@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

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

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36565639 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

NASS MECHANICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousiif@aanass.net

Abraaj Security Systems. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877656 or m.salman@abraajbh.com

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

FORCE POINT SECURITY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66767587 or Forceps17@gmail.com

WALAA ALBAHRAIN FOR MANPOWER has a

vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38139157 or ZAINAB.AHMED.1274@HOTMAIL.COM

ONE ONE SEVEN CRO FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36963637 or RAMZANMAN180@GMAIL.COM

N R TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37401717 or ALWAHADCCR@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD SAJJAD IQBAL SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35059393 or MSAJJAD875@GMAIL.COM

ALNAGDY FOR PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33344235 or OSAMAHUSEINHUSIEN@GMAIL.COM

Q G CONTRACTING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33077677 or NAGY.SARAH.90@GMAIL.COM

AL HIM POWER TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33574737 or SABINGARAGEANDAUTOPARTS@OUTLOOK.COM

SAUDI GULF CLEANING AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34306903 or ALABER1@HOTMAIL.COM

SPEARACT LOGIC CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33149586 or ANWARULLAH.BAH@GMAIL.COM

DAR ALKARRAR CARPENTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17413860 or JAMIL.ALKARRAR1@GMAIL.COM

K MARK FOR PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER(COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34185379 or K.KHALED.OMAR2008@GMAIL.COM

ALBASRI GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37709097 or ALBASRI.GARAGE@GMAIL.COM

ALBASRI AIRCONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39407703 or ALBASRI.GARAGE@GMAIL.COM

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

CLEARMIND CONSULTANCY SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35189469 or IVANMANUJ31@GMAIL.COM

WARRIOR FOR INTERIOR DECOR W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33953818 or MR.AZAM818@GMAIL.COM

NEW CHOICE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35052671 or MALIRAZA8088@GMAIL.COM

WARDHA DECOR has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33211228 or CHOLAM10026@GMAIL.COM

DURGAA MANUFACTURE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33600506 or FARAZ@DURGAAPRODUCT.COM

A CLASS REAL ESTATE CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35592602 or TOSEEFK77@GMAIL.COM

ZAKI REAL ESTATE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33514410 or ZAKIBSS99@GMAIL.COM

NASER TAHERI TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33189963 or NASSERBREEZEE@GMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36565639 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or

zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

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

STAR MANPOWER SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000585 or HRSUPPORT@ALSHAMMARYGROUP.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

AL MOAYYED LANDSCAPES AND SWIMMING POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedog.com

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

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

AL NAJAF SEA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39777229 or ALNAJAFSEA@GMAIL.COM

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

MOHAMED RADHI AHMED MOHAMED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37737739 or ORLEANS.GR.BH@GMAIL.COM

PEARL PRESTIGE POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000198 or PPCBAH@GMAIL.COM

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

ITSUMO JAPANESE RESTAURANT AND GRILLS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39534210 or MELANIEGANDA@YAHOO.COM

OLD IZMIR SALON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36110014 or NEZAM99@GMAIL.COM

NAEEM MACHINE REPAIRING CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66686786 or SALEEMAKTHAR807@GMAIL.COM

AVN TRADING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36208559 or VIJITH.UNNI.VV@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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

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

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

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedog.com

STAR MANPOWER SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000585 or HRSUPPORT@ALSHAMMARYGROUP.COM

MOHAMED RASHED CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or MOHAMEDRASHEDBH50@GMAIL.COM

EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOO CO. B.S.C.CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or hr.s@ekkanoo.com.bh

BAHRAIN PHARMACY & GENERAL STORE B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17264088 or bhpr@bahrainpharmacy.com

AIRMECH COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17768200 or

AIRMECH.BAHRAIN@AIRMECH.NET

ALAKHYAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33771277 or AHMEDSAEEDALARADI24@GMAIL.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of DIESEL MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

FAKHROO GARAGE Establishment has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(METAL ANTI-OXIDATION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784208 or fakhroo.garage@gmail.com

ALMATTAR FOR CARPENTRY AND DECORATION has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232766 or ALMATTAR55@HOTMAIL.COM

SUPER EXPRESS GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39646808 or THUFAILFARHAN@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

ALNEMRAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456488 or info@alnemranbh.com

ALBADO CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39636363 or albadocentre@gmail.com

Hira fashion has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313114 or MOHAMEDM436@GMAIL.COM

