

Manama set for WASL Final Eight

Bahraini representatives set to compete against region's best in top FIBA tournament next month | **P12**

China's Xi offers Russia 'firm support' in 'core interests'

THE DAILY tribune

Dainese takes stage 17 as Thomas keeps Giro lead

Schneider Electric brings energy efficiency to forefront at Innovation Day event

Saudi, Canada to restore full diplomatic ties

AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and Canada will restore full diplomatic relations, the kingdom said yesterday, following a 2018 dispute over human rights that saw Riyadh expel Ottawa's ambassador and freeze new trade.

The decision, also announced by Canada's foreign ministry, came after talks last year between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum in Bangkok.

"It has been decided to restore the level of diplomatic relations with Canada to its previous state," Saudi's foreign ministry said in a statement.

In 2018, the Saudi government expelled Canada's ambassador and recalled its own envoy to Ottawa, while freezing all new trade over vigorous calls for the release of activists jailed in the kingdom.

Yesterday, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said the two countries will "appoint new ambassadors".

A Canadian foreign ministry statement named Jean-Phillipe Linteau as Ottawa's new envoy to the kingdom. Saudi Arabia made no mention of its pick for ambassador.

Oman's sultan on two-day Iran visit

AFP | Muscat

Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq will embark on a two-day visit to Iran this week, Omani state media said yesterday.

The visit which will kick off on Sunday follows a Chinese-brokered rapprochement deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran announced in March. The visit will also touch on means of promoting bilateral cooperation in different spheres.

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Bahrain, Qatar direct flights to resume from today!

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manama

Bookings for direct flights between Bahrain and Qatar are officially open, and they will begin operating as of today. Gulf Air had previously confirmed the operation of three daily flights from both countries.

The flight time between the two countries is 50 minutes, with Gulf Air flights flying in the morning and Qa-

tar Airways aircraft flying at night.

Sources indicate that there will be one flight each day from Gulf Air and Qatar Airways. Gulf Air departs Bahrain in the morning at 9:30 and arrives in Doha at 10:15, returning to Bahrain at 11:15, and arriving in Bahrain at noon.

"Qatar Airways will depart from Doha at 8:00 pm and arrive in Bahrain at 8:50. At 10:20 p.m. local time, it will depart again



Fatima Ahmed

for Doha and arrive at 11:15 p.m.

"Gulf Air's Economy class costs BD90, while Qatar Airways' Economy class costs BD125 and BD495, respectively."

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Fatima Ahmed, Managing Director of Ibn Firas Travel & Tourism, said: "Today, 25th of May, both the nations' flights commence and all the travel agencies are excited to witness the resumption of not only flights but mending fences and

relations between two brotherly nations.

"Both Gulf Air and Qatar Airways starting with one daily flight today increasing to three daily flights each by 15th June. No doubt this will not only create weekend tourism from both countries, but it will also open ways for local tour operators to explore destinations that Qatar Airways is flying to thus stimulating the outbound sector in Bahrain."

Logistics sector growth on track

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is second best in the Arab World, and 34th globally, on the Logistics Performance Index 2023 published by the World Bank as the 'Most Improving Country in the GCC'.

Owing to the milestone projects and initiatives delivered within the logistics sector across the past year, Bahrain has climbed 25 positions since 2018.

The Kingdom advanced 58 positions on the 'Timeliness Subindex' to reach second in MENA (10th globally) in view of the least aviation import dwell time on average.



The Kingdom's logistics sector is going from strength to strength

Bahrain ranked first in the GCC in terms of minimal number of delay observations in import and exports.

The World Bank report offers a comprehensive review of the trade logistics performance, collecting data from May to October 2022 across 139 countries, using six components assessing namely efficiency of customs clearance, quality of trade & transport infrastructure, ease of arranging competitively priced international shipments, quality of logistics services, the ability to track consignments, and timeliness.

"Bahrain's high ranking and favourable performance was earned in view of its robust supply chain and advanced logistics infrastructure. Bahrain serves as a gateway to the Gulf, with

unparalleled access to MENA and beyond, where companies can benefit from Free Trade Agreements covering 22 countries offering privileged, duty-free access to 30% of the world's GDP," Ahmed Sultan, Executive Director of Business Development of Manufacturing, Transport, and Logistics at the Bahrain Economic Development Board, said.

"In line with the Economic Recovery Plan, this milestone ranking is a step in the right direction in achieving the targets outlined in the Logistics Services Sector Strategy which seeks to secure the Kingdom's position among the leading global logistics services hubs."

Mending fences

Iran names ambassador to Saudi after seven-year gap

AFP | Tehran

Iran has named an ambassador to Saudi Arabia, state media reported yesterday, sealing a thaw in relations more than seven years after the regional rivals severed ties.

They had backed opposing sides in conflict zones across

the Middle East for years before mending fences.

In Yemen, Saudi Arabia has led a military coalition in support of the internationally recognised government, while Iran backed the Huthi rebels who control the capital Sanaa and large areas of the north.

The new envoy, Alireza Enayati, previously served as Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, assistant to the foreign minister and director general of Gulf affairs at the foreign ministry, the English-language Iran Daily said. There was no immediate confirmation of his appointment

from the foreign ministry of the Islamic republic.

The Middle East heavyweights, after years of discord, signed a surprise reconciliation agreement in China on March 10. Saudi Arabia had severed relations with Iran in 2016, after its embassy in Tehran and

consulate in the second city of Mashhad were attacked during protests over the kingdom's execution of Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

The two governments held several rounds of dialogue in Iraq and Oman before signing the reconciliation agreement.

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Bahrain greets Jordan on Independence Day

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan, on his country's Independence Day.

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman wished HM King Abdullah abundant health and happiness and the

Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

HM the King praised the deep relations between the two countries and peoples, and their steady progress. His Royal Highness noted Bahrain's commitment to furthering the strategic partnership between the two Kingdoms.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II.

Argentina is congratulated

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to the Argentine

President Alberto Fernandez, on his country's National Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman wished President Fernandez health and happiness, and the Argentinian people further progress and prosperity.

Bahrain medical relief aid arrives in Sudan

TDT | Manama

A plane of Gulf Air Company, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has arrived at Port Sudan International Airport with urgent medical relief aid onboard.

The consignment was dispatched in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The plane was received on arrival at the airport by Bahraini Ambassador to Sudan Abdullah Rabia Saeed Rabia and senior Sudanese officials.

The Ambassador affirmed Bahrain's inherent approach in supporting brotherly and friendly countries to overcome different challenges.

The aid consignment reflects brotherly ties binding the two countries and peoples.

Ambassador Rabia noted that the urgent medical relief aid will be distributed on hospitals to make up for the shortage of medical equipment and support the Sudanese people to overcome the crisis.



Bahraini Ambassador Rabia and senior Sudanese officials at the Sudan airport

Humanitarian and medical efforts

This initiative, which is part of the Kingdom's contribution to the humanitarian and medical efforts in Sudan, reflects Bahrain's commitment to standing by the Sudanese people in the face of the difficulties caused by internal crisis. It also confirms the strong ties that bind the two

countries and peoples.

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Ali Bahzad, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Consular and Administrative Affairs, said that this urgent aid comes as an extension of the Kingdom's efforts in assisting affected countries and peoples in various circumstances.

He added that this shipment carries medical and first aid

materials, supplies and necessary medical devices that will be distributed to hospitals in Sudan, expressing hope that it will contribute to treating injuries and emergency surgeries as a result of the current crisis.

The airplane will also evacuate Bahraini citizens and residents upon its return from Port Sudan International Airport to Bahrain.

Developing education sector



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, received Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, following the issuance of a Royal Decree, appointing him as member of GDA Board of Directors. HH Shaikh Khalid congratulated Dr. Juma on the precious royal trust bestowed upon him, expressing appreciation for his continuous efforts to develop the education sector in the Kingdom and strengthen sports presence in the sector. The meeting reviewed topics related to developing school sports and future projects.

Discover 'Soul of Women' at WCA's First Painting Exhibition: L'ame De Femme

TDT | Manama

The Women Collective Artists (WCA) will open its first painting exhibition titled "L'ame De Femme" tomorrow at the McIndeez Centre, showcasing a collection of works created by women artists, housewives and professionals alike.

Meaning the "Soul of Women", the expo, which opens at 7:30 pm, will have on display 35 works of 23 women artists from various backgrounds and countries.

Renowned Bahraini artist Balqees Fakhro will be the Chief Guest. Joining her will be Adv. Jaleel, the CEO of McIndeez Center, RJ Noor from the 973 Show, and Sumithra Praveen, the co-founder of Women Across, as Guests of Honour.

The opening ceremony will also honour the winners of Children's Art Competition organised by WCA the previous week.

Blessi, one of the co-founders of WCA, shared her excitement



Balqees Fakhro, Chief Guest

with The Daily Tribune for bringing together artists from India, Armenia, Russia, China and Bahrain.

"Art lovers here will get to see different styles and mood of paintings," she stressed, adding that their mission is to promote and support female artists in all forms of art, while also striving to bring art education to the broader community.

