

Circular issued on Labour Day holiday
 TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular on the upcoming Labour Day. According to the circular, ministries and all other public institutions will close on Wednesday, 1 May 2024, marking Labour Day.

King Salman leaves hospital after routine checkup



King Salman
 Jeddah

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud left the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Jeddah after completing a routine checkup, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday night.

Citing a statement from the Royal Court, the state-media report earlier said that the Saudi leader was admitted "to conduct routine examinations which will take several hours."

King Salman, 88, was last admitted to hospital in May 2022 for a colonoscopy procedure and medical tests, also at the Jeddah hospital, according to official reports.

282m face acute hunger in 2023
 AFP | Paris

Food insecurity worsened around the world in 2023, with some 282 million people suffering from acute hunger due to conflicts, particularly in Gaza and Sudan, UN agencies and development groups said yesterday.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain, UAE push for dialogue to solve conflicts

Abu Dhabi

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, called for de-escalation in the Middle East region, avoiding military escalation, and prioritising diplomatic solutions and the settlement of all conflicts through dialogue and negotiation.

This came as HM the King and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

They also urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in implementing immediate ceasefire resolutions in the Gaza Strip, ensuring the safety of civilians, and providing them with necessary humanitarian assistance without obstacles.



HM the King with HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed

The two leaders emphasised the necessity of effective international action to achieve comprehensive and just regional peace, granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and establishing their independent state based on the two-state

solution.

They stressed the importance of continuing consultation and coordination according to a unified strategic vision aimed at achieving common interests for both countries and their peoples, strengthening Gulf and Arab ties, and international cooperation in promoting peace, tolerance, and human solidarity.

Pride

His Majesty expressed his pride in the historical and distinguished ties between the leaderships and peoples of the two countries, wishing UAE's leadership, government, and people continued progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed the relations between the two countries and

further bolstering them to serve common interests. They also reviewed regional and international developments and exchanged views on them.

Hope

The two sides expressed their hope for positive outcomes and constructive decisions from the upcoming Arab Summit in its 33rd session, to be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain on May 16 under the presidency of HM the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The event aims to strengthen Arab solidarity, unity, and enhance the capabilities and potential of the Arab nation in political and economic aspects, protect its national security, and meet its aspirations towards progress and sustainable development.

Israel rattles Lebanon with 'offensive action'

Cross-border strikes heighten regional tensions as aircraft and tanks pound Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday its forces were carrying out "offensive action" in Lebanon after launching cross-border strikes targeting Hamas ally Hezbollah as Israeli aircraft and tanks pounded the Gaza Strip.

Since the Israel-Hamas war erupted on October 7, Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah group and Israeli forces have traded near-daily fire, heightening fears of a wider conflict breaking out.

In war-battered Gaza, there has been mounting concern over Israeli plans to launch an assault on the southern Gazan city of Rafah, where 1.5 million people have sought refuge, many in makeshift encampments.

Aid groups warn any invasion would create catastrophic conditions for civilians, but government spokesman David Mencer said Israel was "moving ahead" with its operation in Rafah, which Israeli officials have described as the



Israeli plain-clothed military personnel measure a part of an Iranian ballistic missile, located in an open area near the southern city of Arad. Iran carried out an unprecedented direct attack on Israel overnight April 13-14, using more than 300 drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, in retaliation for a deadly April 1 air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. (AFP)

"last" major Hamas stronghold where militants may be holding hostages.

Hamas yesterday released a video showing a man it said was one of the 129 hostages Israel estimates remain in Gaza, a number that includes 34 presumed dead.

Military aid

Also yesterday, US President Joe Biden signed a bill authorising \$13 billion in military aid to close ally Israel.

The bill also included \$1 billion in humanitarian aid for Gaza, which Biden demanded Israel allow reach Palestinians

"without delay".

Regional tensions remain high more than 200 days into the devastating war, which was triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that "many forces are deployed" along Israel's north-

ern border, claiming the military has eliminated "half of Hezbollah's commanders in southern Lebanon" in months of violence.

Israel has struck increasingly deeper into Lebanon, while Hezbollah has stepped up rocket fire and drone attacks on Israeli military bases across the border.

"IDF (military) forces are currently carrying out offensive action throughout southern Lebanon", Gallant said, without specifying whether ground troops had crossed the border.

Air strikes

Early yesterday, hospital and security sources in Gaza reported Israeli air strikes in Rafah as well as the central Nuseirat refugee camp.

An AFP correspondent and witnesses reported heavy bombardment in northern Gaza overnight.

Government spokesman Mencer said "Israel is moving ahead with our operation to target Hamas in Rafah", without providing a timeline.

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Protecting earth, preserving health

Experts discuss climate change's 'alarming' impact on healthcare at C3 Summit

● Global call made for 'urgent' action and sustainable healthcare solutions

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Experts shed light on the far-reaching consequences of climate change on the healthcare sector during a thought-provoking panel discussion held at the C3 Summit, dubbed the "Davos of healthcare".

Moderated by Mr. Essam Al-gobaisi, CEO of the Business Intelligence Group in KSA, the panelists, Mr. Murat Seitnepesov, President of the Greater Caspian Association in Switzerland, and Dr. Naeema Hassan Al-Gasseer, GCC National Health and Development Expert in Bahrain, delved into the pressing issues at hand.

Dr. Al-Gasseer highlighted the vital need to enhance health security in the face of climate change. Reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic, she emphasised the lack of preparedness exhibited by even the most advanced healthcare systems worldwide.



“Digital technology must be used to detect these pathogens in high-traffic areas such as airports, railways, shopping malls, and conferences, thereby minimising the risk of transmission”

MR. MURAT SEITNEPESOV, PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER CASPIAN ASSOCIATION IN SWITZERLAND

Dr. Al-Gasseer stressed the importance of adhering to international health regulations and the necessity for transparency and information sharing among nations.

Furthermore, she pointed out that climate change plays a significant role in the spread of epidemic and communicable dis-



Dr. Naeema and Mr. Seitnepesov answer questions during a panel discussion

eases, with 70 per cent of such diseases being zoonotic.

“The negative impacts of climate change, including limited access to safe drinking water and malnutrition, particularly affecting girls and women, further exacerbate the health challenges faced by communities globally.”

Urgent action

Meanwhile, Mr. Seitnepesov highlighted the urgent need for action in tackling climate change and its associated problems.

Proposals for climate technologies and the implementation of food standards were discussed as potential solutions. Notably, initiatives to restore or grow one trillion trees have already been set into motion, with 100 companies having planted 12 billion trees to date.

Mr. Seitnepesov emphasised that climate change can lead to the release of ancient viruses and bacteria through the melting of permafrost. Additionally, extreme climates in jungles

and other regions may foster the emergence of new infectious diseases.

Significant challenge

While progress has been made in vaccine development and prediction, early detection of pathogens remains a significant challenge.

Mr. Seitnepesov proposed the use of digital technology to detect these pathogens in high-traffic areas such as airports, railways, shopping malls,



“It is important to adhere to international health regulations and the necessity for transparency and information sharing among nations”

DR. NAEEMA HASSAN AL-GASSEER, GCC NATIONAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERT IN BAHRAIN

and conferences, thereby minimising the risk of transmission.