RAMASAT PHOTOGRAPHY has a vacancy for the occupation of PHOTOGRAPHER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33066611 or baqer_777@yahoo.com

PROMOSEVEN HOLDINGS B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33338221 or myra@sevenleisure.net

BRAIM GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36766649 or LACASA14@GMAIL.COM

SANABEL CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(VEGETABLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699500 or MALBH@BATELCO.COM.BH

MOHAMED JASIM ISA CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or MOHAMEDJASIMBH1@GMAIL.COM

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

AL MOAYYED LANDSCAPES AND SWIMMING POOLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39770606 or profice@almoayyedog.com

STAR MANPOWER SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000585 or HRSUPPORT@ALSHAMMARYGROUP.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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

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

WOLAYAT ALI GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39556121 or Ali.alqattan@aqattan.com

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

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

ALHURRA RECLAMATION & BUILDING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33336862 or j.alhurra@gmail.com

HELLO ABA FOODSTUFFS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 36722445 or helloaba54940@gmail.com

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

Layan fruits and vegetables has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641512 or FREE.ALHAMMAD@GMAIL.COM

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMSBAHRAIN.COM

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

AKM CONSTRUCTION CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39474084 or MAJITH500@GMAIL.COM

TEAM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39289289 or teamco98@gmail.com

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

CREATIVE STYLE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464443 or HR2@CREATIVESTYLE.COM.BH

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36565639 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

Leaders international contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699957 or a.a.qarata.bh@gmail.com

BAWAREJ CONTRACTING CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13118898 or awarej.bh@gmail.com

FIVE LOOK ONE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440122 or UALI82912@GMAIL.COM

ROSE DESIGN DECORATIONS CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34569303 or SAIQAGAUJI@GMAIL.COM

AMINA AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39288259 or SAYED.AMIR33@GMAIL.COM

DAR ALARAB CONSTRUCTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17478287 or ISAALI1956@GMAIL.COM

CASA DI BIBO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725141 or bpj@bahrainindia.com

MIDDLE EAST TECHNOLOGY CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39869840 or JAWADAWAN2@GMAIL.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

LUCKY BIRD CONTRACTING & SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33750898 or LUCKYBSSA68338@GMAIL.COM

TORINO MODA STYLE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33578982 or torino.moda.bh@gmail.com

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

Jasco Services has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290028 or ALAMEEDMOTORS@GMAIL.COM

BRAKTAIN SUPERMARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39933414 or ZAINALDEAN414@GMAIL.COM

ABU SHEHAB 2021 RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34042266 or toptimebh0@GMAIL.COM

Chemco Plastic Bahrain W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of QUALITY INSPECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17464159 or vijaysharma@chemcojulf.com

Classifieds



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

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

ZAMAN AL TAYBEEN Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39974000 or A.ALHADIFADUL@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36379946 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

Narjis Sheer construction has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35145454 or WALEED660@GMAIL.COM

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

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

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

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@gulfair.com

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or lmra@mmetc.com

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

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

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

PLANNERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL has a

vacancy for the occupation of SHIP RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or m.vishal@exibah.com

ORANGE VILIGE FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36738888 or AMIGO_BAHRAIN@HOTMAIL.COM

AL - KARAMA SANDWICHES CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39929669 or AHMEDY_1@HOTMAIL.CO

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

CALICAT FOOD STORIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533293 or salehredha@gmail.com

ELGOZOLI REAL ESTATE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344757 or A_ALMELHEM@HOTMAIL.COM

MAHIMA Construction of buildings WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34326677 or JOUYEASO1981@GMAIL.COM

Wyndham Garden W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66316666 or mohammed@panoramabh.com

GULF UNIQUE MAINTENANCE AND STEEL WORKS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66911200 or FARALI1@HOTMAIL.COM

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

RETRO LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36505152 or ITSMESHMAIL@GMAIL.COM

GRACEFUL INTERIOR DECOR Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33232135 or JAHANGIR_AKB1@HOTMAIL.COM

LKC STEEL TECH W.L.L Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874841 or lkc.steel@gmail.com

MR.SINGH ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33188832 or KULWANT467@YAHOO.IN

THALASSERY PARAGON RESTAURANT

has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33922311 or PRABHULESH@GMAIL.COM

WOX TRAVEL & TOUR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33311971 or WOXTOUR19@GMAIL.COM

Peshawar interior decoration Bahraini partnership company has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33922457 or KMOHSAN444@GMAIL.COM

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India's Bopanna becomes oldest world No.1, aged 43



Australia's Matthew Ebden (R) speaks next to partner India's Rohan Bopanna after receiving the runner-up trophies

AFF | Melbourne

India's Rohan Bopanna will become the oldest number one in men's doubles history after reaching the Australian Open semi-finals yesterday at the age of 43.