Alongside Blessi, Nishida Faris and Shahira Shahu, the other co-founders of WCA, are working to ensure the success

of this event.

Looking ahead, Blessi revealed WCA's ambitious plans to further advance art education, particularly among the youth. "We aim to raise public awareness of women's contributions to the arts by initialising events like exhibitions, art classes and workshops."

The exhibition will continue its artistic journey until the 2nd of June, with the McIndeez Center opening its doors from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.

Entry is free to public.

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LMRA completes 388,375 transactions in Q1 2023

TDT | Manama

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has reported a 48.6% increase in the number of transactions completed during the first quarter of 2023, reaching 388,375 transactions in total.

Nouf Abdulrahman Jamsheer, LMRA Chief Executive Officer, said that its Call Centres received 237,200 calls, an increase of 58%, pointing out that the growth in the number of transactions achieved reflects the continuing increase in commercial activities supported by the economic recovery plan adopted by the Kingdom.

Jamsheer highlighted the LMRA Enforcement and Protection sector's success in improving operational efficiency by intensifying daily inspection campaigns in cooperation with relevant government agencies, especially the Interior Ministry.

The figures show an increase in the number of inspection visits carried out by the authority during the first quarter of this year by 55% compared to the same period of 2022, to exceed 10,000 inspection visits.

There were 48 joint inspection campaigns in the first quarter of 2022, compared to 155 campaigns in the first quarter of this year.

The expansion of inspection campaigns aims to verify the extent of the establishments' commitment to regulations and laws, and to address irregular workers, in a way that preserves competitiveness, justice and stability of the labour market.

Records show a number of 598 violations in the first quarter of the year, a growth of 182%, while the number of violations recorded for the use of workers without a work permit reached 983 violations.

The efforts also resulted in an increase in the total number of violations leading to deportation from 182 workers in the first three months of 2022 to about 1,093 workers in the same period this year.

Jamsheer noted that Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 aims to achieve the main objective of the Authority's work by reforming and developing the labour market in accordance with the principles of sustainability, competitiveness, and justice.

Anti-Cyber Crimes warns of scams targeting jobseekers

TDT | Manama

The Anti-Cyber Crimes Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security yesterday issued a warning about scams that target jobseekers.

The scams are being carried out by individuals abroad pretending to be employees of official companies in Bahrain. They assumed to conduct interviews via the phone and then recruit the jobseek-

ers after taking money from them.

The victims are asked to open bank accounts and register their details and transfer the deposit money to the scammers' bank accounts outside Bahrain.

The directorate urged citizens and residents to ignore such suspicious bodies and only deal with official recruitment organisations. Scam victims could file cases through the directorate's hotline 922 for the necessary steps.

Derasat forum on women's role in policy making and research

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), in association with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), has announced that the 6th Annual Derasat Forum themed "The Role of Women in Policy-Making, Think Tanks, and Research" will be held on June 14-15.

The forum will discuss the advanced role of women in research and think tanks, their initiatives and deliverables, and challenges they face. It will also highlight current and future initiatives to support the role of women in think tanks.

SCW Secretary General Hala Al Ansari noted the efforts of Derasat, chaired by Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, in research work and engaging with pressing topics and issues.

Al Ansari wished success for this year's forum which focuses on the role of women as contributors to policy-making and research centres.

She thanked Derasat for



The annual forum aims to raise scientific debates, and explore opportunities to enhance the developments by inviting academicians and experts.

providing this platform to showcase the contributions of women in this domain and other disciplines and highlight Bahrain's advanced status in gender balance and equity.

Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Board of Trustees Chairman of Derasat, said that theme of the upcoming forum is consistent with the center's vision to enhance sustainable development and constructive cooperation with national, regional and international partners.

Summit aims to promote 'eco projects' in schools

Bahrain's green economic agenda is being realised through a specific initiative for students in international schools

● St Christopher's School organises first-of-its-kind "Bahrain - Hear our Voice"

● 300 students from 16 private schools in Kingdom take part

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

St Christopher's School in Bahrain, with the support of the Supreme Council for the Environment, Bahrain Polytchnic and Upcycle Bahrain, has organised an "International Schools Eco Summit" at Polytechnic campus hall yesterday.

"Bahrain - Hear our Voice" is the first event of its kind in Bahrain with the aim of schools and organisations sharing knowledge and collaborating on the incredible eco projects currently happening all over the island.

In an interview with Sadeq Rahma, a senior environmentalist at the Supreme Council for the Environment, Bahrain collected 1.8 million metric tonnes of waste in 2021, largely from domestic waste and less industrial waste than in previous years.

"That is why we are putting forth quick-moving programmes to lead our country toward sustainable goals," Rahma told The Daily Tribune.

The aim of the summit is to share good practice amongst schools, whilst also showcasing



One of the workshops conducted at the event



Bahraini organisations and their sustainability programmes. A key focus is how students can support these programmes and take action themselves at home or in school.

Mark Jones, organiser, St Christopher's School, told The Daily Tribune: "There is a huge amount of great sustainable practice taking place in schools and organisations around Bahrain, but this is not always shared sufficiently."

This free event was attended



T-shirts and bags made from plastic bottles displayed at the event

by about 300 students aged 10-16 from 16 different private schools in Bahrain with speakers and workshops from five different eco organisations, including the Supreme Council for the Environment, Reef Arabia, Nidukki, Learn to Grow, and Dr Earth. Students from five schools will also present their eco school projects to their peers.

The key priority of this summit was to make it an annual event in order for students to demonstrate the impact of their projects one year after the last edition of this event.



The hope is that schools also begin to work collaboratively on each other's projects, thereby growing the positive impact of their work.



Student listen intently to speakers

Inter-faith dialogue to boost coexistence, solidarity

TDT | Manama

Religious leaders have stressed the importance of promoting inter-faith dialogue to reach a coexistent, solidary and cooperative society.

They were speaking on the sidelines of the first meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue between the Muslim Council of Elders and the Vatican, hosted by Manama yesterday.

The meeting brought together representatives of the Muslim Council of Elders and the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

Former Deputy of Al Azhar Al Sharif, Dr Abbas Shouman stressed the importance of holding the meeting in the kingdom, noting that it will assert and ap-



Participants in the meeting

ply the principles of inter-faith dialogue, as well as propose mechanisms to promote them.

It will also benefit from mutual values to promote dialogue and pave the way towards having coexistent societies that uphold human dignity and support development paths in all fields, he added.

Muslim Council of Elders member, Senator Dr. Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, praised

the kingdom's hosting of the first meeting of the Permanent Committee, noting that it will contribute to consolidating Islamic-Christian dialogue and rapprochement, towards achieving the interests of the entire humanity.

He indicated that the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue is one the outcomes of the "Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East

and west for Human Coexistence", held in Bahrain under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in November 2022.

He affirmed that stepping up efforts and initiatives aimed at consolidating dialogue and coexistence worldwide, as well as boosting Islamic-Christian dialogue were on the agenda of the first meeting of the Permanent Committee.

Women begging on the streets of Hooraa

Wearing a black abaya, they have devised a new trick to ‘cheat’ unsuspecting people

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

A large number of female beggars target people by telling tragic narratives, especially those who halt at traffic signals, in an effort to win the sympathy of housewives and extract money from them.

After the authorities have tightened their grip on beggars, many of them have turned to this new tactic wearing a ‘black abaya’ to avoid being caught red-handed along the streets.

According to sources, many beggars can turn aggressive and protest verbally if you give them a small amount of money, or refuse to give at all.

However, recently the authorities have also discovered scores of expatriate women beggars who wear abayas and pose as national women to look like genuine cases.

Sources say, most of these women mainly operate across the streets of Gudaibiya, Hooraa and Manama, and some are seen carrying children.

Last year, Muharraq police cracked down on more than 70 beggars, and after taking legal measures, they were deported as most of them were expats.

The Daily Tribune earlier reported many similar cases regarding this, and spoke to many victims who said begging cannot be considered a criminal but rather a social problem, which



A woman wearing black abaya is begging for cash in Hooraa

raises a lot of concerns

Commenting on this matter, Dr Anna Mostafa, a leading physiologist, said: “The assumption from a psychological standpoint would be that no one would want to beg, and no one wants to be destitute.”

“There could be psychological factors, perhaps the individu-

al’s mental health and cognitive ability may play a major role.”

Personal issues

The Daily Tribune contacted volunteer and owner of ‘Box Forward’ Lina Stahl, who warned that even though many families come from respectable backgrounds, you may never be

aware of their personal issues.

“But I also think that many beggars do exploit their unfortunate circumstances,” Stahl said.

“Many needy people are also there who are unaware of the resources available to them by charities and shelters set in place to support them.”

Parking problems for Salmaniya residents



Damaged signboards

TDT | Manama

Residents near Al Hawaj signal in Salmaniya have been facing problems due to improper parking and taking down traffic signs.

According to Mr Shabaz, fellow residents are suffering a lot due to limited space on the roads to traverse.

“The streets are very small which increases parking violations. The two-way streets have become one-ways,” Shabaz said.

“The residents continue to disobey traffic rules by vandalising and removing all traffic signs on the roads causing great grievance to people who are unable to turn their vehicles on these narrow roads.”