As climate-related challenges persist, it is imperative for nations, healthcare systems, and individuals to collectively address this issue and work towards building a resilient and sustainable healthcare infrastructure for the future.

Kingdom supports innovation and creativity

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His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness on providing a conducive environment for the growth of high potential sectors that is driven by innovation and creativity, to support the achievement of economic development goals.

The minister spoke during a meeting with Frederic Genta,



H.E. Shaikh Salman speaks at the meeting

the Secretary of Attractiveness, Development and Digital Transformation at the Government of Monaco and his accompanying delegation, attended by Noor bint Ali Alkhalifa, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board.

Shaikh Salman highlighted the importance of exchanging best practices in digital innovation which contributes to creating fresh prospects for economic growth.

Bahraini experts to take part in Gulf Innovators Conference

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Four distinguished experts and academics from the Kingdom of Bahrain are gearing up to take part in the prestigious Gulf Innovators Conference, scheduled to be held at Harvard University in the United States from May 10 to 12.

His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Advisor for Political and Economic Affairs at the Crown Prince's Court, Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, Director General of the Institute of Public Administration, and Dr. Shaikh Saqr bin Salman Al Khalifa, Advisor to the Minister of Education, will represent Bahrain in the conference discussions and activities.

They will be joined by Professor at the American University and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Schools and Universities, as well as Wafa Al-Obaidat, CEO of the PlayBook platform.

The Gulf Innovators Conference stands as the largest gathering in the Gulf region, boasting participation from

over 170 speakers across various domains including entrepreneurship, innovation, non-profit work, public policy, public health, sports, and culture.

Policymakers

Among the attendees will be the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, ambassadors, ministers, leaders from Gulf countries, as well as a distinguished cohort of academics and policymakers.

Together, they will engage in discussions covering a spectrum of topics ranging from economics, social affairs, politics, business, to women and youth empowerment, education, and other pertinent issues related to the Arabian Gulf.

The overarching goal of the conference is to foster positive change within the Arab world and beyond. Participants will share their experiences and expertise while collaboratively developing solutions to address pressing challenges and seize opportunities facing the region.

Public interaction with citizens a priority

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His Highness the Southern Governor, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa has affirmed that the governorate continues to interact with the public through the weekly Majlis and follow up on their requirements in cooperation with concerned government authorities.

He highlighted that the governorate has teams assigned to receive suggestions and comments from the residents through innovative and modern methods.



HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali with dignitaries and residents

The Southern Governor was speaking as he received dignitaries, residents, and representatives of civil societies in the Southern Governorate. Deputy Southern Governor

Brigadier Hamad Al Khayat and officials attended.

He welcomed the attendees, asserting the importance of interaction and social closeness, which are showcased at the governorate's weekly Ma-

jlis, to achieve the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Traffic congestion



The Ministry of Interior, via its official channel on X, yesterday informed the public of a traffic congestion occurrence on Shaikh Hamad Bridge, in the direction of Muharraq, subsequent to a vehicular collision involving multiple vehicles. According to the Ministry's statement, authorities are actively engaged in implementing necessary measures at the scene to alleviate the congestion and ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

Festival success



Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) President, His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, received at the Pearl Path Visitor and Experience Centre, members of the Bahraini delegation to the fourth Gulf Cinema Festival, held in Saudi Arabia last week. Directors who participated in the festival, Director Bassam Al Thawadi, member of the festival's jury, and award-winning actress, Maryam Zeman, were present. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdulla expressed pleasure at the successes achieved by the delegation during the festival, praising the contributions of Bahraini artists, which reflected the advanced level reached by the cinematic movement in the Kingdom.

Investing in well-being

MPs unanimously approve monthly allocation of BD20 for each child

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The Council of Representatives has unanimously approved a groundbreaking proposal providing a monthly allocation of BD20 for each child, with a maximum cap of four children.

Submitted by MPs Mohamed Al Ahmed, Mohamed Al Riffae, Ahmed Qarata, Mohamed Al Husaini, and Muneer Seroor, the proposal marks an advancement in the Kingdom's commitment to the welfare and growth of its citizens towards empowering families and investing in future generations.

The primary objective of this programme is to alleviate economic burdens on families, enabling them to better address their children's educational, healthcare, and overall well-being needs.

Transparency and accountability were pledged by the MPs to govern the allocation process, ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of resources, with the ultimate objective of cultivating a resilient and thriving community where every child has the



MP Mohamed Al Ahmed



MP Mohamed Al Riffae



MP Ahmed Qarata



MP Mohamed Al Husaini



MP Muneer Seroor

opportunity to reach their full potential.

This pioneering initiative draws inspiration from the 2022 legislation passed by the German Bundestag, which introduced a monthly payment of 250 euros per child from the Familienkasse, with a limit of three children.

Positive impact

Following a similar approach, the UAE government enacted a comparable statute in July 2022, providing parental subsidies for up to three children. Encouragingly, numerous countries have adopted similar legislations, rec-



ognising the positive impact of such measures.

According to data released by the Information and eGovernment Authority, the estimated

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The primary objective of the programme is to alleviate economic burdens on families, enabling them to better address their children's educational, healthcare, and overall well-being needs.

annual cost of implementing this initiative is projected to be approximately BD62.89 million.

This investment reflects Bahrain's commitment to the

well-being of its citizens and underscores the government's proactive approach to supporting families and securing a prosperous future for all.

Concerns

However, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy has voiced concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

Their statement points to potential conflicts with the government's goal of achieving economic balance within the current year, emphasising the need for judicious spending.

The Ministry also highlights alternative government actions aimed at reducing poverty and supporting families, suggesting a need for a balanced approach to fiscal policy.

MP push for emergency centers across Kingdom



MP Al-Sayyid explains her proposal

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MP Jalila Al-Sayyid emphasised the critical need for establishing emergency centers in all governorates of the Kingdom, highlighting their pivotal role in delivering prompt treatment services to individuals injured in accidents.

Citing instances where delays in reaching accident victims resulted in complications and fatalities, Al-Sayyid underscored the inadequacy of having just one ambulance, particularly in densely populated areas.

She referenced a tragic incident during a fire in the Sitra area, where a lack of timely

medical assistance led to the deterioration of an injured individual's condition, ultimately resulting in fatalities.

Al-Sayyid called for the establishment of comprehensive emergency centers equipped with multiple ambulances and firefighting resources.

Stressing the imperative of distributing these centers across various governorates, she emphasised the need to swiftly address life-threatening situations and minimise casualties.

The proposal put forth by the MP seeks to enhance emergency response capabilities, ultimately aiming to preserve lives and improve overall safety across the Kingdom.

Compensation increased for traffic accident victim family

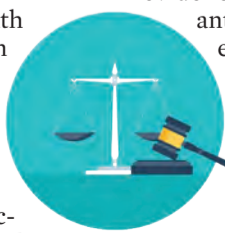
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The Supreme Civil Court of Appeal has revised its decision, compelling an insurance company to provide a higher compensation of BD34,000 to a couple and their two sons.

