

**Australia lead  
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Green pitch and  
overcast skies trigger  
dramatic collapses on  
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Yemen separatists say Saudi strikes will not deter them

# THE DAILY tribune

Pete Davidson and Elsie Hewitt 'are taking everything day by day'

UK tech campaigner sues Trump administration over US sanctions

## Bahrain condemns terrorist bombing of Syria mosque

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned and denounced the blatant terrorist attack that targeted a mosque in the city of Homs, in Syria, resulting in the death and injury of a number of innocent civilians during Friday prayers.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Bahrain's solidarity with Syria and its support for its security and stability in confronting terrorism and extremism.

The ministry reiterated the Kingdom's absolute rejection of the targeting of places of worship and the terrorisation of innocent civilians, emphasising that such acts constitute grave crimes that violate all religious and humanitarian principles.

## Full support for Yemen security and stability

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain affirmed support for the good offices and efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, aimed at promoting security and stability in Yemen.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the Kingdom called upon all Yemeni parties and factions to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise dialogue and peaceful solutions.

## 'Digital' success

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has been ranked second regionally and 15th globally among 197 countries on the World Bank Group's 2025 GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI), a milestone achievement.

The report classified Bahrain in Category A among countries with a "very high digital maturity".

The Kingdom recorded an overall maturity rate of 93.6% in 2025, compared to 51% in 2020, which subsequently rose to 83% in 2022.

This year's record results reflect the country's remarkable progress in eGovernment services.

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# Less workload, longer leave

Draft law offers one-to-three-hour daily work reductions for 50 and above civil servants

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Civil servants aged 50 and above could see shorter working days and longer annual leave under a draft law due to be debated in the Council of Representatives on Tuesday.

The bill, prepared by Parliament, would amend the Civil Service Law issued by Decree-Law No. 48 of 2010 by replacing Articles 19 and 20.

It sets out age-based reductions in daily working hours and a higher annual leave allowance once an employee reaches set age points.

### Wording

Under the proposed wording for Article 19, the Civil Service Bureau would continue to set working days and hours, including rules for work on public holidays and outside normal hours.

It would also require a cut in the working day by one hour for employees who reach 50, two hours for those who reach 55, and three hours for those who reach 60.

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee backed the text, but recommended a wording change so the rule applies to an employee who 'reaches' the age, rather than one who is 'over' it.



Mahmood Fardan, Chairman of Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee

Article 20 would be rewritten to reset annual leave. Staff under 50 would receive 30 working days' paid leave for each year of service.

That would rise to 35 working days once an employee reaches 50, 40 at 55, and 45 at 60.

The draft says the executive rules would set out the leave entitlement framework.

The list of other leave types

remains in place, including sick leave, marriage leave, Hajj leave, maternity leave, bereavement leave, quarantine leave, and study exam leave, alongside other categories set out in the draft.

### Approval

The committee recommended approval in principle, describing the aim as taking account of older employees' circumstances

Under the proposal, the Civil Service Bureau would require a cut in the working day by one hour for employees who reach 50, two hours for those who reach 55, and three hours for those who reach 60.

On a case-by-case basis for treating employees with the same legal status differently and argued the approach would run against the Civil Service Law's policy and the principle of equal treatment.

### Changes

The Government also said the changes could affect the regular running of public services, widen the gap between public and private-sector working hours, and make it harder to track compliance with working hours, particularly in roles requiring round-the-clock coverage.

It added that reduced hours and larger leave balances could impose direct and indirect costs on the state budget and the Fiscal Balance Programme.

The Civil Service Bureau said it agreed with the Government's memorandum in full.

## Bright future ahead

# Bahrain economy expands more than fivefold since 2000

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's economy has grown more than fivefold since 2000, reflecting steady progress across both productive and service sectors.

The Kingdom's GDP rose from approximately \$9 billion to over \$47 billion by the end of 2024, according to official figures.