Complaints have been made



Parked wrongly



Road blocked

to the traffic authorities and the Ministry of Work, and action is not taken.

Traffic directorate registers 6,875 car window tinting violations



Car confiscation is the penalty for drivers who repeated the violations

TDT | Manama

The General Directorate of Traffic registered 6,875 car window tinting violations from the beginning of 2023.

Car confiscation and licence withdrawal was the penalty for drivers who repeated the violations.

The directorate highlighted that the allowed tinting

is (0/1), representing 30% of shading for all windows except the windshield, in which the rules allow transparent thermal insulation without any tinting.

It called upon drivers to avoid placing sun visors for the safety of all for their risks, especially in the evening for blocking clear visibility.

Northern Municipality removes 273 ‘scrap’ cars

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The municipality of the northern region has started campaigns to reduce the problem of “scrap” cars that have been left behind.

Since the beginning of the year, they have retrieved a total of 273 abandoned cars, and in accordance with cleaning Law No. (10) Of 2019, legal action has been taken against people who abandoned their vehicles.

According to the municipality, maintaining the environment and the flow of traffic is every-

one’s responsibility. To that end, we must all work together.

“Parking cars on the side of the road not only obstructs the general view but also creates significant environmental harm and traffic confusion on some roads. Some of the parked cars also compromise local security.

“These abandoned cars, which are found in residential neighborhoods, industrial workshops, and distinct regions, can be identified by stepping up efforts, raising awareness, and warning car owners of the need to not abandon their vehicles,” officials said.



Abandoned cars parked on roads and public areas have been removed

Omani-Bahraini Products exhibition



Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro opened the first edition of the SMEs Development Exhibition - (Omani-Bahraini Products), organised by Bahrain SMEs Development Society in cooperation with the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society, the Bahraini Embassy in Muscat, and the Omani Embassy in Manama. Present were MP Ahmed Al Salloum, Bahrain Society for SMEs Development Chairman, Dr Juma bin Ahmed Al Kaabi, Bahraini Ambassador to Oman, Faisal bin Hareb bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Omani Ambassador to Bahrain, and Eman Al Doseri, Undersecretary of the Industry and Commerce Ministry. The exhibition, which hosts more than 32 entrepreneurs, will continue until May 27.

Two joint inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted two joint inspection campaigns in the Muharraq Governorate and the Southern Governorate on a number of shops and work sites. The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action. LMRA noted that a joint inspection campaign was conducted in the Southern Governorate in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate’s respective Police Directorate. The other inspection campaign was undertaken in the Muharraq Governorate in coordination with the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence of the Ministry of Interior. The LMRA renewed its call on all members of the society to report violations via the electronic form on the authority’s website www.lmra.gov.bh or by calling the authority’s call centre on 17506055.

Schneider Electric brings energy efficiency to forefront at Innovation Day event



TDT | Manama

Schneider Electric, the leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation, organised a major Innovation Day dedicated to leading electrical retailers in Bahrain yesterday.

The event saw more than 200 Bahrain-based retailers unite to discover energy efficient and the latest digital solutions from Schneider Electric.

During the event, the company unveiled its newest range of solutions designed with energy efficiency, comfort, and energy savings in mind, including AvatarOn C and Resi9.

A key opening speech was made by Ahmed Fateen, UAE, Oman & Bahrain Channel Vice President, Schneider Electric, who commented, “Schneider Electric is leading the digital transformation of energy management and automation across the globe. We are actively working to deliver our energy-saving solutions to our partners across the country and are excited to have this opportunity to closely connect with our partners and support them to become more efficient and sustainable in terms of the products they deliver to the Bahrain market.”

Schneider’s purpose is to empower all to make the most of our energy and resources, bridging progress and sustainability for all. We call this “Life Is On”. Our mission is to be your digital partner for Sustainability and



Officials at the event



A. A. Kothambawala Co. officials at the event



Top retailers in Bahrain



Schneider Electric officials at the event



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Schneider Electric is the most local of global companies. We are advocates of open standards and partnership ecosystems that are passionate about our shared Meaningful Purpose, Inclusive and Empowered values.

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Established in the year 1916, A. A. Kothambawala Co. is one of Bahrain’s leading suppliers of construction hardware, fasteners, and electrical products.

“We have since those early times been catering to some of the industry’s oldest and most renowned companies, while making sure that we ourselves have been at the leading edge when it comes to expertise and quality.”

“We represent some of the world’s leading brands, including SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC products, catering to Construction companies, Retail Traders, Industries and Government Organisations in the Kingdom Of Bahrain.

“The government of Kingdom of Bahrain, is very supportive of businesses and that encourages economic growth in the country.” – Shabbir Lakadawala, MD, A.A.Kothambawala Co. told the Daily Tribune.

Abbas Zakiyuddin, Manager - Electrical division, A.A.Kothambawala Co. stated: “We, A.A.Kothambawala Co. established since 1916 are proud and privileged to be Schneider Electric Channel Partners for the last 20 years in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This partnership helps us enhance our product portfolios.”

شركة عبدالقادر كوثامبالا
A. A. Kothambawala Co.

Nass highlights integration, diversification of Arab Economies at ALO conference

TDT | Manama

Integration of Arab economies and the diversification of industries and products took centre stage as Sameer Nass addressed the 49th session of the Arab Labour Organisation’s Conference (ALO) in Cairo.

Nass, the President of the Union of Arab Chambers and Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, emphasised that these measures are crucial for fully utilising the region’s capabilities.

He also urged all stakehold-



Sameer Nass

ers to intensify their efforts in improving the labor market to

meet the aspirations of the people. Nass highlighted the Union

of Arab Chambers’ initiative and endeavours to develop mechanisms that promote collective Arab action and coordinate efforts.

Furthermore, he called for the implementation of the provisions outlined in the “Jeddah Summit” declaration, emphasising the importance of uniting Arab efforts to build a future based on creativity and innovation while remaining responsive to various developments that contribute to the security, stability, and well-being of the people.

IMF chief calls US debt battle ‘unnecessary’ for world economy

Doha, Qatar

International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said yesterday that the US showdown over government debt was “unnecessary” for the world economy but a default could be avoided.

Georgieva and the head of Blackstone, one of the world’s biggest investment funds, expressed exasperation to the Qatar Economic Forum over the spending standoff between US President Joe Biden

and opposition Republicans with an early June deadline looming.

International markets have become unnerved by the battle as some Republicans have questioned whether a quick agreement is necessary to avert a default.

“History tells us that the US wrestles with this notional default,” Georgieva said, referring to past US showdowns over spending limits.

“At the 11th hour, it gets resolved”.

Lebanon slaps travel ban on central bank chief wanted by France

Beirut, Lebanon

A Lebanese judge has banned the country’s central bank chief Riad Salameh from travelling, days after Beirut received an Interpol red notice following a French arrest warrant, a judicial official said yesterday.

The judge questioned Salameh and “decided to release him pending investigation, ban him from travelling, and confiscate his Lebanese and French passports”, the of-

ficial told AFP, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The Lebanese judge on Wednesday also asked the French judiciary to refer Salameh’s file to Beirut in order to “determine whether the Lebanese judiciary will prosecute him for the crimes he is accused of in France or not”, the official added.

Interpol circulated the red notice last week after a French magistrate issued a warrant for Salameh.

NBB continues digital account opening campaign

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) said it is continuing its campaign to reward new customers who open their account through the NBB Digital Banking App. The offer, which is part of AlWatani Scheme, rewards new, digitally enrolled customers with an opportunity to win cash prizes of USD 1,000 each.

The campaign is set to run until the end of the year to reward

80 customers. In addition to Al Watani Savings’ cash prizes, NBB said the digitally enrolled customers depositing BHD 50 or more will increase their chances of being one of 10 monthly winners for the exclusive additional prize of USD \$1,000 each.

Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive of Retail Banking at NBB, said: “As digital adoption grows, we are keen to reward our customers who explore our diverse digital services

and engage with them across multiple levels, be it cash rewards or loyalty points allocation as our recently introduced “Points Challenge”. We will continue our commitment to reward our clients for choosing NBB.”

Omar Al Adhami, Head of Retail Digital Banking at NBB, also reflected on the relaunched campaign saying; “We are de-



lighted to launch our new digital campaign that rewards customers who open their first NBB account through the NBB Digital Banking App.

Furthermore, new account holders will be automatically enrolled into the Al Watani Saving Scheme, and gain the opportunity to win more generous prizes such as the upcoming cash prize of \$100,000.”

QUOTE OF THE DAY

POWER CORRUPTS; ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY. JOHN DALBERG-ACTON

TODAY IN HISTORY

1720

The Ship "Le Grand St Antoine" reaches Marseille, bringing Europe's last major plague outbreak. Kills around 100,000.