This adjustment, as stated by lawyer Riyadh Al-Sindi, comes

in the aftermath of the death of their 17-year-old son in a traffic accident that occurred in 2022.

Providing insights into the incident, Al-Sindi disclosed that the plaintiffs' heir, aged 17 at the time, succumbed to injuries sustained in a traffic accident on February 14, 2022.



Schengen visa requirements remain 'unchanged'

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The Consular Section of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Kingdom of Bahrain has confirmed that the requirements for obtaining a Schengen visa remain unchanged, following the European Commission's decision on Monday to unify visa systems for citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In an interview with our sister newspaper Al Ayam, the Head of the Visa Section at the German Embassy stated that the issuance of a five-year Schengen visa requires a passport valid for the same period. He emphasised that the visa allows the holder to stay for a maximum of 90 days out of 180 days.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The Head of the Visa Section further clarified that if the validity of the visa exceeds the validity of the passport, a multiple-entry visa will be issued with a validity period ending three months before the expiry

of the applicant's travel document. This aligns with the visa code, the official stressed.

He urged those wishing to travel during the upcoming summer season to apply for a visa as soon as possible, as the

BETTER YOU KNOW

The issuance of a five-year Schengen visa requires a passport valid for the same period. It allows the holder to stay for a maximum of 90 days out of 180 days.

visa system allows applications to be submitted six months before the travel date.

Educator fined for insulting Education Ministry

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has issued a fine of BD100 to an educator who was charged with insulting a public institution, specifically the Ministry of Education.

The court's decision came after the prosecutor presented evidence that the defendant had posted a video clip on her public Instagram account containing derogatory remarks and a direct attack on the Ministry.

During the proceedings, the prosecutor emphasized that the charges were pursued based on solid

evidence, as the video clip constituted a deliberate and clear attack on the reputation and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education.

The defendant's description of the Ministry as a 'gathering place for traitors' was deemed unacceptable by the prosecutor, given the institution's role in educating the younger generation.

Furthermore, the defendant's claim that the Ministry had produced 'deficient students' over the past 20 years was highlighted as an additional insult to both the graduates and the Ministry itself.

The prosecutor argued that such language violated the dignity and respect owed to a



public institution, necessitating legal action to establish the boundary between criminal acts and freedom of expression.

In response, the defendant denied all charges brought against her.

252 workers honoured

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The Minister of Labour, His Excellency Jamil Humaidan, presided over a ceremony to honour 252 workers as part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's commemoration of International Labour Day. The event, held in the capital Manama and organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions, saw Humaidan extend gratitude on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who serves as the patron of the ceremony and the foremost advocate for Bahrain's labour force.

During the ceremony, the Minister conveyed HM the King's sincere wishes and congratulations on the occasion of May 1, recognised globally as "International Workers' Day."

Sky-high achievement

Bahrain International Airport Passports Services ranked 'third best' globally

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved a new international milestone, as the Passports Services at the Bahrain International Airport has been ranked third globally among the 2024 World Airline Awards (Skytrax).

It won in the "Best Airport Passport Services" category after applying strict standards that include the efficiency and speed of procedures, ease of movement, the efficiency of passport staff in terms of receiving visitors, and the extent of travellers' satisfaction.

The winning is an international testimony to the excellence and leadership in the services provided by the Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and its continuous keenness to enhance travellers' experiences at Bahrain International Airport.

Bahrain ranked third after Singapore Changi Airport and Zurich International Airport in



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Switzerland.

Pride

The Interior Ministry Undersecretary for NPRA, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, expressed his pride in the achievement, asserting dedication to providing the best services for travellers via the Bahrain International Airport to promote Bahrain's status as a leading regional centre in air transport.

He noted that the Airport Passports Services plays a significant role in facilitating travellers' procedures and providing them with exciting travelling experiences. He hailed the fruitful cooperation between the NPRA and Bahrain Airport Services.

Skytrax World Airlines is a London-based consultancy founded in 1989. It operates an airline and airport review website and offers annual awards



The Airport Passports Services plays a significant role in facilitating travellers' procedures and providing them with exciting travelling experiences

SHAIKH HISHAM BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL KHALIFA, INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FOR THE NATIONALITY, PASSPORTS, AND RESIDENCE AFFAIRS (NPRA)

known as the Skytrax World Awards based on traveller reviews.

Bapco safely resolves oil tank leak problem

TDT | Manama

Bapco has successfully completed the safe and gradual transfer of contents to another tank in response to recent technical issues arising from adverse weather conditions.

The company declared an end to the state of emergency within its premises, signaling a return to normal operations as of yesterday.

The management of Bapco has initiated a comprehensive assessment of the affected tank, accompanied by extensive maintenance procedures adhering to emergency protocols, all conducted in accordance with the highest international standards.

In collaboration with the General Directorate of Traffic, Civil Defense, and other relevant agencies under the Ministry of Interior, Bapco Refining Company has reopened all access roads, including those leading to the incident site on Umm Al Saad Street

These routes had been temporarily closed immediately following the incident.

Expressing gratitude, the

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The leak was caused by a limited technical issue resulting from the unprecedented weather conditions and rainfall levels experienced by Bahrain last week.

company extends sincere appreciation to all government entities and stakeholders for their unwavering support during this challenging period.

Bapco acknowledges the cooperation of citizens and residents in adhering to safety protocols throughout the incident's resolution.

Filipino community leaders hold meeting



H.E. Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louis with the Filipino community leaders

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy under the leadership of Her Excellency Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louis successfully held a general meeting with the

leaders of the Filipino community at the Sentro Rizal, Philippine Embassy.

More than 50 leaders attended the assembly, the first Filipino community meeting for this year undertaken various issues

and programs concerning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the kingdom.

One of the highlights of the event was the discussion of the Bagong Pilipinas programs were discussed.

Hockey and football games begin



The Indian Club BMMI Alex Memorial Hockey & Football 5-A-Side Indian Expats (football) got underway last night at the Club premises. Seven teams are playing football in the round robin league where top four teams will qualify for the semis and finals, which will be played on Saturday 4th May 2024. Six teams have registered for Hockey. Games are played daily from 8pm onwards except for Thursdays & Fridays. Entrance is open to all. Above, the Hungry Hamours Hockey Club team.

Grand Intellectual Showdown

Amazing Bahrain to host inter school quiz competition



GS Pradeep, third from left, at the press conference

TDT | Manama

In a bid to foster intellectual engagement and academic enthusiasm among Bahrain's youth, Amazing Events, a subsidiary of tourism destination management company Amazing Bahrain, is set to host an exhilarating Inter School Quiz

Competition.

Recognized and approved by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) and the Ministry of Tourism, this event promises to be a spectacle of knowledge and wit.

Scheduled for Friday, April 26th, at 5.30 pm, the battleground for this cerebral showdown will be the Golden Ea-

gle Health Club, nestled in Salmabad. With the necessary approvals secured from BTEA, anticipation is rife for a riveting competition.