This was confirmed by Her Excellency Maryam Al Ansari, Undersecretary for National Economy at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

### Leadership

H.E. Al Ansari highlighted that Bahrain's sustained economic growth over the past



two decades represents a key national achievement within its broader development journey, under the leadership of His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown



"Bahrain's sustained economic growth over the past two decades represents a key national achievement within its broader development journey."

— H.E. MARYAM AL ANSARI, UNDERSECRETARY FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY

Prince and Prime Minister.

H.E. Al Ansari also noted a significant improvement in citizens' incomes, with average monthly wages for Bahrainis

in both the public and private sectors nearly doubling between 2005 and 2024.

### Policies

She emphasised that this underscores the impact of policies focused on empowering Bahrainis, enhancing their competitiveness, and prioritising them in employment and entrepreneurship.

The Undersecretary added that ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors will continue to strengthen the national economy on sustainable foundations, stimulate economic activity, and translate growth into higher wages and broader development opportunities.



Stage set for coffee event next year

TDT | Manama

The “Coffee & Chocolate 2026” exhibition has announced participation from six countries so far in its fifth edition.

The event will take place from 14 to 17 January at Water Garden City in Manama, with the presence of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate.

The exhibition is expected to see wide participation from companies, factories, and traders specializing in chocolate and coffee production and distribution in Bahrain, after a hiatus of several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

Businesswoman Yasmin Jamal, CEO of “Bdayat,” the company organizing the event, stated: “Five countries have confirmed their participation alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain, including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, and Ethiopia.”

Grand Quran Award for inmates



The Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre, in cooperation with the Directorate of Quranic Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, organised the final qualifying rounds of the Bahrain Grand Quran Award (Ghufran) for 29 inmates. This initiative is part of the Ministry of the Interior's commitment to implementing reformatory and religious programmes that strengthen faith-based values and promote positive behaviour among inmates by providing opportunities to participate in Quranic competitions and develop their skills in memorising and reciting the Holy Quran.

National priority

New housing projects across all governorates under way as demand remains high

Ministry allocates 12,733 housing services since start of legislative term

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning says it has allocated 12,733 housing services across all governorates since the start of the current legislative term, while the waiting list for traditional housing services stands at about 47,000 applications, in a written reply to MP Mohammed Janahi.

The waiting list, it added, covers requests for houses, flats and housing plots, and changes day by day as alternative services are assigned, applicants shift from traditional routes to immediate finance, and new requests are received.

In its reply, the ministry said its housing work under the Government Programme 2023–2026 rests on widening the range of choices and growing work with the private sector, with the aim of giving citizens



Image used for illustrative purposes only



MP Mohammed Janahi

faster paths to suitable housing.

Schemes

It pointed to finance schemes, including Tas’heel+ and Tas’heel, which it said has helped meet thousands of housing requests since its launch in 2022.

The ministry also referred to TumooH, which it said lets eligible beneficiaries of Tas’heel and Tas’heel+ and previous beneficiaries of flat-purchase finance seek a further BD20,000 in govern-

The Housing Ministry aims to keep expanding housing delivery across the governorates through traditional building and private-sector schemes for the next two years.

ment-backed funding after 10 years from buying a flat.

The ministry said this, along with the sale price of the flat, is meant to help households move to a larger home.

Partnership

On partnership housing delivered through the Government Land Development Rights Programme, the ministry said allocations have been completed for the Suhail project in Dhahat Al Lawzi, meeting 132 applications through housing finance

options.

It said allocations have also started for Hay Al Naseem in Madinat Salman, meeting 131 applications.

Citizens have reserved units in Al Wadi in Al Buhair, meeting 76 applications, and Danat Sitra, meeting 47 applications, through advance booking that began as a pilot in April during the Conference and Exhibition on Innovation in the Social Housing Sector.

Contracts

The ministry said it has signed contracts for three housing projects in Madinat Salman with a number of developers, providing 137 units for beneficiaries using housing finance.

It added it is taking steps to put out for tender a project to build more than 3,000 units in Madinat Khalifa, after signing four memoranda of understanding in April, and said work is expected to begin in the next stage.