Bopanna, who attributes his longevity to yoga, turned professional more than two decades ago and his previous highest ranking was third, which he reached in 2013.

Yesterday's win for Bopanna and Australian partner Matthew Ebden against Argentine pair Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni guarantees Bopanna will be top of the new rankings when they are published on Monday.

"If a 40-plus-year-old can

do this, that is an inspiration," said Bopanna.

"As a tennis player sometimes you think that the journey is done. I stuck to my instincts and believed in myself"

Bopanna said his long career had taken its toll on his body and left him with "no cartilage" in his knees.

But he said his regular yoga workouts had helped him achieve the mental and physical strength necessary to keep competing at the top level.

"Every single morning I do a lot of yoga, a lot of meditation," he said. "My mind doesn't feel rushed."

Bopanna's only Grand Slam win so far has been at the 2017 French Open in mixed doubles, with Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski.

ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain signs agreement with Aramex Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Executive Organising Committee of the ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024 has established a cooperation agreement with Aramex Bahrain in support of the Kingdom's hosting of the mega multi-sport event, taking place later this year.

Executive Organising Committee Chairman, Ishaq Abdulla Ishaq, and Aramex Bahrain Country Manager, Yanal Anz, confirmed the deal in a signing ceremony.

The partnership aims to enhance collaboration between the two sides and facilitate the organisation of various aspects of the ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024, with Aramex Bahrain providing transportation, shipping, and other logistical services such as the support and supplies necessary for the highly anticipated event.

The ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024, held under the banner of the International School Sport Federation (ISF), is scheduled to be hosted by the Kingdom in



Ishaq Abdulla Ishaq, left, and Yanal Anz at the signing ceremony

October under the royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Ishaq expressed his delight in signing the cooperation agreement with Aramex Bahrain and noted that it will contribute significantly to the success of the competition, while enhancing the experience for participants.

Cooperation

Anz spoke of his pride in Aramex Bahrain's cooperation with the Executive Organising Committee of the ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024. He pointed out the significance of sport in enhancing healthy competition and social participation amongst youth.

The ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain

2024 is expected to attract thousands of students, coaches, fans, and media from 80 countries all over the world. While being a leading sporting occasion, it will also be an opportunity to learn about different cultures.

The ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024 is set to be held over a period of 10 days this October. Twenty-five different sports will be showcased in the event, among which include athletics, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, boxing, taekwondo, karate, judo, table tennis, badminton, ground tennis, handball, volleyball, dancing, chess, javelin throwing, darts and paralympic games.

Fourteen sites across Bahrain have been allocated as venues for games as well as for special programmes that will be held for the participants.

For more information on the ISF Gymnasiade Bahrain 2024, visit the event website at isf-sports.org, or follow its social media accounts on Instagram (@isfbahrain) and X (@isfbahrain2024).

Covid hits Australian team ahead of West Indies Test

AFF | Brisbane

Australia's team has been hit by Covid-19 ahead of the second Test against the West Indies, with allrounder Cameron Green and coach Andrew

McDonald the latest to come down with the virus yesterday.

They fell ill after batter Travis Head contracted Covid at the end of the first Test in Adelaide last week, which the hosts won by 10 wickets.

He has since tested negative and will play in Brisbane, where the second of the two-Test series -- a day-night affair -- gets underway on Thursday.

Unless they feel too sick, Green and McDonald are also

expected to be involved in the match.

"Cameron Green and Andrew McDonald will be separated from the group until they return a negative test," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

Making a positive impact

Denmark's Rasmus Hojgaard hopeful of playing inspiring role to youngsters at Bahrain Championship presented by Bapco Energies

● **Bahrain Championship presented by Bapco Energies set for February 1 to 4**

● **DP World Tour returns to Kingdom for first time in 13 years at Royal Golf Club**

TDT | Manama

Denish golfer Rasmus Hojgaard is hopeful of making a similar impact on the Kingdom's youth to that he experienced when he was an aspiring player growing up.

The 22-year-old, who became the first-ever player born in the 2000s to win on the DP World Tour, is amongst a star-studded field that will be competing in the Bahrain Championship presented by Bapco Energies next week.