1810

In the May Revolution, citizens of Buenos Aires expel the Spanish Viceroy Cisneros during Semana de Mayo

1914

British House of Commons passes the Irish Home Rule Bill



1961

JFK announces US goal of putting a man on the Moon before the end of decade

News in brief

◆ **More than a million** Somalis have been displaced within their own country in just over four months through a "toxic" mix of drought, conflict and floods, humanitarian agencies said yesterday. Around 433,000 people were forced from their homes between January 1 and May 10 as a grinding Islamist insurgency raged and clashes broke out in the breakaway Somaliland region, the UN refugee agency UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said. In addition, "over 408,000 people were displaced by floods sweeping across their villages and another 312,000 people were displaced by ravaging drought," they said in a joint statement. Somalia and its neighbours in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia and Kenya have been suffering the worst drought in four decades after five failed rainy seasons that have left millions of people in need and decimated crops and livestock.



Over one million people displaced in four months in Somalia: UN

◆ **Six killed, 100 homes destroyed in Afghan flood: official**

◆ **Six people have** been killed and dozens of homes washed away in flooding in central Afghanistan, local authorities said yesterday. Abdul Wahid Hamas, a spokesman for the Taliban governor in central Ghor province, said three women and a child were killed when their house in the town of Firozkoh was washed away on Tuesday. In Pasaband district, in the same province, a man and a woman were also swept away and later found dead, while a further person remains missing. Hamas said. More than 100 houses and about 200 hectares (500 acres) of agricultural land were destroyed, with canals used to irrigate the fields damaged, he said. "We don't have more details of the financial losses for now," Hamas told AFP.

◆ **NATO** Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg yesterday said the members of the Western military alliance are divided on what to do at an upcoming summit about Ukraine's push to join. "On that issue there are different views in the alliance and of course the only way to make decisions in NATO is by consensus," Stoltenberg told a conference in Brussels. Ukraine -- backed by NATO countries in eastern Europe -- is calling for a "clear message" at a July summit of alliance leaders in Lithuania's capital Vilnius that it will join after Russia's war ends. Kyiv concedes it will not become a member while fighting rages on its territory. But it wants the alliance to move beyond a vague 2008 pledge that it will one day be in NATO. "No one is able to tell you exactly what will be the final decision at the Vilnius summit on this issue," Stoltenberg said. Diplomats from NATO countries say its dominant military power, the United States, is reluctant to go further than the vow on membership made to Ukraine 15 years ago.

NATO chief admits splits on Ukraine membership push

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

China scammer uses AI to pose as man's friend, steal millions



Representative picture

Beijing, China

A scammer in China used AI to pose as a businessman's trusted friend and convince him to hand over millions of yuan, authorities have said. The victim, nicknamed Guo, received a video call last month from a person who looked and sounded like a close friend. But the caller was actually a con artist "using smart AI technology to change their face" and voice, according to an article published Monday by a media portal associated with the government in the southern city of Fuzhou. The scammer was "masquerading as (Guo's) good friend and perpetrating fraud", the article said. Guo was persuaded to transfer 4.3 million yuan (\$609,000) after the fraudster claimed another friend needed the money to come from a company bank account to pay the guarantee on a public tender. The con artist asked for Guo's personal bank account number and then claimed an equivalent sum had been wired to that account, sending him a screenshot of a fraudulent payment record. Without checking that he had received the money, Guo sent two payments from his company account totalling the amount requested. "At the time, I verified the face and voice of the person video-calling me, so I let down my guard," the article quoted Guo as saying. He only realised his mistake after messaging the friend whose identity had been stolen, who had no knowledge of the transaction. Guo alerted police, who notified a bank in another city not to proceed with the transfers, and he managed to recover 3.4 million yuan, the article said. It added that efforts to claw back the remaining funds were ongoing.

Australian 95-year-old woman tasered by police dies

AFP | Sydney

A 95-year-old great-grandmother died yesterday a week after being tasered by an Australian police officer inside her nursing home, police said. Clare Nowland had been in critical condition in hospital since being shot with an electronic stun gun on May 17 in a confrontation that shocked Australians and made international headlines.

"It is with great sadness we confirm the passing of 95-year-old Clare Nowland in Cooma tonight," New South Wales state police said in a statement. She passed away "peacefully" in hospital surrounded by family and loved ones, police said. Just hours earlier, a 33-year-old senior constable was charged with recklessly causing



Clare Nowland

grievous bodily harm, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and common assault over the taser. The policeman, who has been suspended with pay, will face court on July 5. Police Commissioner Karen Webb said Nowland's family had been informed of the "serious charges", and thanked detectives for working quickly following the "nasty incident". Officers had been called to Yallambee Lodge nursing home in southern New South Wales by staff who told them that a woman was "armed with a knife". Police say they urged Now-

land to drop a serrated steak knife before she moved towards them "at a slow pace" with her walking frame, prompting one officer to fire his taser at her. The incident has led to calls for a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry and the release of police bodycam video of the confrontation. "The taser of Ms Nowland has sparked a community outrage that shows how desperately we need police reform," state Greens MP Sue Higgins said this week.

"The refusal to release the bodycam footage protects NSW Police from public scrutiny for all the wrong reasons -- the NSW community has a right to know exactly what happened when Clare Nowland was tasered so we can start to take the steps needed for change."

UK interior minister in clear over speeding claims, says PM Sunak

AFP | London

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman will not face a potentially career-ending ethics investigation into her handling of a speeding ticket received last summer, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced yesterday.

Sunak said he had consulted his ethics adviser over the case and concluded that the allegations "do not amount to a breach of the ministerial code". Braverman -- a Brexit hardliner criticised for her tough stance on immigration -- faced calls to be investigated after asking civil servants to set up a one-to-one driving awareness course, instead of taking penalty points on her licence. Opposition politicians claimed she may have breached the ministerial code of conduct by requesting non-political civil servants to help deal with a private matter.

Braverman, who is in charge of law enforcement, wrote to Sunak saying: "I sought to explore whether bespoke arrangements were possible, given my



Suella Braverman

personal circumstances as a security-protected minister. "I recognise how some people have construed this as me seeking to avoid sanction -- at no point was that the intention or outcome.

"I deeply regret that my actions may have given rise to that perception, and I apologise for the distraction this has caused," she added.

While Sunak concluded that Braverman should not face a formal probe, he did tell his interior minister that "a better course of action could have

been taken to avoid giving rise to the perception of impropriety."

The Sunday Times broke the story this weekend while Sunak was at the G7 leaders' summit in Japan. On his return, he told MPs that he wanted the case examined "properly" and "professionally".

Braverman, who ended up taking the fine and points on her licence, resigned under previous prime minister Liz Truss for using her personal email to send an official document to a colleague.

Indian opposition to boycott inauguration of new parliament

New Delhi

India's opposition parties yesterday said they would boycott the inauguration of a glitzy new parliament building, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a "grave insult" to democracy by excluding the president.

Construction of the building is part of a Central Vista project aimed at revamping or replacing British colonial-era government facilities, including



Workers stand next to the newly inaugurated 'National Emblem' installed on the roof of the new Indian parliament building in New Delhi.

a new residence for the prime minister. Work on the parliament building began in January 2021 and is estimated to have cost around 12 billion rupees (\$145 million), according to media reports. Yesterday, 19 opposition parties criticised decision to exclude Indian President Droupadi Murmu -- the head of state -- from an inauguration event set for Sunday in New Delhi. The government has defended construction of the building, saying it was necessary and a matter of pride for Indians. The current parliament, designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, was opened in 1927.

\$145m Work on the parliament building began in January 2021 and is estimated to have cost around 12 billion rupees (\$145 million)

China's Xi offers Russia 'firm support' in 'core interests'

● **Highest-level visit by a Russian official to China**

● **China last year became Russia's top energy customer**

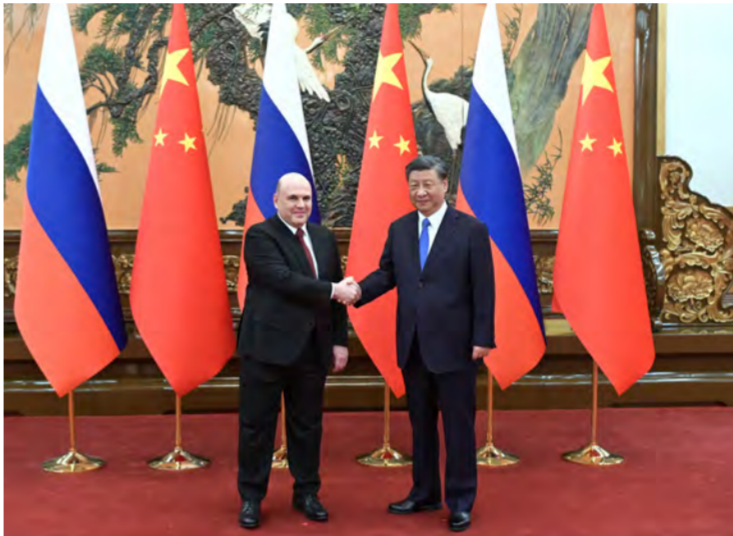
● **Bilateral trade had already reached \$70 billion**

AFP | Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered Beijing's support on Moscow's "core interests" at a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin yesterday.

China and Russia have in recent years ramped up economic and diplomatic cooperation, growing even closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine despite Beijing's insistence that it is neutral in that conflict.