It said work is continuing on projects under way in Madinat Al Hidd Housing City, Madinat Salman, Madinat Khalifa and Madinat Sitra Housing City within the 2025–2026 budget, with handovers linked to each project’s readiness.

Delivery

As an example of recent delivery, the ministry said Madinat Sitra Housing City has been opened and 1,077 homes have been handed over.

It said work began in early 2024 on a second phase of 531 homes, now in its final stages and due to be handed over in the coming weeks.

New year welcome, luxury style



TDT | Manama



Enjoy great food and a lively party to welcome 2026 at The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites residents and visitors to celebrate New Year’s Eve in style with a festive lineup of dining experiences, live entertainment, and an open-air countdown by the sea.

Guests can enjoy a journey of global flavors without leaving the Kingdom, with culinary offerings spanning Italy, India, Thailand, and Mexico, culminating in a midnight celebration under the stars.

For those seeking a refined dining experience, Plums will host a four-course dinner featuring a seafood starter, seasonal soup, prime beef main course, and a citrus-inspired dessert, offering a sophisticated conclusion to 2025.

The dinner is priced at BD55 per person and will be served

from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

Cantina Kahlo will bring the vibrant flavors of Mexico to the celebration, offering an a la carte menu that highlights bold spices, colorful dishes, and a lively festive atmosphere.

Guests can enjoy this unique experience with a minimum spend of BD45 per person from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

For lovers of Indian cuisine, Nirvana presents an evening filled with richly spiced dishes, signature drinks, and an energetic ambiance, designed to elevate the night as the countdown to the New Year unfolds.

Dining at Nirvana requires a minimum spend of BD45 per person and will be available from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

Primavera will offer an elegant Italian four-course din-

ner, beginning with oysters, followed by handmade pasta, a prime beef main course, and a modern take on tiramisu.

Soft beverages are included in the BD65 per person package, with service running from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

As the clock approaches midnight, guests are invited to the open-air Countdown Party at Thai Lounge and La Plage, featuring live entertainment, vibrant music, exquisite bites, and sparkling toasts by the sea.

VIP tables are available with advance booking, and entry is priced at BD30 per person, with the celebration running from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am.

The festivities continue into the new year with the First Sunrise Brunch of 2026 at Primavera on January 2.

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**La Table Krug**  
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**Nirvana**  
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Court upholds prison term

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Jail sentence for a Bahraini woman was confirmed by the Third High Criminal Appeals Court, which upheld a six-month term to be served immediately after she was convicted of insulting a government body and spreading false claims online.

Judges backed a first-instance ruling that found she published invented accounts on social media, including stories that had not happened and allegations aimed at staff members' conduct and job trustworthiness, without evidence.

The Chief Prosecutor of Cybercrime asked the court to impose the maximum penalty, telling the judges the woman's video clips attacking a ministry were 'from her imagination' and had no basis.

Prosecutors said the woman appeared in the clips claiming she was advising female students not to fall prey to certain staff, while accusing those individuals of wrongdoing.

They also said she drew and shared indecent sketches of a woman's body and spoke in a way the prosecution said breached public morals.

# Fraud conviction

Business owner jailed and fined BD101,000 over relabelled expired products

● Two workers to be deported after serving sentences

● Business operates without licence

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A business owner has been sentenced to three years in jail and fined BD101,000 after the Sixth Lower Criminal Court convicted him and two employees of commercial fraud involving relabelled expired food. The two workers were ordered to be deported permanently once they have served their sentences.

The court found the defendants guilty of possessing spoiled, out-of-date food products and selling and marketing them after expiry dates were altered, alongside a charge of operating without a licence.

Punishments

The second defendant was jailed for two years and fined



Image used for illustrative purposes only

BD10, while the third defendant received a one-year prison term.

The court also ordered the business to be shut for six months, and ruled that the spoiled and adulterated goods be seized and destroyed, along with the materials and tools used.

It further ordered the publication of a summary of the ruling at the defendants' expense.