Guiding the proceedings will be none other than Grand Master GS Pradeep, an iconic figure in the realm of quizzing. With a towering reputation amassed over three dec-

ades as an Indian television personality, public intellectual, and renowned quizzier, Pradeep brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the event.

For those seeking more information or eager to participate, contact Basheer at 3966 2495 or Rajiv Varma at 39406785/33533131.

Bahrain to organise Gulf management forum on AI

TDT | Manama

pioneering initiative to lever-

Bahrain will play host to the sixteenth Gulf Office Management Forum from May 15 to 16.

Themed "The Future of Office Management by Harnessing Artificial Intelligence," the forum marks a significant milestone in the evolution of regional conferences.

It will be organised by the Bahraini Secretarial Society and ACT Smart, with support from the Global Artificial Intelligence Group.

Mrs. Shahla Asbai, President of the Bahrain Secretarial Association, highlighted the innovative approach of this year's forum, emphasising the integration of artificial intelligence technology in designing the main theme, sub-sessions, and workshop topics.

The event will feature three sessions covering various aspects of AI-driven office operations, reflecting a forward-thinking approach to workforce enhancement and operational efficiency.

Dr. Jassim Haji, Chairman of the Global Artificial Intelligence Group, praised Bahrain's



age AI technology in conference design, foreseeing new opportunities for technological applications.

The Kingdom's rich experience in AI applications will be showcased through collaboration with leading authorities in the field, both domestically and internationally.

Dr. Fahd Ibrahim Al-Shehabi, Secretary-General of the Forum, announced that the opening ceremony will include the presentation of the Gulf Excellence Award in Office Management for 2024.

The forum's second day will feature practical training workshops on AI utilization in daily office tasks. Interested participants are encouraged to visit the forum's website or follow updates via the hashtag #GFOM16.

AMH opens new Pathology and Laboratory Department on World Laboratory Day

TDT | Manama

The American Mission Hospital marked World Laboratory Day by officially unveiling its Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital.

Established as a separate department in 1984, AMH initially offered basic lab tests and has since grown to encompass five sites, providing a comprehensive range of laboratory services that support clinicians in diagnosis and enhance patient outcomes.

World Laboratory Day, observed annually on April 23rd, acknowledges the vital role of laboratories in healthcare, scientific research, and development.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Health Supreme Council, Dr. George Cheriyan, American Mission Hospital Corporate CEO, and Julia Tovey, Amer-



In pictures, the inauguration ceremony



ican Mission Hospital Group CEO, highlighted the theme for 2024: "THE FUTURE IS LAB." This theme recognises and honours laboratory professionals for their adeptness in addressing today's evolving patient care and public health challenges with resilience, innovation, and expertise.

Bahrain Chamber hosts HSBC's Chief Economist, discusses economic trends



The talks held yesterday at Bahrain Chamber

TDT | Manama

Khalid Najibi, the first vice-chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, welcomed HSBC's Chief Economist for the Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Central, and Eastern Europe, Simon Williams, at the Chamber's headquarters yesterday.

Williams was accompanied by CEO Joseph Ghorayeb and Head of Markets and Securities Services Batool Al Rahma,

Najibi emphasised Bahrain's pivotal role as a gateway to the Gulf region during the meeting, highlighting its extensive network of Free Trade Agreements, modern infrastructure, and highly skilled workforce,

all of which contribute to its strong position.

In turn, Williams praised Bahrain's rapid economic progress and ongoing reforms. He also discussed the collective strength of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, noting their resilient growth rates ranging between 2 and 4%, despite facing economic and geopolitical challenges. Williams stressed the GCC's substantial \$2 trillion market as an appealing and promising investment destination.

Joining the discussion were Nader Rahimi, head of the Bahrain Chamber's finance, insurance, and tax committee, and committee member Mohammed Al Aali.

BBK unveils second edition of 'Grow'

● Welcomes applications from 20 graduates

TDT | Manama

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) has announced the launch of the second edition of the "Grow" programme, designed to nurture the skills and capabilities of Bahraini university graduates.

BBK will offer the opportunity for Bahraini graduates to join a specialized training programme that spans over six months, where 20 applicants



Hassaan Burshaid, Group Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer of BBK

will be selected to participate in a two-week training course at

the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). This comprehensive programme aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the banking industry, covering a wide range of important topics including financial analysis, risk management, banking information technology, banking marketing, banking operations, information security, anti-money laundering, and more.

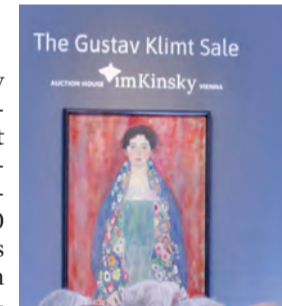
The programme offers trainees a chance to fully engage in a dynamic banking environment, gaining valuable professional experience and benefiting from the expertise of employees across diverse fields and de-

partments. Through specialized workshops led by a skilled team of trainers, participants will enhance their practical skills and capabilities, equipping them for a successful entry into the banking sector.

Hassaan Burshaid, Group Chief Human Resources & Administration Officer of BBK, stated: "The remarkable achievements and experience gained by participants in the first edition have inspired us to continue our commitment to investing in the growth of young bankers. Through this program, we aim to empower them with enhanced skills, paving the way for a bright and prosperous professional future."

Long-lost Klimt portrait auctioned off for 30 m euros Vienna, Austria

A painting by artist Gustav Klimt that reappeared after nearly a century sold for 30 million euros (\$32 million) on Wednesday, setting a record price for an Austrian auction despite questions surrounding its provenance.



Vienna auction house im Kinsky had estimated the value at 30-50 million euros for the "Bildnis Fraeulein Lieser" (Portrait of Miss Lieser), which was commissioned by a wealthy Jewish industrialist's family and painted by Klimt in 1917 shortly before he died.

Hilton Bahrain joins forces with Canadian School of Bahrain to celebrate Earth Week



TDT | Manama

Hilton Bahrain has celebrated Earth Week in collaboration with the Grade 2 and 3 students of Canadian School of Bahrain to raise awareness about sustainability and educate them about the impact of climate change on our environment. The Hilton Bahrain team engaged the students in a thought-provoking discussion,

highlighting the importance of sustainable practices and the role each individual can play in making a positive difference.

The highlight of the celebration was a tree-planting activity, symbolizing the commitment to nurturing and protecting our planet.

Ryan Dayaday, Director of HR at Hilton Bahrain, expressed his appreciation for the Canadian School of Bahrain's invitation,

stating, "These children are the future stewards of our planet, and it is inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable world." He highlighted Hilton's adoption of the impactful initiative, "Travel With Purpose," which underscores their dedication to protecting the planet and ensuring its well-being for future generations.

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School holds investiture ceremony



TDT | Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) held its investiture ceremony on 24th April 2024 to formally invest the newly elected student council members with their responsibilities and roles in the school.

The ceremony, presided over by Directors Himanshu Verma

and Ritu Verma witnessed student leaders taking the oath of office amidst guests, faculty members, and fellow students.