Mishustin's trip this week is the



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin meets with China's President Xi Jinping in Beijing

highest-level visit by a Russian official to China since last year's invasion of Ukraine. Xi told Mishustin China and Russia would continue to offer each other "firm support on issues concerning each other's core interests and strengthen collaboration in multilateral arenas", according to a readout by the official Xinhua news agency.

China and Russia should "push cooperation in various fields to a higher level", he said, and "raise the level of economic, trade and investment cooperation".

Mishustin also met with Premier Li Qiang yesterday, saying

that "relations between Russia and China are at an unprecedented high level" following a grand welcoming ceremony outside Beijing's Great Hall of the People. "They are characterised by mutual respect of each other's interests, the desire to jointly respond to challenges, which is associated with increased turbulence in the international arena and the pressure of illegitimate sanctions from the collective West," he said. Li, in turn, hailed the "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia in the new era".

Li said bilateral trade had already reached \$70 billion so far this year.

"This is a year-on-year increase of more than 40 percent," he said. "The scale of investment between the two countries is also continuously upgrading," Li said. "Strategic large-scale projects are steadily advancing."

Ministers from the two countries signed a series of agreements after the talks on service trade cooperation and sports, as well

BETTER YOU KNOW
China is Russia's largest trading partner, with trade between them reaching a record \$190 billion last year, according to Chinese customs data.

as on patents and Russian millet exports to China.

China last year became Russia's top energy customer as Moscow's gas exports otherwise plummeted due to a flurry of Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

And Novak told a Russia-China business forum in Shanghai on Tuesday that Russian energy supplies to China would increase by 40% year-on-year in 2023, Moscow's state media reported.

Grave of Mahsa Amini vandalised in Iran: lawyer

AFP | Paris, France

The grave of Mahsa Amini, the young Iranian Kurdish woman whose death sparked a protest movement has been vandalised, according to activists and the family lawyer.

Amini, 22, died in September after being arrested by Tehran's morality police for purportedly flouting the strict dress rules for women in the Islamic republic.

The protests that began after her death challenged the Islamic system that has ruled Iran since the 1979 revolution. They have weakened in amplitude over the last months but actions still continue.

Amini, who had been visiting



Mahsa Amini's brother said the family would carry on replacing the glass no matter how many times it was broken

The France-based Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) said that the grave, which features her Kurdish name Zhina in large Persian letters, had been attacked on the morning of May 21. Images published on social media, said to be from the Instagram account of her brother Ashkan, showed that the glass protecting a portrait of Amini at the head of the tombstone had shattered.

"Sadly, on Sunday morning, people who are already known to us, and who have done the same things in the past, attacked the grave of Zhina Mahsa Amini," the family's lawyer Saleh Nikbakht said in a statement published by KHRN.

Bolivian lawmakers clash on floor of parliament

La Paz

Rival Bolivian lawmakers clashed on the floor of parliament on Tuesday as a presentation by a minister of leftist President Luis Arce descended into a flurry of kicks, punches and hair-pulling.

Minister of Government Eduardo del Castillo had been summoned by parliament to give a report on the December imprisonment of Luis Fernando Camacho, the conservative governor of the Santa Cruz region and a leading opposition figure.

While defending the legality of the arrest, Del Castillo criticized parliamentarians from Creemos, Camacho's party, branding them "radical, thiefing, violent groups that came to steal the wallets of the Bolivian people."

As he spoke, a group of opposition lawmakers displayed banners



Screengrab from a video footage showing lawmakers fighting amid a presentation

bearing messages including "with political prisoners, there is no democracy" and photos of Del Castillo labeled "minister of terror".

When a handful of pro-government parliamentarians attempted to snatch away the signs, a fight broke out between about 20 lawmakers, with blows traded for several

minutes, according to images broadcast on social networks.

The fracas ended without serious injuries on either side.

The presentation of the report was briefly suspended, with Creemos lawmaker Maria Rene Alvarez accusing Del Castillo of having promoted a climate of beligerence.

Sri Lankan navy finds 14 bodies in capsized Chinese boat

Colombo

Sri Lanka's navy said yesterday it had located 14 bodies inside a Chinese fishing boat that had capsized last week with 39 crew on board.

The grisly discovery came a day after a preliminary Chinese government probe concluded there were no survivors on the vessel that overturned on May 16.

The Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 had on board 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five Filipinos and was within Australia's vast search-and-rescue region, 5,000 kilometres (2,700 nautical



The capsized Chinese fishing vessel (Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028) in the Indian Ocean.

miles) west of Perth.

The Philippine foreign ministry said the boat was located on May 18 about 1,000 kilometres south of Sri Lanka but that rescue efforts were hindered by bad weather.

Pupil started deadly Guyana dorm-fire over confiscated phone

Georgetown

The weekend school dormitory blaze that killed 19 minors in central Guyana was started by a disgruntled pupil angry at having her mobile phone confiscated, a government source told AFP on Tuesday.

An official police report confirmed that "a female student is suspected of having set the devastating fire because her cellular phone was taken away."

The official said the teenage pupil had admitted to the arson attack and was under police guard at the district hospital in the town of Mahdia.

Police are seeking advice on whether to charge her, the official said. Sunday's inferno

gutted a building housing girls aged 11-12 and 16-17.

As well as the dead, around 20 children were taken to hospital where two remain in critical condition.

"They (staff) took away the phone from the girl and the girl threatened the same night that she will burn down the building and everybody heard her," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government official said that minutes later the girl went to the bathroom area and sprayed insecticide on a curtain before lighting a match.

Despite efforts by other students to extinguish the blaze, the official said the fire quickly swept through the wooden ceiling and eventually gutted the entire building.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



It is not too late to get the #GlobalGoals back on track. And we are determined to do just that. Together, we can create a more sustainable & equitable future for all people, everywhere. @antoniouterres

02



From productive talks with PM @AlbomP to a historic community programme, from meeting business leaders to eminent Australians from different walks of life, it's been an important visit which will boost the friendship @narendramodi

03



After decades of offshoring, our Administration is bringing manufacturing home -- to North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona, Minnesota, and more. @POTUS

04



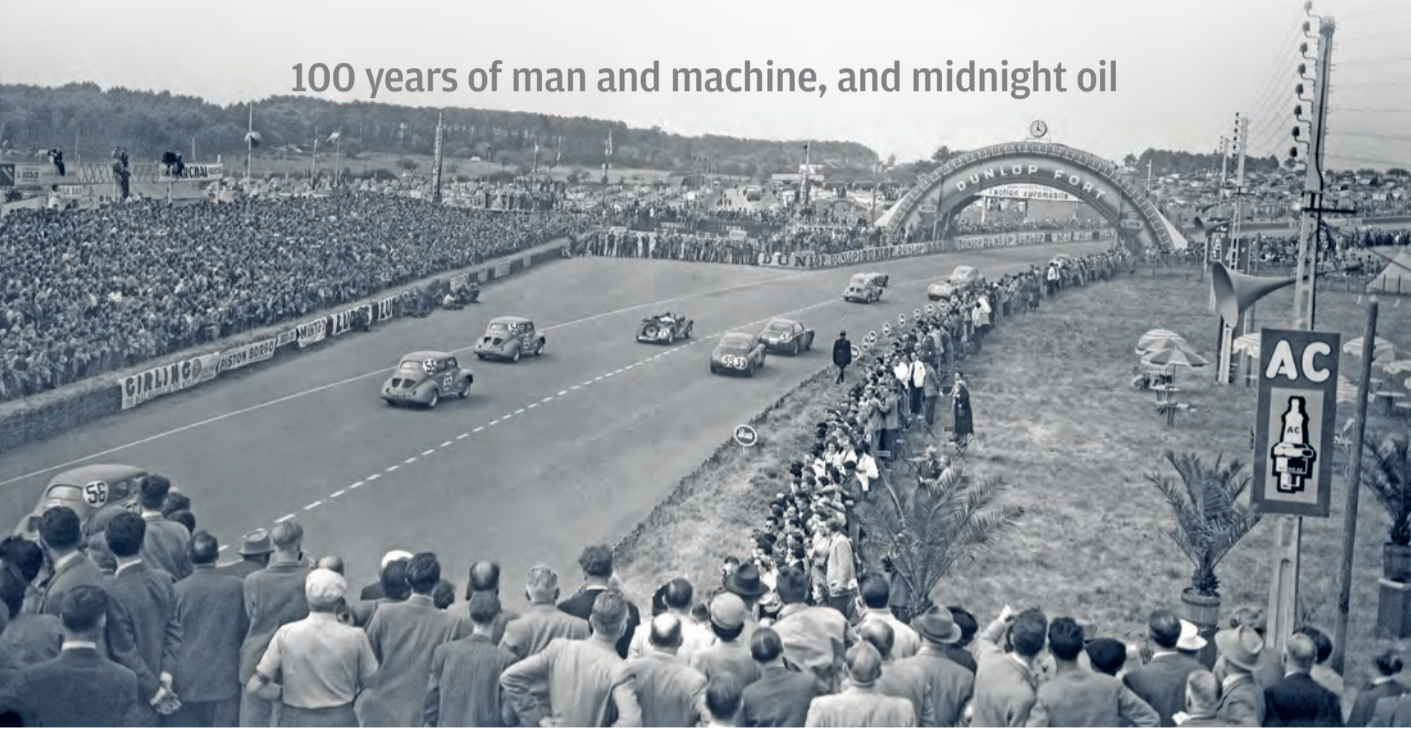
Today at #MSBuild, I shared how we're infusing AI across every layer of the tech stack and empowering developers to help the world benefit from this new age of AI. @satyanadella

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

autobuzz

Le Mans 24 Hours

100 years of man and machine, and midnight oil



Race cars approach the Dunlop curve after the start of the 20th edition of the 24 hours of Le Mans on June 14, 1952 in Le Mans in front of thousands of spectators.