The case began with a complaint to the Public Prosecution from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Inspection

The ministry said its judicial officers, during an inspection at a commercial establishment, found expired food items and signs that the original expiry dates had been removed and



The defendants were found guilty of possessing spoiled, out-of-date food products and selling and marketing them after expiry dates were altered, alongside a charge of operating without a licence.

replaced with dates that did not match the true shelf life of the products.

Prosecutors visited the premises, carried out an inspection and took a statement from the relevant judicial officer at the ministry.

They ordered the defendants to be arrested and brought in, questioned two of them after their arrest, and remanded them

in custody during the investigation.

Seizure

The prosecution also ordered the seizure of the establishment and the food items inside it, and tasked ministry specialists with listing the stock and identifying expired goods.

That inventory led to the seizure of more than 600 expired food products, according to the case file.

The Public Prosecution also appointed a forgery expert from the Physical Evidence Directorate to examine samples of the seized items.

Expiry dates

The expert concluded that expiry dates had been changed by removing the original dates and replacing them, including by swapping labels showing expired dates with labels bearing later ones.

Police enquiries also backed the account.

After the investigation was completed, the Public Prosecution referred the defendants to the competent court, which issued its ruling.

## Heritage Village upgrade

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Parliament will take up a proposal on Tuesday calling for the Heritage Village to be reworked into a year-round attraction, with upgraded services, a fuller events calendar and new openings for private investment.

The recommendation, put forward by MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, argues that the site should be adapted so it can receive visitors in every season, rather than coming to life mainly during the annual festival held as part of Celebrate Bahrain season.

It calls for work to prepare the infrastructure and keep the village operating throughout the year, alongside programmes that widen the range of activity on site.

Proposal

The proposal points to cultural, educational and arts events designed for different age groups, as well as heritage festivals aimed at presenting Bahrain's identity and support-



MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen

ing tourism.

It also urges the offering of investment chances to companies and other interested parties, paired with closer work between the public and private sectors to raise service levels and support year-round running.

Among the suggestions is a joint Gulf festival, with exhibitions, craftspeople and stalls selling heritage goods and handmade products linked to shared Gulf culture.

The proposal also points

to inviting local and overseas artists to hold workshops and mount exhibitions inspired by Bahraini heritage.

Coordination

It further calls for coordination with the Ministry of Education to run regular school trips, using interactive activities to teach pupils about Bahrain's history, and for making the site available as a filming location for arts projects and television programmes centred on Gulf heritage.

## Gulf man jailed over indecent social media videos

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A Gulf national has been sentenced to two years in prison and will be permanently deported from Bahrain after being convicted of posting indecent content online and publicly insulting a citizen, the Minor Criminal Court has ruled.

The court ordered the sentence to be served immediately.

It also imposed a BD1,000 fine after finding the man guilty of possessing and transporting indecent films with intent to distribute, and of keeping pornographic material within an information technology system.

Deportation

His mobile phone was confiscated, and he is to be removed from the country once he completes his term.

The case began when the Cybercrime Directorate received a complaint from a citizen who said the defendant had abused him on social media, using language described as defamatory and offensive to honour.

Investigators traced the defendant's account and found he repeatedly appeared in videos considered contrary to public morals, according to the Public Prosecution.

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# Payment relief

Mazaya monthly cap cut to BD427, Housing Ministry tells Parliament

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

The maximum monthly instalment cap for Mazaya home financing has been cut by BD100 to BD427, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has told Parliament.

In a written reply to MP Khaled Buanaq, the ministry said the Cabinet decision means government support will keep covering the gap for beneficiaries who reach the cap, with the lower ceiling applying across the programme.

Mazaya was launched in 2014 as a financing scheme run with private-sector banks, the ministry said.

## Mortgage

Banks provide mortgage finance of BD81,000 for citizens who meet the eligibility rules, including an income band of BD600 to BD1,200 a month, and the financing is for buying a ready-built home.

The ministry said its role is to direct government support by paying the difference between the bank-set monthly instalment and the amount paid by the beneficiary, who pays no more than 25 per cent of income.

The beneficiary's deduction is reviewed every two years to keep it at 25 per cent of income, until it reaches the cap set by the financing bank.