The newly appointed student council members, including the Head Boy, Head Girl, Vice Head Boy, Vice Head Girl, Captains & Vice Captains of the four houses, Organising Committee and organising committee along with the members and the team

of Prefects, were adorned with their official badges and sashes.

The elected members of the student council, having been bestowed with the prestigious badges, solemnly took an oath administered by Principal Saji Jacob. Head Boy Adesh Deepthi Shaiju delivered the acceptance speech. The event culminated with a vote of thanks by the Head Girl Nivediya Babu.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

TOO MANY OF US ARE NOT LIVING OUR DREAMS BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING OUR FEARS LES BROWN

TODAY IN HISTORY

1660

English Convention Parliament meets and votes to restore Charles II



1792

Guillotine first used in France, executes highwayman Nicolas Pelletie

1846

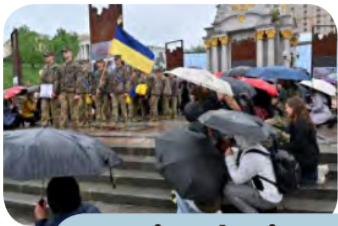
Thornton Affair: Open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas, triggering the Mexican-American War

1953

Francis Crick and James Watson's discovery of the double helix structure of DNA is published in "Nature" magazine

News in brief

Russia and Ukraine have agreed in a Qatari-brokered deal to exchange almost 50 children displaced by Moscow's invasion...



Russia, Ukraine to exchange displaced children after rare talks

China will send a fresh crew to its Tiangong space station today, Beijing's Manned Space Agency announced...

The United Nations said yesterday it was launching a new Climate Resilience Fund aimed at boosting protections for "refugees and displaced communities"...

UN launches fund to shield displaced people from climate shocks



US secretly sent long-range ATACMS missiles to Ukraine



Washington, United States

The United States sent long-range ATACMS missiles to Ukraine for use inside its territory, and the weapons arrived in the country this month...

UAE announces \$544 million for repairs after record rains

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates announced \$544 million to repair the homes of Emirati families yesterday after last week's record rains caused widespread flooding...



Cars are stranded on a flooded al-Khalil road in the al-Barsha area in Dubai following heavy rains on April 18, 2024

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also the ruler of Dubai, which was one of the worst hit of the UAE's seven sheikhdoms...

structure damage and propose solutions, Sheikh Mohammed said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "The situation was unprecedented in its severity but we are a country that learns from every experience," he said.

Wednesday on X. "We hope that this will not be repeated in the future," he added, in a rare public rebuke. Climatologist Friederike Otto, a specialist in assessing the role of global warming on extreme weather events, told AFP it was "high likely" that the rainfall "was made heavier by human-caused climate change".

BETTER YOU KNOW. The rainfall, the UAE's heaviest since records began 75 years ago, killed at least four people, including three Filipino workers and one Emirati.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

France records growing number of supercentenarians

AFP | Paris, France

The number of people in France living beyond 110 years is growing fast, the national demographic studies institute said Wednesday...



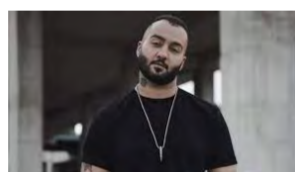
The oldest person in the world is Maria Branyas Morera, 117, who lives in Spain, according to the US Gerontology Research Group.



Centenarians, meanwhile, have seen a "spectacular" rise in numbers, INED said, growing from around 1,000 in 1970 to 8,000 in 2000 and 31,000 at the start of this year.

On current trends, 200,000 people in France will be 100 or older by 2070, it said. France's overall population is around 68 million, with over 20 percent aged 65 or over.

Iran sentences rapper to death for backing protests



Toomaj Salehi, Tehran, Iran

An Iranian court has sentenced to death a popular rapper jailed for more than a year and a half for supporting nationwide protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death...

The Iranian Kurdish woman had been detained by the morality police in Tehran over an alleged breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress rules for women.

Japan Moon probe survives third lunar night

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Japan's Moon lander woke up for a third time after its main functions survived another frigid two-week lunar night, the country's space agency said yesterday.



The unmanned lightweight spacecraft, carrying a mini-rover that moves like a turtle, landed at a wonky angle that left its solar panels facing the wrong way.

The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its landing precision, touched down in January -- making Japan only the fifth nation to achieve a soft lunar landing.

Defying pessimistic predictions, the probe was revived in late February once the lunar night, which lasts about 14 Earth days, came to an end. On X, formerly Twitter, it posted a new image of the Moon's surface that it had received from the lander.

Malala Yousafzai slated for Clinton musical co-credit

AFP | Lahore, Pakistan

Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai faced a backlash in her native Pakistan on Wednesday, after the premier of a Broadway musical she co-produced with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



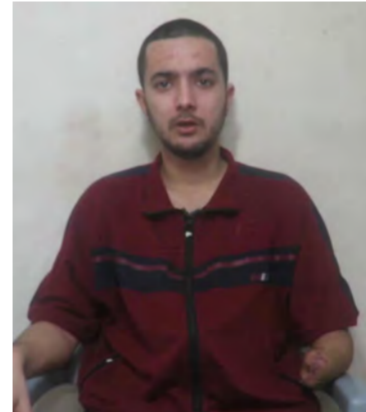
Malala Yousafzai

However Yousafzai, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, has been condemned by some for partnering with Clinton, an outspoken supporter of Israel's war against Hamas.

Hamas releases video of Israeli-American hostage held in Gaza

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Hamas released yesterday a video of an Israeli-American man held hostage in Gaza and seen alive in the footage. Israeli media identified him as Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was abducted from the Nova music festival in southern Israel during the Hamas attack on October 7.



Israel estimates 129 of the roughly 250 people abducted during the Hamas attack on October 7 remain in Gaza, including 34 who the military says are dead.

Taliban join climate change talks for first time

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

The Taliban government has entered its first talks with the United Nations, donors and non-governmental organisations over the impact of climate change in Afghanistan, organisers said yesterday.

After four decades of war, Afghanistan ranks as one of the countries least prepared to face the effects of climate change, which is spurring extreme weather and warping natural environments.

Three injured in apparent stabbing at Welsh school

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Three people were injured in an apparent stabbing at a secondary school in Wales yesterday, police said. The attack occurred at the Amman Valley School about 60 miles (100 miles) northwest of Cardiff.

TikTok to fight US ban law in courts

AFP | San Francisco, United States

TikTok's CEO said a US law signed yesterday by US President Joe Biden was an effective ban of the social media company and would be fought in court.

Biden says Israel must allow aid to Palestinians 'without delay'

AFP | Washington, United States

President Joe Biden yesterday demanded that new humanitarian aid be allowed to immediately reach Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as key US ally Israel fights Hamas there.

Sunak, Scholz vow support for Ukraine for 'as long as it takes'

AFP | Berlin, Germany

The leaders of Britain and Germany pledged yesterday to back Ukraine in its war with Russia for "as long as it takes", but the German chancellor doubled down on his refusal to deliver long-range Taurus missiles to Kyiv.

Iran president visits Sri Lanka without wanted minister



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (R) and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe (L) inaugurating the Uma Oya irrigation and hydro-electricity project in Badulla district of Sri Lanka.