AFP | Paris

The Le Mans 24 Hours celebrates its centenary on Friday - the mythic race's history marked by triumph and tragedy, and a hefty sprinkling of Hollywood stardust.

Since 33 cars set off in the rain for the very first edition on May 26, 1923, Le Mans has gone on to earn an exalted place in motorsport's calendar alongside Formula One's Monaco Grand Prix and the Indy 500.

Only one driver - the late Graham Hill - has succeeded in taking the chequered flag in all three of motor racing's 'triple crown'. While Toyota have proved unstoppable during the recent Hybrid era, the early Le Mans years were dominated by Bentley.

The British marque's five wins between 1924 and 1930 came from a team of mechanics and millionaire Woolf Barnato - the legendary 'Bentley boys'.

A Bugatti took seventh in 1930 with Odette Siko and Marguerite Mareuse sharing the driving - the best placing for an all-female crew to this day.

World War Two forced Le Mans into hibernation but on its return, in 1949, a newish Italian constructor by the name of Ferrari, took the first of its nine wins. Withdrawing from the main category in 1973 the now iconic 'prancing horse' stable is making its return for the 100th anniversary party when the cars line up again for this year's event on June 10.

The 1950s delivered up a fierce rivalry between Jaguar, Mercedes, Ferrari and Aston Martin. It was also during this decade that disaster struck Le Mans. In 1955 the Mercedes, with France's Pierre Levegh at the wheel, crashed in front of the stands on the main straight.

Levegh's car was ripped to shreds, its engine exploding, killing him and 80 spectators. Ferrari stacked up six wins in the first half of the Swinging Sixties.

US car tycoon Henry Ford II, irked by Enzo Ferrari's attitude in a failed bid to buy the Italian constructor, set out to build a machine capable of putting the brakes on Ferrari's Le Mans run.



This photograph taken on June 13, 1970, shows thousands of spectators waiting for the start of the 38th edition of the 24 hours of Le Mans at the Circuit de la Sarthe in Le Mans, western France.

His sense of injustice proved a powerful motivator, and Ford duly constructed a car to win the 1966 edition.

'Terrified'

One driver who remembers that race vividly is four-time winner Henri Pescarolo.

Called up at the last minute by Matra he recalled a stint during the night with "headlamps that didn't shine much light, bends that weren't lit up, at the wheel of a car not easy to drive and surrounded by much faster Ferraris and Fords in full battle.

"I was completely terrified! There were cars from every angle going at scary speeds," he said. "Even when I was involved in serious enough accidents later on, I can't say I was ever as scared as I was then."

That famous duel of man's ego and machine was immortalised in the 2019 film "Ford v Ferrari" starring Matt Damon and

Christian Bale.

The 24 Hour classic has ignited the imagination of numerous Hollywood A-listers over the years.

Paul Newman famously finished second in 1979 aged 54, Patrick Dempsey raced it four times, Steve McQueen used the 1970 edition to shoot scenes of his film 'Le Mans', and in 2016 Brad Pitt gave the celebrated command 'Gentlemen, start your engines'.

The year before Newman's starring role at the Sarthe circuit, Belgian driver Jacky Ickx had helped Ford to a fourth straight win, ending a famous

The TWR Porsche WSC 95 N° 7 of the Joest Racing team, driven by Italian Michele Alboreto, Swedish Stefan Johansson and Danish Tom Kristensen, leads the 65th edition of the 24 hours of Le Mans endurance race on June 15, 1997 in Le Mans

Le Mans tradition in the process. Until then, the start involved drivers running to their cars, a practice Ickx considered dangerous.

His protest, in walking to his car and consequently setting off last, triggered the race organisers, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, to do away with it.

Ickx went on to win the '69 race, by a miniscule 100 metre margin - the first of his six wins.

The following year Porsche's name went on the Le Mans roll of honour for the first of their record 19 wins.

Another German constructor, Audi, was to help Denmark's Tom Kristensen to the drivers' record of nine wins.

Next month's centenary, the 91st edition, promises to be a special affair, with a sold-out 300,000 crowd burning the midnight oil to watch the new Le Mans hypercar and a top tier grid comprising Toyota, Peugeot, Ferrari, Porsche, Cadillac, Glickenhaus, and Vanwall.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

World War Two forced Le Mans into hibernation but on its return, in 1949, a newish Italian constructor by the name of Ferrari, took the first of its nine wins.



Honda to supply Aston Martin engines from 2026



Paris

High-flying Aston Martin will be powered by Honda engines from 2026 in what the Formula One team says is "the last piece of the jigsaw".

This represents a return to F1 for Honda, who left in 2021 but retain links with Red Bull and AlphaTauri.

The tie up, announced on Wednesday, comes in the run-up to this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix with Aston Martin a surprise second to world champions Red Bull in the constructors' standings.

That lofty position is in no small part down to Fernando Alonso, the two-time former champion who has made the podium in four of this season's five races as he revels in his switch from Alpine.

Hailing the Honda link-up, Martin Whitmarsh, Group CEO of Aston Martin Performance Technologies, said: "Our future works partnership with Honda is one of the last parts of the jigsaw puzzle slotting into place for Aston Martin's ambitious plans in Formula One."

Aston will continue to be powered by Mercedes power units until 2026 when there is a sizeable shift in F1's technical landscape. "One of the key reasons for our decision



Audi are also joining the F1 grid from 2026 in a deal to power the Sauber team, currently racing as Alfa Romeo. The other constructors are Ferrari, Mercedes and Renault (Alpine).

to take up the new challenge in F1 is that the world's pinnacle form of racing is striving to become a sustainable racing series, which is in line with the direction Honda is aiming toward carbon neutrality," said Honda CEO Toshihiro Mibe.

"Honda and our new partner, the Aston Martin F1 Team, share the same sincere attitude and determination to win, so starting with the 2026 season, we will work together and strive for the Championship title."

From 2026 Red Bull and AlphaTauri are linking up with Ford when the existing hybrid power units will rely more on electric energy using 100 per cent sustainable fuel.

Uber taps into self-driving tech of former rival Waymo

San Francisco

Google-owned Waymo on Tuesday said it will put its self-driving car technology to work for Uber in a partnership between the one-time rivals.

The alliance will start later this year in the US city of Phoenix, where autonomous rides and deliveries using Waymo cars will be integrated into Uber's platform, the companies said in a joint release.

"Fully autonomous driving is quickly becoming part of everyday life, and we're excited to bring Waymo's incredible technology to the Uber platform," said Uber chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi.

Waymo's self-driving car network in the Phoenix area covers

more than 180 square miles (466 square kilometers), according to the company.

"The pairing of our pioneering technology and all-electric fleet with (Uber's) customer network provides Waymo with an opportunity to reach even more people," said Waymo co- chief executive Tekedra Mawakana. Waymo's ride-hailing programme has been operating in Phoenix since 2017. Waymo and Uber in early 2018 announced an agreement in a blockbuster federal lawsuit over allegedly stolen trade secrets from the Google self-driving car project. The surprise agreement ended a trial between the two Silicon Valley rivals competing in a race to develop autonomous cars.



A Waymo autonomous vehicle in San Francisco, California

Classifieds



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Madhwal takes 5-5 as Mumbai knock Lucknow out of IPL

AFP | Chennai

Aakash Madhwal took five wickets for as many runs to lead Mumbai Indians to a crushing 81-run win in the second IPL playoff game and knock Lucknow Super Giants out of the tournament yesterday.

Cameron Green (41) and Suryakumar Yadav (33) put on 66 to help guide five-time champions Mumbai to 182-8 after they elected to bat first in the knockout contest in Chennai.

CLASSIFIEDS

Chang of Name

I, Nalli Nikolas Vernon Vaz S/O Nalli Martin Vaz holding Indian Passport

No:- X7620730 dated 17/04/2023 issued at Bahrain having permanent residence at (full address in India): M.C.H-329, 1-10-104/42/2/5, Allam Thota Bai, Mayuri Marg, Begumpet, Hyderabad, PIN 500016, Telangana, India presently residing at Flat 503 Bldg 1370 Rd 3730 Blk 337 Bahrain, will henceforth be known as (Given name)

Nikolos Vernon Vaz (Surname) Nalli. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.