The event marks the return of the DP World Tour to Bahrain, and it will take place February 1 to 4 at the Royal Golf Club.



Rasmus Hojgaard

Hojgaard recalled when he and his twin brother Nicolai were inspired by professional golfers when they were younger, and are now hoping to return the favour to others, including youngsters in the Kingdom.

"It's not that long ago Nicolai and I were fairly young and trying to become good golfers, and we wanted to see some players, so if we could have a bit of that role, that would be amazing," Hojgaard said.

"This is what is so important about coming out here to the Middle East; we've got so many of these great golf courses in these different countries, for us to be there and potentially inspire some young golfers is awesome.

"We used to be one of those small kids, having a dream to become a pro golfer. If we could help the younger generation, even a little bit, that makes us happy."

Hojgaard, who is competing this week in the UAE at the Ras Al Khaimah Championship, is looking forward to playing in a new country like Bahrain. He has had a strong start so far to 2024, having finished tied-11th in both the Dubai Invitational and the Hero Dubai Desert Classic held earlier this month.

"I've never been to Bahrain before; I'm always very curious when I go to a new place," he said. "Obviously, I heard from a few sources that it's a good golf course we're going to play, so I'm looking forward to going there."

"It's a very nice start to the season, having a lot of events early on to get a feel of where you are."

"For us players, once the season starts, we want to play a lot. It's nice to have a schedule where you have a lot of events coming up. Everyone has been prepped nicely going into the season, and everyone feels strong and that we can take on a long stretch, so I'm very excited about it."

Hojgaard is hoping to adapt quickly to the course at the Royal Golf Club to be able to make a

"This is what is so important about coming out here to the Middle East; we've got so many of these great golf courses in these different countries, for us to be there and potentially inspire some young golfers is awesome. We used to be one of those small kids, having a dream to become a pro golfer. If we could help the younger generation, even a little bit, that makes us happy"

RASMUS HOJGAARD

strong challenge for the Bahrain title.

"For me, it's more about getting a feel of the greens and the short game," he said of what he needs to do to be best prepared for the tournament. "If you can figure that out really quick,

you're going to be all right. The long game is always very much the same. For me, I'll spend a little more time putting and chipping to figure out how to attack it."

Hojgaard became the third youngest winner in DP World Tour history when he secured his first title in just his fifth start in 2019, aged 18 years and 271 days old.

General admission to the Bahrain Championship presented by Bapco Energies is free of charge for spectators, while there are also a host of premium experiences available.

Tickets will include access to the tournament's Village Square, which will boast a wealth of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Little ones will be entertained in the Kids Zone with face painting, glitter stations and roaming entertainers, while live music from local bands, free golf lessons, delicious food and beverage options and an activation dedicated to Bahraini culture will ensure fans enjoy the off-course action just as much as the thrilling golf on offer at Royal Golf Club.

Bahrain face Kuwait for Asian handball bronze

● **Qatar to play Japan in gold medal game at 6.30pm, marking end of continental championship in Kingdom**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain take on Kuwait today for the bronze medals in the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship, taking place in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, five-time defending champions Qatar go up against Japan for gold.

Both contests are the culmination of the Asian Handball Federation event, which comes to a close at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

The Bahrainis and Kuwaitis clash at 4pm. Bahrain are aiming for their second bronze medals in the competition to go with their five silver medals. They made it to the game for third place after losing their semi-final to Japan 17-20.



Bahrain's players will be looking to end the tournament on a positive note and make it onto the podium

At 6.30pm, the Qataris take on the Japanese for the title. Qatar are aiming for a record sixth straight crown after qualifying for their seventh successive final. Japan, on the other hand, are hoping to claim their third gold, to go with five silver and five bronze.

It is the first time back for the

Japanese in the final since 2004, when they lost to Kuwait. Their last championship came in 1979, so they will be looking to end a drought of 25 years.

Qatar beat Kuwait 33-26 in the final four to book their place in the title contest.

Tonight's final is a replay of the main round clash between the two sides, which ended in a 28-all stalemate following a last-gasp goal from Japan.

Aside from competing for the medals, each of the top four have also qualified for the 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship, to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway.

The rest of the tournament's final classification has already been set. Ranked from fourth through 16th, respectively, are South Korea, Iran, the UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, China, Chinese Taipei, Oman, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, New Zealand and India.

Bahrain has hosted the Asian Men's Handball Championship for the fifth time in its history. The previous four times were in 2016, 2014 and 1993.