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated a power and irrigation project in Sri Lanka yesterday, but arrived in the country without his interior minister, who is wanted over a deadly 1994 bombing.

Europe ill-prepared to counter China espionage push: analysts



Representative picture

AFP | Paris, France

China is rapidly emerging as a major spying superpower and its agents are becoming increasingly bold, in a shift that Europe has so far been slow to counter, analysts say. This week's cases of alleged Chinese espionage in Germany and Britain are the latest reminder of Beijing's immense intelligence network and its ability to penetrate into the heart of European capitals.

to inaugurate an Iran-backed power and irrigation project. Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that Vahidi was back in Iran on Tuesday, where he attended a ceremony to induct a new provincial governor. An official from Sri Lanka's foreign ministry told AFP that the interior minister was not listed as part of the Iranian delegation.

There is no immediate evidence to link those cases, or to explain the timing of the announcements. But the accusations have come on the heels of multiple Western warnings of Chinese intelligence services seeking to spy on European economies and companies, penetrate educational establishments, and shape public opinion. China has strongly denied the claims of wrong-doing.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01. On Panchayati Raj Day, greetings to all those working at grassroots to transform rural India and ensure a better quality of life for the people.

On Panchayati Raj Day, greetings to all those working at grassroots to transform rural India and ensure a better quality of life for the people.

02. Today, I addressed representatives of partner countries and international organizations in Ukraine, as well as our diplomats.

Today, I addressed representatives of partner countries and international organizations in Ukraine, as well as our diplomats. We have specific intelligence data indicating that Russia not only wants to disrupt the Peace Summit, but also has a specific plan for how to do so, including how to reduce the number of participating countries and how to act in order to thwart peace efforts for even longer.

03. Thanks to immunization, a child born today is 40% more likely to see their fifth birthday than a child born 50 years ago.

Thanks to immunization, a child born today is 40% more likely to see their fifth birthday than a child born 50 years ago. #Humanly-Possible

04. This March was the hottest on record -- the tenth month of record heat in a row.

This March was the hottest on record -- the tenth month of record heat in a row. The 1.5-degree limit is still possible, but not for long. Ambitious new national climate plans are essential to get countries on that path - with no loopholes, opt-outs or half-measures.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘Night Stalker’ in Um Al Hassam

In the late hours of Wednesday, April 3rd, during the holy month of Ramadan, I had just finished praying Taraweeh at a nearby mosque in Umm Al Hassam. As I made my way back to my apartment, which stood opposite the mosque, an unsettling feeling crept over me as if someone was following me. In a moment of fear, my mind, influenced by countless horror movies, conjured thoughts of ghosts, and I sprinted towards the safety of my building.

As I reached my second-floor flat, I fumbled for my house key, desperately trying to unlock the door. Suddenly, I heard footsteps approaching. I turned around, and to my shock, a young Indian man in his late twenties stood before me. He asked for my help, claiming that he needed water. It was already 2 a.m., and I hesitated, unsure of what to do. But before I could respond, he stopped me and said something that sent shivers down my spine.

“I heard footsteps approaching. I turned around, and to my shock, a young Indian man in his late twenties stood before me. He asked for my help, claiming that he needed water. It was already 2 a.m., and I hesitated, unsure of what to do.”

“Hey, I know you. I’ve seen you around,” he said, his voice filled with a strange familiarity. Confusion washed over me. How could he know me when I didn’t know him? Then, he pulled out his phone and showed me a series of videos.

Videos of me entering my building, videos of me driving, and even videos of me meeting my fiancé in his car. I couldn’t believe my eyes. My heart raced as I asked him why he was taking these videos. “I like you,” he said with a disturbing smile. “I’ve been stalking you for over a week now.”

I quickly opened my door and rushed inside, but he grabbed my hand, trying to force his way into my sanctuary. With all the strength I could muster, I pushed him away and slammed the door shut. My heart pounded in my chest as he began relentlessly knocking on my door, his persistence unnerving.

I called my fiancé, desperately explaining the situation. He arrived swiftly, scaring off the intruder. But the threat remained. I immediately dialed 999, seeking help from the authorities. However, due to language barriers, explaining the situation to the officer proved challenging.

Determined not to let this ordeal go unnoticed, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I had managed to snap a photo of the man as he fled, and armed with that evidence, I set out to find him. I visited nearby cold stores, showing his picture to the owners, hoping someone would recognise him. And luck was on my side. The store owner recognised him as a regular customer who bought groceries every month. I finally had his home address just across the street from my building.

Taking a seat on my balcony, I patiently waited for hours until, finally, at 11:30 p.m., he emerged, albeit with a changed appearance. Accompanied by my fiancé, we confronted and apprehended him. Alerting emergency services once again, I provided them with my case number, urgently requesting immediate assistance. After a short wait, the police arrived, promptly arresting the man and transporting him to the Sitra police station.

During the arrest, it came to light that the offender was a married man, residing with his wife and a three-year-old child. His wife, oblivious to his actions, was devastated upon learning the truth. Witnessing her anguish as she collapsed on the road, pleading for forgiveness, my heart weighed heavy with conflicting emotions. At the police station, he confessed to his crimes, expressing remorse and seeking forgiveness. Presented with two options by the police, I was torn.

The choices were to pursue a six-month prison sentence followed by deportation or to grant him forgiveness, with his case remaining open and a final warning issued. Moved by the sight of the distraught woman holding her child and begging for mercy, I made the difficult decision to release him with a warning.

However this incident raises important concerns regarding the safety of women, particularly during the late hours. In such situations, it is crucial to immediately contact emergency services by dialing 999 and raise awareness by calling for help loudly, allowing nearby individuals to come to your aid.

Additionally, I firmly believe in maintaining vigilance of one’s surroundings and the people within them, ensuring personal safety and well-being.

- Zahra

PICTURE OF THE DAY




We would love to hear from you.

If you have anything you’d like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at online@newsfbahrain.com



WHAT’S IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Big Changes Ahead!

- Lawmakers in Bahrain are considering a proposal that would require foreign workers and employers to obtain a certificate of financial clearance before leaving the country.
- MPs argue that this measure is crucial to protect the state’s and its citizens’ rights, aiming to address the current absence of a clear regulatory framework.
- While the proposal aims to rectify issues such as lost rights and challenges in recovering outstanding sums, concerns have been raised about its potential impact on foreign workers’ mobility and existing laws.

TOP COMMENTS



kiranbe

Is this applicable for Expatriates who leave on vacations also? This is going to make expatriates reconsider taking loans or buying things on loans. Banks, Car Dealerships, Telecom industry they are all going to be negatively affected by this! Just because a few default on loans, should the majority suffer?

environmanbahrain

So if the employers does not pay the employee is stuck with no job, but dues for rent etc....make sense...