Mumbai Indians' Akash Madhwal (C) celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Lucknow Super Giants' Mohsin Khan

Madhwal then returned figures of 5-5 in 3.3 overs to dismiss Lucknow for 101 as Mumbai booked a meeting with holders Gujarat Titans in the next play-off encounter on Friday.

The winners of that clash will meet Chennai Super Kings in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Lucknow's innings imploded as they collapsed from 69-2 to be bowled out in 16.3 overs, losing three key wickets to run outs.

Green, who hit his maiden T20 century in Mumbai's previous win, looked in control during his 23-ball knock until his departure.

Naveen-ul-Haq, who took

four wickets for Lucknow, sent back Suryakumar and Green, bowled by a slower off-cutter from the Afghanistan pace bowler, in the space of three deliveries to push Mumbai onto the back foot.

Tilak Varma hit back with a quickfire 26 and a 43-run stand with Tim David, who was out caught for 13 after unsuccessfully reviewing a full toss for being over waist-height.

Naveen finished with 4-38 and Yash Thakur took three wickets but despite their efforts Mumbai's impact sub Nehal Wadhwa boosted the total with his 12-ball 23.

Lucknow lost their openers early including impact player Kyle Mayers for 18 before Australia's Marcus Stoinis attempted to pull the chase together in his 27-ball 40.

But Madhwal struck with successive balls, including getting the dangerous Nicholas Pooran caught behind for a golden duck.

Van Nistelrooy quits PSV 'with immediate effect'

The Hague

Former Netherlands and Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has quit his job as PSV Eindhoven coach "with immediate effect", the club announced yesterday.

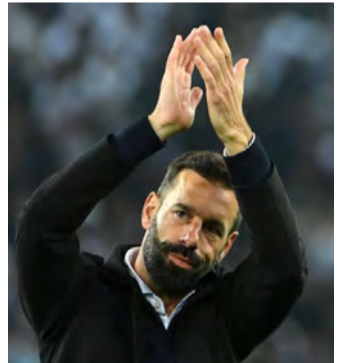
Despite winning this year's KNVB Cup and current Eredivisie runners-up, Van Nistelrooy told the southern Dutch club's players and coaching staff he was leaving "because of lack of support within the club".

Van Nistelrooy's decision came after "several discussions about internal affairs over the past few days" and a meeting with PSV's board of directors on Tuesday evening, PSV said in a statement.

"It was decided to keep the focus on next Sunday's match against AZ in Alkmaar, with further talks to be held after the final day of the season," it said.

Van Nistelrooy's assistant manager Fred Rutten will take over the coaching ahead of Saturday's game.

"PSV regrets Van Nistelrooy's



Ruud van Nistelrooy

decision and are thankful he has won this season's Johan Cruyff Shield and TOTO KNVB Cup and hope to finish the current season in second place," the club said.

Van Nistelrooy played for PSV from 1998-2001 before making the shift to Manchester United for five years, followed by stints at Real Madrid, Hamburg and Malaga.

He started his career as assistant coach of the Dutch national squad in 2014 under Guus Hiddink, before moving to PSV in 2016, eventually being appointed head coach at the start of the 2022-2023 season.

England add Tongue to squad for Ireland Test

AFP | London, United Kingdom

England have added uncapped Worcestershire seamer Josh Tongue to their squad for next week's Lord's Test against Ireland.

The 25-year-old has been drafted in as cover due to injury concerns over pacemen James Anderson and Ollie Robinson, both of whom remain with the group but are unlikely to be risked ahead of the start of the Ashes next month.

Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes, Matthew Potts and Mark Wood are the other pacemen in the

squad for the one-off Test against Ireland, starting on June 1.

With Jofra Archer ruled out for the whole season and Olly Stone currently sidelined, Tongue's elevation means he is in contention for the hotly anticipated five-match series against Australia.

Tongue, who has played for England's second-tier Lions team, averages just over 26 with the ball in first-class cricket.

"We have been monitoring Josh for quite some time and he deserves this call-up," said England selector Luke Wright.



Dhoni says will take time to decide on IPL future

Chennai, India

Chennai skipper M.S. Dhoni said on Tuesday that he will take time before IPL's December auction to decide on his playing future after he led Super Kings to their 10th final in the T20 tournament.

Dhoni might have played his last match at home M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai as the four-time winners beat holders Gujarat Titans by 15 runs in the first play-off.

Dhoni, with an injured knee that has limited his ability to run between the wickets, has fuelled speculation by thanking the crowds who have turned up in large numbers home and



M.S. Dhoni

away this season.

"I don't know, I have eight, nine months to decide," Dhoni said when asked by presenter Harsha Bhogle whether the

play-off match was his last at home.

"The small auction will be around December, so why to take the headache right now. I have ample time to decide," he said.

"I will always be there for CSK whether in playing form or sitting somewhere. I don't really know. But frankly it takes a heavy toll. I have been out of home from January, been practising since March, so we will see."

The 41-year-old has been India's most decorated cricketer and led the national team to two World Cup triumphs including the inaugural T20 event in 2007.

Dainese takes stage 17 as Thomas keeps Giro lead

- Geraint Thomas keeps the leader's pink jersey
- Stage 18 takes the riders back into the mountain

AFP | Caorle

Italian rider Alberto Dainese ledged the sprint on yesterday's stage 17 of the Giro d'Italia as Geraint Thomas finished in the pack to keep the leader's pink jersey.

Mark Cavendish, who announced on Tuesday that he would be retiring at the end of the season, made an error a kilometre out from the finish of the flat 197km ride from Pergine Valsugana.

The 38-year-old lost his lead-in man and finished well back, most probably ending his record of winning a stage at every Giro he has ridden unless he can survive the mountains over the next three days and take Sunday's finale in Rome.

Dainese's DSM team led the peloton around the last bend with 400m to go but it was Michael Matthews (Jayco-AlUla) who then came to the front.



First-placed Team DSM's Italian rider Alberto Dainese (L), second-placed Bahrain - Victorious's Italian rider Jonathan Milan (R) and third-placed Team Jayco AlUla's Australian rider Michael Matthews (C) cycle past the finish line during the seventeenth stage of the Giro d'Italia 2023 cycling race, 197 km between Pergine Valsugana and Caorle, near Venice

Dainese, 25, caught the Australian while Jonathan Milan (Bahrain Victorious) put in a fierce burst that meant the three of them crossed the line together.

"Today we rode an insane fi-

nal with the boys and Marius (Mayrhofer) did a super job and then Niklas (Markl) to finish it off," said an ecstatic Dainese, who also won a stage in the 2022 edition.

"When he swung off I was a

bit overtaken by the guys on the left so I had to squeeze to try and catch Matthews.

"The last metres I was digging so deep, I was really on the limit and I saw Jonathan Milan coming.

"I couldn't really throw my bike but it's nice to get a few centimetres of my wheel ahead of Johnny to get the win."

Forty-eight riders have withdrawn already from the Giro, many through Covid and other viruses and Dainese admitted he has also been under the weather.

"I've been quite sick with stomach issues and my breathing the last few days," he said.

"Today was the first day I was feeling okay, like at 80 percent, so to win like this after such a struggle is insane and I'm super-happy."

Thomas (Ineos Grenadiers) kept out of trouble and, with four stages to come, holds an 18-second lead over Joao Almeida (UAE Team Emirates) with Primož Roglič (Jumbo Visma) a further nine seconds back.

"The day was nothing like what we had experienced before," said Welshman Thomas, who will celebrate his 37th birthday on Thursday.

"It was nice and warm at the end, which is good. It was perfect to keep our strength up before the three days ahead of us."

Thursday's stage 18 takes the riders back into the mountains for what may well be the decisive day. They face a punishing 161km ride from Oderzo that

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Forty-eight riders have withdrawn already from the Giro, many through Covid and other viruses



UAE Team Emirates's Portuguese rider Joao Almeida celebrates his best young rider's white jersey

takes in a series of intermediate climbs to Val di Zoldo.

Pirlo steps down as coach of Turkish club Fatih Karagumruk Istanbul

Italian coach Andrea Pirlo has stepped down as coach of Turkish top-flight side Fatih Karagumruk with three games remaining in the season, the club announced on Wednesday.

Pirlo, 44, only arrived in Istanbul in August hoping to relaunch his coaching career after being sacked by Juventus in 2021.

"Since we can't continue with Mr Andrea Pirlo and his staff next season, we gave them permission to leave soon hoping it will give them a chance to plan their future," Karagumruk said in a message posted on social media.

The Turkish club also announced that Pirlo's deputy, Alparslan Erdem, would take over as coach until the end of the season.

Pirlo, who was on a one-season contract, won two Champions Leagues and six Serie A titles as a player with AC Milan and Juventus.

He was also a member of Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning side.

Pirlo was named Juventus coach in August 2020 and went on to lead the Turin club to victory in the Italian Cup.

But he was sacked in 2021 after Juve went out of the Champions League in the last 16 and finished fourth in Serie A, ending a run of nine consecutive titles.

Karagumruk are currently ninth in the Turkish Super Lig.

Valladolid beat champions Barca to boost survival hopes

Barcelona

Real Valladolid earned an important 3-1 victory over champions Barcelona to boost their La Liga survival hopes on Tuesday.