Zverev shocks Alcaraz to join Medvedev in Australian Open semis



Germany's Alexander Zverev hits a return against Spain's Carlos Alcaraz

AFP | Melbourne

for the second time.

Alexander Zverev snuffed out a thrilling Carlos Alcaraz comeback early Thursday to set up an Australian Open semi-final against Daniil Medvedev as Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska's dream run continued in Melbourne.

The big-serving German recovered from a major wobble to win 6-1, 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4 in just over three hours, crushing Alcaraz's hopes of a third Grand Slam.

Zverev broke at his first opportunity on Rod Laver Arena, dominating the charismatic Spaniard, who could find no answer to his opponent's power and precision.

The sixth seed served for victory at 5-3 in the third set but the Spaniard somehow broke his opponent and produced some outrageous shots in the tie-break as the crowd erupted.

The pair swapped breaks at the beginning of the fourth set but Zverev earned a crucial breakthrough in the ninth game and served it out to reach the semis at Melbourne Park to get over the line.

Pochettino wants to build side worthy of Chelsea's history

AFP | London

Mauricio Pochettino aims to build a Chelsea team with the "capacity to win titles" as he bids to create a side that can measure up to the Blues' trophy-winning squads.

Pochettino's men cruised into the English League Cup final with a 6-1 semi-final second-leg thrashing of second-tier Middlesbrough on Tuesday to easily overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit.

Jonny Howson's own goal set

Chelsea on their way at Stamford Bridge before further goals from Enzo Fernandez, Axel Disasi and Noni Madueke and a Cole Palmer double booked their place at Wembley on February 25 against either Fulham or Liverpool.

"The most important thing is keeping the focus, seeing reality in the way we need to see the reality and see the difference between what is Chelsea and what is the team we are building," Pochettino said.

"They are two different things."



Chelsea's Argentinian head coach Mauricio Pochettino watches the players from the touchline

Chelsea won the last of their five Premier League titles in 2017.

The Blues sit ninth in the Premier League, closer to the relegation zone than the top of the table, despite a recent run of three straight wins.

"Our challenge is the history of Chelsea, the capacity to win titles and build a team that can match the mentality of this club," Pochettino added.

Chelsea next host Aston Villa in the FA Cup fourth round on Friday.

One ticket, two F1 events!

● Fans who buy F1 race tickets before 1 February to get free access to F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing

● BIC to host tests from 21 to 23 February, with fans to have access to the testing on 22 and 23 February

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) announced yesterday that Formula 1 fans who have purchased their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bah-

rain Grand Prix 2024 before 1 February will get free access to the two open days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2024.

The tests are scheduled to take place at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir from 21 to 23 February. BIC will be opening its gates to the public on testing's last two days on 22 and 23 February.

F1 enthusiasts will thus have the chance to enjoy watching the sport's teams and superstar drivers while they are hard at work preparing for the 2024 FIA F1 World Championship. It will be the first opportunity to see the brand new 2024 cars on track.

All those who have already

bought their tickets to the race weekend will be able to attend the pre-season testing for free. Those who have yet to secure their tickets are advised to buy theirs before 1 February in order to enjoy the free access.

Tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 are available online at the circuit's official website bahraingp.com, or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Sneak preview

The tests will offer fans a sneak preview at what's to come in the new campaign, which flags off just a few days later in the Kingdom from 29 February to 2 March. The grand prix weekend

will be celebrating "20 Years of a Modern Classic", as it commemorates the Kingdom of Bahrain's landmark 20th anniversary in F1.

All those attending F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2024 will be able to follow the action from BIC's Main Grandstand, which overlooks the F1 Pit Lane, the teams' garages, and the circuit's main straight. The tests are the F1 teams' only chance to get crucial information on their cars' performance on track ahead of the first race.

BIC is hosting F1 pre-season testing for the fourth year in a row and for the fifth time overall. Bahrain also staged the tests in 2014, while F1 conducted in-season testing in Sakhir in 2017 and 2019.



McLaren on track during pre-season tests at BIC last year

Bahrainis set for Jordan test

Kingdom's senior men's national football team play decisive, must-win game in AFC Asian Cup in Doha

● Bahrain take on Jordan at 2.30pm, Bahrain time, at Khalifa International Stadium

● Nationals need to finish in Group E top two, or be amongst four best third-placers

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have an uphill task against Jordan this afternoon in their concluding Group E fixture of the AFC Asian Cup.