Emergency and Hotline Numbers

- Emergency Services, Fire, Police, and Ambulance - 999
- Report a traffic incident - 199
- Food quality helpline at Health Ministry - 39427743
- Consumer protection, Central Bank of Bahrain - 17547789
- Consumer service claims at Ministry of Industry and Commerce - 17007003
- Complaints to Interior Ministry - 80008008
- Expat Protection Centre and National Anti-trafficking number- 995

Sudoku Puzzles

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

Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

VIRAL NEWS ONLINE



Woman Allegedly Brings Dead Man to Bank to Take Out a Loan

A 42-year-old Brazilian woman was recently arrested for allegedly bringing a dead man to a bank and trying to obtain a bank loan in his name.

On April 16, Erika de Souza Vieira Nunes arrived at an Itau Unibanco branch in Bangu, Rio de Janeiro to assist 68-year-old Paulo Roberto Braga in obtaining a bank loan of R\$17,000 (\$3,200). The elderly man was in a wheelchair and she claimed to be his niece and primary caretaker. Bank employees soon noticed that there was something seriously wrong with Braga, as his alleged niece had to support his head with her hand. He literally showed no signs of life, but Vieira Nunes allegedly kept telling the staff that he was just quiet by nature. She even tried speaking to him although it was obvious he wasn’t capable of answering.

“Uncle, are you listening? You need to sign. If you don’t sign it, there’s no way,” witnesses heard Erika de Souza Vieira Nunes telling the wheelchair-bound man. “I can’t



sign for you, what I can do I’ll do. Sign here, same as the document. Sign so you don’t give me any more headaches.”

At one point, one of the bank tellers can be heard saying “I don’t think he is well,” while another begins to record the bizarre scene. Vieira Nunes continues to claim that her “uncle” is fine, just a little quiet, but by this stage, bank employees had already called emergency services and the police.

“Uncle, are you feeling something? He doesn’t say anything, that’s just how he is,” the 42-year-old woman allegedly said. “If you’re not okay, I’m going to take you to the hospital. Do you want to go to the Emergency Room again?”

Poor Paulo Roberto Braga was never going to answer her questions, as paramedics confirmed that he had been dead for at least a few hours. Vieira Nunes was arrested and charged with vilification of a corpse and attempted fraud.

Five-star Arsenal thrash Chelsea to open up Premier League lead

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Kai Havertz and Ben White scored twice as Arsenal thrashed Chelsea 5-0 on Tuesday to surge ahead in the Premier League title race and ramp up the pressure on Liverpool and Manchester City.

Leandro Trossard was also on target in a record win over Chelsea for the Gunners, who move three points clear of Liverpool and four of Manchester City.

The destiny of the title remains in City's hands as the defending champions have two games in hand.

Liverpool have also played one fewer game than Arsenal and are in action at Everton in the Merseyside derby on Wednesday.

However, Mikel Arteta's men's goal difference advantage now looks unassailable should it become decisive in the title race.

Chelsea and Arsenal's title rivals were dealt a huge blow before kick-off as the Blues' danger man Cole Palmer was ruled out due to illness.



Arsenal's English midfielder #41 Declan Rice (R) runs away from Chelsea's Ecuadorian midfielder #25 Moises Caicedo (C) during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium in London

Palmer has scored or assisted nearly 50 percent of Chelsea's Premier League goals this season and his presence was badly missed by the visitors.

Despite enduring a disappointing first season under Mauricio Pochettino, Chelsea had been unbeaten in eight consecutive league games prior to their FA Cup semi-final defeat to Manchester City on Saturday.

But they were blown away by an Arsenal side keen to reaffirm their title credentials after losing their last home game to Aston Villa.

"So difficult (a) result and

performance (to accept) because it is not nice to see your team playing like this from the beginning of the game," said Pochettino.

"Today we didn't compete against a team fighting for the Premier League. We need to be aware we need to compete in a different way."

The hosts flew out of the blocks and were in front inside five minutes.

Trossard only ended up at the Emirates after Arsenal were gazzumped by Chelsea in the battle to sign Mykhailo Mudryk in January 2023.

The Belgian has proved to be a far more productive signing and smashed in his 15th goal of the season at Djordje Petrovic's near post.

Defeat leaves Chelsea still in ninth, three points adrift of the European places.

Next up for Arsenal is what appears their toughest hurdle remaining away to Tottenham in Sunday's north London derby.

Should Arteta's side prevail at the home of their fiercest rivals, City will likely need to be perfect in their final six games to retain the title.

Rangnick confirms talks with Bayern over head coaching job

AFP | Dortmund, Germany

Austria manager Ralf Rangnick confirmed he was in talks with Bayern Munich to become the club's head coach in the summer.

The former Manchester United boss said "there has been contact" between himself and Bayern but would not be drawn on whether he would take the offer.

"I've also informed the Austrian FA (OeFB) about it. We have a very trusting relationship" he said in an interview with Austrian outlet 90 Minutes published Wednesday.

Bayern are trying to replace outgoing manager Thomas Tuchel after they agreed to part ways in February.

German media reports the club attempted to sign Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso and Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann, who previously coached Bayern, but were rebuffed as both decided to stay in their current jobs.

Rangnick did not reveal whether he would take the Bayern job, saying he was "focused" on coaching the Austria side into this summer's Euros in Germany.

"We are completely concentrating on the European championships. I feel very comfortable here."

"At the moment there is no



Ralf Rangnick



Nicknamed the 'godfather of gegenpressing', Rangnick has been one of the most influential people in recent German football history, both as a coach and as a sporting director.

reason to deal with (the interest from Munich) intensively and specifically."

Asked if he could consider taking the Bayern job in the future, Rangnick said if he wanted to "do something different" he would "discuss it with the Austrian FA."

Milik fires Juventus into Italian Cup final

AFP | Rome, Italy

Arkadiusz Milik's late strike helped Juventus reach the Italian Cup final on Tuesday with a 3-2 aggregate win over Lazio despite losing a tense second leg 2-1.

Nursing a 2-0 first-leg win, Juventus found themselves 2-0 down on the night and completely dominated as Lazio made a fight of it with a brace of goals from Valentin Castellanos.

But late Juventus substitute Milik scored with his first touch on 83 minutes to settle Juve's nerves and the two-legged semi with a prodigious strike.

The Turin side will play either Atalanta or Fiorentina in the May 15 final,

with the Florence outfit leading 1-0 before Wednesday's return leg.

"We suffered against a good side, so we're happy to be in the final," said the Polish striker Milik.

"We know we have to play better in the final, and we know we can play better."

Mattia Perin was in the Juventus goal as their Cup 'keeper, and suffered a torrid time with regular starter Wojciech Szczesny watching on from the bench.

Castellanos headed Lazio in front with a thunderous header from a corner on 12 minutes and the Argentinian ran from deep to fire a low shot into the bottom corner shortly after the restart.

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri brought on forwards Timothy Weah and Milik with the clock ticking down and both were involved as the double change paid immediate dividends.

Dusan Vlahovic



Uganda name Sharma as coach ahead of T20 World Cup

Nairobi, Kenya

The Uganda Cricket Association on Tuesday named Indian former first-class cricketer Abhay Sharma as the new head coach of the men's national team in the run-up to the Twenty20 World Cup.

The Cricket Cranes have booked their place in the competition for the first time and will be among 20 teams at the tournament being jointly hosted by the United States and the West Indies from June 1.