The hosts were good value for their victory and climbed to 17th, moving provisionally three points clear of the relegation zone.

Barcelona defender Andreas Christensen sent Valladolid on their way by heading into his own net in the second minute.

Canadian striker Cyle Larin added the second from the penalty spot after Eric Garcia tripped Gonzalo Plata in the area, with the Ecuadorian winger scoring the third on the break. La Liga's top goalscorer Robert Lewandowski pulled one back for the Catalans in the final stages. Barcelona winger Raphinha revealed a message of support for Real Madrid winger and Brazil compatriot Vinicius Junior in the second half when he was substituted.

Vinicius was racially abused by Valencia fans on Sunday at their Mestalla stadium.

Players from both sides held up a banner reading "racists out of football" before the game, as part of a La Liga and Spanish football federation initiative following the abuse on Sunday.

Young playmaker Pablo Torre



Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski leaves the pitch at the end of the Spanish league football match between Real Valladolid FC and FC Barcelona at the Jose Zorrilla stadium in Valladolid

Real Sociedad have not played in Europe's premier competition since the 2013-14 season and can qualify if Villarreal fail to win any of their last three matches or by earning two more points themselves

started for the first time in La Liga for Barcelona and put in a bright performance but his team were sluggish as a whole and fell to a second consecutive defeat. Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen is still chasing the La Liga clean sheet record of 26 -- he has 25 with two matches remaining.

"In the first half we were not good, we let in two goals because of our own mistakes. We had an objective, we completed it, and that has caused a dip in concentration," said Xavi.

"We have had a great season, but for our fans, and to say goodbye to (Sergio) Busquets, we have to do better."

Closing in

Real Sociedad put one foot into next season's Champions League with a 1-0 win over 10-man Almeria.

Takefusa Kubo's first-half strike gave Imanol Alguacil's side, fourth, an eight-point lead on fifth-place Villarreal, who face Cadiz on Wednesday.

Almeria striker Luis Suarez was dismissed after 36 minutes for a rough tackle on defender Robin Le Normand.

Alexander Sorloth could have doubled La Real's lead late on but fired narrowly wide. Ander Barrenetxea hit the post.

Real Sociedad have not played in Europe's premier competition since the 2013-14 season and can qualify if Villarreal fail to win any of their last three matches or by earning two more points themselves.

Defeat leaves Almeria provisionally 15th, four points above the relegation zone.

Celta Vigo, 14th, were held to a 1-1 home draw by Girona and are five points above the relegation zone.

Barcelona veteran Alba leaving club after 11 years

Barcelona

Jordi Alba will leave Barcelona at the end of the season after 11 years at the club, the Catalan side said yesterday.

"Barcelona and Alba have reached an agreement to release the player from the contract that he had until the end of the 2023-24 season," said Barcelona in a statement.

"Barcelona publicly expresses its gratitude to Jordi Alba for the professionalism, commitment, dedication and always positive and warm treatment he has always



Jordi Alba

shown towards everything that makes up the Barcelona family." Alba joined Barcelona from Valencia in 2012 and won six La Liga titles and one Champions League among 19 trophies with the Catalan giants. The 34-year-old veteran Spanish left-back lost his place in the team to teenager Alejandro Balde this season. Alba had one more year left on his contract, which expires in 2024, and Spanish reports say he will waive a significant percentage of the money due to help the club amid financial struggles.

Dortmund veteran Hummels extends deal to 2024

AFP | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund defender Mats Hummels has extended his deal by one year until the summer of 2024, the club announced Wednesday.

The extension means Hummels, 34, one of Dortmund's three captains alongside Marco Reus and English teenager Jude Bellingham, will play a 14th season with the club.

"I didn't take the decision lightly," the 2014 World Cup winner said in a statement.

"It was a long deliberation process but now, at the end of the season, I can say that I'm really in the mood for another

year."

Dortmund are currently two points clear of second-placed Bayern Munich at the top of the Bundesliga table, with one game to play.

Dortmund face Mainz at home on Saturday and can guarantee their first league title in a decade with a win.

"From now on my focus is on the game against Mainz on Saturday. We still have 90 intense minutes ahead of us. After that, we hope to celebrate something big together."

Hummels came through the junior divisions at Bayern and was loaned to Dortmund in January of 2008, signing for the latter club in 2009. He stayed with Dortmund until 2016, moving to Bayern for three seasons, before returning in 2019.



Mats Hummels

Mahmoud wins gold in Arab Under-23 Championship

● **Abdelrahman Mahmoud dominant in capturing men's shot put title in Tunisia with 19.90 metres throw**

TDT | Manama

Bahraini elite athlete Abdelrahman Mahmoud captured the men's shot put gold medal in the first Arab Athletics Under-23 Championship, which came to a close yesterday in Tunisia.

Mahmoud was dominant in his competition. The 22-year-old



Bahrain's Abdelrahman Mahmoud, top row centre, celebrates during the men's shot put podium ceremony

clinched first place with a best throw of 19.90 metres.

His top throw was well ahead of runner-up Ali Mustafa Mubarak of Saudi Arabia, who claimed the silver medal in 15.75m. Faisal Mustafa of the UAE took the bronze in 10.59m.

Mahmoud, the Asian indoor record and Bahraini outdoor record holder in his event, with a personal best of 21.10m indoor and 21.15m outdoor.

Mahmoud was the only athlete from the Kingdom to take part in the event, which was organised and run by the Arab Athletics Association.

Manama set for WASL Final Eight

Bahraini representatives set to compete against region's best in top FIBA tournament next month

- **Bahrainis in Group A with Al Riyad, Beirut First and Kazakh/Indian team**
- **WASL Final Eight scheduled to take place June 9 to 17 in Dubai**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club will be playing in Group A for the FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL) Final Eight. The tournament is scheduled to take place June 9 to 17 in Dubai.

Six teams from the WASL Sub-Zone Leagues make up the Final Eight. Manama, Gulf zone runners-up, are with West Asia champions Al Riyadi, fellow-Lebanese side and West

Asia bronze-medallists Beirut First Club, and either Kazakhstan champions BC Astana or the champion team of India.

Group B features Gulf champions Kuwait SC and Gulf third-placers Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE, West Asia zone silver-medallists Gorgan and either Astana or the champions of India.

The Final Eight will play a single round-robin in their groups, with the two best squads from each advancing to the semi-finals.

The third and fourth-placers of each group by the end of the

group phase will be eliminated. Victors of the semis will then figure in a winner-take-all final to earn the distinction of becoming the first-ever WASL champions.

The WASL Final Eight will also qualify for FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2023, on the road to FIBA Intercontinental Cup 2023, FIBA's highest club competition.

Rubber match

Manama will be playing bitter rivals Al Ahli tonight in a winner-take-all third game in their best-of-three Golden Square semi-final series in the

Manama will be playing bitter rivals Al Ahli tonight in a winner-take-all third game in their best-of-three Golden Square semi-final series in the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League. The contest is set for a 7pm tip-off



2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ahli won game one but Manama forced the decider with a game two victory.

Tonight's clash is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off. It will be played at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

The winner of the rubber match will take on Muharraq in the best-of-five championship series. Muharraq already booked

their seat after defeating Al Ettihad in their Golden Square match-up.

The finals are slated to get underway with game one on June 2, as per the schedule released by the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA). The BBA has also announced the date for the Khalifa bin Salman Cup final between Manama and Muharraq. That will be played on May 29 at the Khalifa Sports City Arena.

Tsitsipas splits with Philippoussis days before French Open

AFP | Sydney

Mark Philippoussis is no longer helping to coach world number five Stefanos Tsitsipas, the Australian former tennis star said, calling it the end of "a great ride".

Philippoussis joined Tsitsipas's father Apostolos in the coaches box in the second half of last season and helped guide the Greek player to the Australian Open final.

Tsitsipas, who was beaten in the final in January by Novak Djokovic, previously hailed the impact of "wise man" Philippoussis.

But the 46-year-old Philip-



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas

poussis, a former Wimbledon and US Open finalist of Greek heritage, wrote on Instagram that the partnership is over, days before the French Open.

He did not say why.

"Thanks for the opportunity of being a part of your team," Philippoussis said on Tuesday.

"It was a great ride and experience, and I'm proud of what we achieved together in the short amount of time we had.

"I wish you health, happiness and success for your future, on and off the court!" Tsitsipas's father remains his main coach.

Olympian says 'toxic' culture in Malaysian swimming

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A former Olympian says there is a "toxic and negative" team culture in Malaysian swimming, following a poor showing at the Southeast Asian Games. Marilyn Chua, who competed at the 2000 Olympics, spoke out ahead of the Asian Games this year in China. Now the Selangor state coach, Chua was quoted by Wednesday's Star newspaper as saying: "Regrettably, many of my

swimmers upon joining the national team recounted with tears how toxic and negative the team culture is.

"How can athletes perform their best when the environment they are in is not conducive for growth?" she added. At this month's SEA Games in Phnom Penh, Malaysia won only one of the 39 gold medals up for grabs.

Chua said the national swimming team lacked unity, leadership, fairness and transparency in its selection process.



Marilyn Chua