The Bahrainis need to win to ensure their place in the knockout stage. With any other result, they must hope to be one of the four best-ranked third-placed teams from the six pools in the preliminaries.

Bahrain are currently third



Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi speaks with the national team players during their training session yesterday

on the Group E standings with three points following their 1-0 last-gasp victory against Malaysia earlier this week. That game followed their 1-3 loss to South Korea.

The South Koreans and Jordanians are ahead on the table, with Jordan occupying first

place on goal difference. The Malaysians are bottom with zero points from their two games.

Bahrain's assignment today is scheduled for a 2.30pm kick-off, Bahrain time, at Khalifa International Stadium. South Korea and Malaysia face off at the same time at Al Janoub Stadium.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Jordan	2	1	1	0	4	4
South Korea	2	1	1	0	2	4
Bahrain	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Malaysia	2	0	0	2	-5	0

Speaking in yesterday's pre-game Press conference, Bahrain's star midfielder Mohammed Marhoon said that the team is ready to step up to the challenge, especially with their qualification hopes for the next round on the line.

Diligently

"We have diligently prepared for the match against Jordan," Marhoon was quoted as saying.

"Following our victory against Malaysia, our entire focus has shifted to the upcoming challenge and we are hopeful of securing another win.

"The match against Malaysia was intense as the players



Mohammed Marhoon speaks during yesterday's pre-game Press conference

were under huge pressure. We maintained a strong belief in our abilities, created numerous chances and exhibited a solid commitment to winning. Fortunately, we rose to the occasion and successfully achieved our goal."

Marhoon added that they will be fighting until the very last whistle to come away with crucial points.

"Jordan pose a formidable challenge, boasting a team of strong and skilled players; we recognise that any team, including ours, must persevere until the final minute to secure a victory," he said.

Meanwhile, Jordanian forward Ali Olwan said his side are keen on finishing the group stage with an undefeated record, having trounced Malaysia 4-0 and then drawing with South Korea 2-2.

"The match against Bahrain is as important as the two earlier matches," said Olwan. "We look forward to winning and showing a good performance.

"The Bahrain national team are a formidable side. We consider them on an equal basis to Korea Republic. We stay focused and do our best and try to win."

Bahrain date set on FIBA 3x3 World Tour

● Basketball's governing body announces 15-event 2024 calendar

● Manama Masters to take place as round 12 on November 7 and 8

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's date on the 2024 FIBA 3x3 World Tour is now set following the announcement yesterday of the 15-stop calendar.

Basketball's international governing body, FIBA, revealed that this year's campaign will be captivating fans in four continents,

showcasing the very best of the urban team sport.

The Kingdom's event, entitled the Manama Masters, will be held on November 7 and 8 as the 12th round on the world tour.

This year's competition is the second edition of the prestigious event, following the sensational and hugely successful debut last November.

The new campaign is scheduled to tip off in April in Japan, and events will also be held in France, Mongolia, China, Canada, Switzerland, Hungary, Macau, the UAE and Hong Kong. The world tour will culminate with the final in December, the host of which has yet to be determined.

Stunning

"3x3 fans can witness world-



class action and entertainment in fifteen stunning locations around the world," said FIBA 3x3 managing director Alex Sanchez.

"Thanks to our strong partnerships with these incredible cities, we're confident this year's World Tour will break new re-

ords. Each location brings its unique flavour to the tour, promising an incredible experience for both players and fans alike

"Last year's events generated an incredible 1.1 billion views across all FIBA 3x3 platforms. These numbers reflect the glob-

al passion and ever-growing demand for our sport, and we're eager to build on that success in 2024."

In 2023, Partizan from Serbia were crowned champions of the inaugural Manama Masters. The competition marked Bahrain's first-ever appearance on the FIBA 3x3 World Tour, and took place under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The FIBA 3x3 World Tour is an international series of men's 3x3 basketball, with teams representing cities. Aside from 3x3 play, action is also held in a dunk contest and shootout.

Manchester United's Martial out for 10 weeks

AFP | London

Manchester United forward Anthony Martial has been ruled out until April following surgery on a groin injury, the Premier League giants announced.

The 28-year-old, out of contract at the end of the season, has managed just two goals in 19 appearances during another frustrating campaign at Old Trafford.

Martial has been absent from United manager Erik ten Hag's first team since United fans cheered his substitution in the 3-0 home defeat by Bournemouth on December 9, with the club now announcing he faces a lengthy lay-off.