Watford hire Cleverley as permanent boss

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Former Manchester United midfielder Tom Cleverley has been hired as Watford manager on a permanent deal after his spell as interim boss of the Championship club.

Cleverley was placed in charge at Vicarage Road on a temporary basis when Valerien Ismael was sacked in March.

The 34-year-old has managed one win, one loss and five draws during his seven matches with the Hornets.

Watford are currently 15th in the second-tier table with two games left against Sunderland



Tom Cleverley

Middlesbrough.

They had lost six of their last

eight league games before Ismael was axed in the midst of a disappointing season for a team expected to push for a play-off place.

Former England international Cleverley joined Watford on loan from United in 2009-10.

He returned to Watford from Everton in 2017 before retiring last year after an injury-plagued spell in the latter part of his career.

Cleverley made his first move into coaching with Watford's youth academy before taking on the interim head coach role last month.

LIV Golf could switch to 72-hole format: Norman

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

LIV Golf chief Greg Norman said yesterday he was "very open-minded" about the Saudi-backed circuit becoming 72-hole events to better mirror the PGA Tour, with conversations ongoing.

Each stop on LIV is currently a 54-hole tournament over three days, with a "shotgun start" where 18 groups of three players tee off simultaneously on different holes, with no cut.

Former Masters champion Jon Rahm, LIV's latest big-name recruit, last week called for a move to the traditional 72-hole format used on the PGA Tour.

The Spanish star reiterated the comments in Adelaide, sitting next to Norman.

"I think there's a level of comfort when I say that because it's a little bit more of what we're used to seeing in golf," he said, when asked about the prospect by AFP.

"I think it could help a lot of

fans' trust in LIV a little bit more because that's a lot of the complaints that I see from a lot of people." Norman said he was open to the idea.

"I think from LIV's perspective, we're very open-minded about it, but you've got to understand there's economic impact about putting television on for 72 holes," he said.

"It's a great conversation to have. We will continue to have that conversation going forward.

But we sit back and say, what value do we get putting it on television on Thursday?"

"How do we build out in the future? How do we get more people to the golf course? Maybe it is Thursday and you allow another 30,000 people coming in on a Thursday."

"There are things that we sit back and look at to see what is the most optimal solution to make this a better and better and better event, and 72 holes is



Greg Norman

discussed."

Rahm used the analogy of global football to rationalise why 72 holes would be better, pointing to all leagues, no matter where, following the same rules.

"In football, European football, you have the Premier League, you have the Spanish League, you have the German League, you have Serie A, you have the Champions League, the Euro Cup, many other things," he said in Adelaide.

Pant boosts World Cup hopes with IPL blitz

● **Delhi posted 224-4 courtesy of a 113-run stand between Pant and fellow left-hander Axar Patel**

AFP | New Delhi, India

Rishabh Pant smashed an unbeaten 88 as he led Delhi Capitals to a tense IPL win over Gujarat Titans on Wednesday, boosting his chances of playing for India at the T20 World Cup.

Delhi posted 224-4 courtesy of a 113-run stand between Pant and fellow left-hander Axar Patel, who hit 66, after they slipped to 44-3 inside six overs at their home Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The hosts kept Gujarat down to 220-8 to win by four runs after David Miller's 23-ball 55 and an unbeaten 21 off 11 deliveries by Rashid Khan.

Mukesh Kumar kept his nerve in the final over for Delhi's fourth win in nine matches as they kept their playoff hopes alive in the T20 tournament.

Pant, 26, struck his third half-century of this season after 14 months away from top level cricket following a frightening car accident when his Mercedes

rammed into a barrier, flipped and caught fire in December 2022. Pant, a wicketkeeper-batsman, suffered multiple injuries and was rushed to hospital before being airlifted to Mumbai for further treatment and surgery.

"Everyday that I'm in the middle, I feel better," man of the match Pant said after his 43-ball blitz studded with five fours and eight sixes.

Pant has not only fired with the bat in the IPL but his sharp work behind the stumps prompted Delhi's director of cricket Sourav Ganguly and coach Ricky Ponting to back the India star for making the national team for the World Cup in June.

'Great fight'

Up and coming Australian batsman Jake Fraser-McGurk gave Delhi a strong start with his 14-ball 23 but medium-pace bowler Sandeep Warrier took three wickets including two in one over.

Patel, a bowling all-rounder promoted to number three in the batting, brought up his fifty with a boundary off Rashid before another Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad had him caught at long-on.

Pant reached his fifty in style with a six off Mohit Sharma and then hammered the medium-pace bowler in a 31-run 20th over when he finished with a six, four and three hits over the fence to raise the roof.

South African Tristan Stubbs watched the blitz from the other end after he smashed Sai Kishore in the 19th over, which went for 22 runs, for his unbeaten seven-ball 26.

In reply, Gujarat lost skipper Shubman Gill for six off Anrich Nortje before impact substitute Sai Sudarshan smashed 65 off 39 balls.

Gujarat lost regular wickets but the left-handed Miller smashed Nortje for three sixes and a four to give Delhi a scare

before his departure in the 18th over.

Rashid kept up the fight till the end as Gujarat needed 19 off the final over and five on the last ball.



Mbappe, Dembele leave PSG poised to celebrate Ligue 1 title

AFP | Paris, France

Paris Saint-Germain could be confirmed as French Ligue 1 champions once again later on Wednesday after Ousmane Dembele and Kylian Mbappe both scored twice in a 4-1 win at Lorient.

The result leaves PSG 14 points ahead of second-placed Monaco, who have five games remaining including Wednesday's home meeting with Lille. If Monaco fail to win that, PSG will be able to celebrate a record-extending 12th French league championship triumph, and a 10th in the last 12 campaigns.

Luis Enrique's side have a potential treble in their sights, with an upcoming Champions League semi-final against Borussia Dortmund and the French Cup final against Lyon to look forward to next month.

They made short work of relegation-threatened Lorient in Brittany after Dembele gave them the lead on 19 minutes, collecting a Senny Mayulu pass and coming in from the

right flank before sending a shot low into the bottom-left corner. Nuno Mendes then cut the ball back for Mbappe to double their lead midway through the first half.

PSG were looking to extend their unbeaten run in Ligue 1 to 25 games going back to September and their only loss of the campaign so far, at home to Nice.

Lorient, in contrast, were aiming to avoid a fourth consecutive defeat and climb out of the automatic relegation places. The visitors were without several rested regulars, including captain Marquinhos, Achraf Hakimi and Vitorino, but Mbappe and Dembele were both very much in the mood.

Mbappe completed the scoring for PSG in the 90th minute with a trademark strike across the goalkeeper from the left-hand side of the box.

That took Mbappe to 43 goals for the campaign in all competitions in 43 appearances, with 26 of his goals coming in Ligue 1.



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #07 Kylian Mbappe (R) and Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #23 Randal Kolo Muani (L) high five each other



The first tournament was in 2008. The highest bid of US\$1.5 million was for the Indian one-day captain MS Dhoni and not far behind was Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds. Lakshminath Balaji took the first hat-trick in the inaugural competition.

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