## Prices

It said the BD81,000 finance



Image used for illustrative purposes only

**13,000**

Citizens with housing applications have benefited from the programme.

amount was set using studies that measured home prices at the time.

The ministry added that more than 13,000 citizens with housing applications have benefited from the programme.

The ministry said it carried out budget studies after requests from MPs, looking at raising support by finding extra funds outside its approved 2025–2026 budget, and lowering the cap from BD527 to BD427.

Under the change, it said, support will run through to the end of the repayment period



MP Khaled Buanaq

without reviewing later rises in income once 25 per cent of salary reaches BD427 or more.

## Beneficiaries

It said those studies found 77 per cent of beneficiaries have average monthly instalments of BD173, while the average monthly support paid for that group is BD345.

The ministry said this group receives the largest share of support, with 67 per cent of the total gap between the cap and the 25 per cent deduction covered for them.

The ministry put the overall cost of the policy, based on its budget work, at BD825 million.

## Approval

It said the Cabinet, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, approved the change, with beneficiaries who had reached the previous ceiling receiving an estimated BD100 a month in ongoing support.

On monitoring and hardship cases, the ministry said it tracks satisfaction through demand for Mazaya financing, weekly case reports received through the national suggestions and complaints system 'Tawasul', and periodic surveys published through its media channels.

It also said it can raise support for citizens who take early retirement for reasons beyond their control, citing two cases handled through rescheduling instalments and increasing government support.

# MPs to debate turning quarry land into parks

● Call to plant trees to curb desertification

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Parks and leisure spaces are set to be discussed by the Council of Representatives on Tuesday under a proposal to reuse the land occupied by Bahrain Quarry in the Southern Governorate, as the quarry nears the end of its working life.

The proposal, submitted by MP Lulwa Al Rumaihi, seeks to turn the site opposite Askar, Jaw and Khalifa City, near King Hamad Highway, into public parks, gardens and recreation areas, with service facilities for residents.

It also calls for tree planting to help curb desertification.

## Idea

In an explanatory note, Al Rumaihi said the aim was to make use of the quarry site for public benefit, linking the idea to an initiative associated with Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the wife of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, under the slogan "Forever Green".

The Council's Public Utilities and Environment Committee recommended approval after studying the proposal, with all members present agreeing to back it, citing public-interest grounds.



**"The aim was to make use of the quarry site for public benefit."**

— MP LULWA AL RUMAIHI

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture told the committee the quarry land is not listed among properties under municipal affairs, but is assigned to another government entity.

## Decision

Any change in use would first require a decision to reassign the plot by the body responsible for government land-use designations, followed by coordination with service agencies, it said.

The ministry added that the final view rests with the government in light of developments at the time, and asked that the Speaker of the Council of Representatives be informed.

# GCC unemployment insurance cover up for Parliament discussion

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Unemployment insurance for Gulf citizens working outside their home countries will be put to a vote in Parliament on Tuesday, under a government bill amending the GCC's cross-border social insurance system.

The government-referred draft law would approve amendments to the Unified System for Extending Insurance Protection to citizens

of Gulf Cooperation Council states employed in another member state.

Alongside adding unemployment cover, the changes would widen the scope of insurance protection, update the way monthly contributions are collected, and seek closer coordination between civil pension bodies and social insurance agencies across the GCC.

The bill is attached to Royal Decree No. 38 of 2025 and is framed as an approval law for the amended GCC regulation.

# Two accused of importing, selling illegal substances

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Two men accused of importing and selling narcotics and psychotropic substances through an organised network will appear before the High Criminal Court on 29 December, with the pair kept in custody while the case proceeds.

Prosecutors say the defendants worked with an unknown

accomplice to bring drugs into the country and sell them for profit, using the 'dead drop' method in which packages are left at agreed spots for others to collect.

They also face a charge of possessing psychotropic substances for personal use in unauthorised circumstances.

An order was issued for the suspects' arrest and for searches to be carried out.

# Sporting and cultural centre for youth

● MP proposes to build site in Wadi Al Sail

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

A proposal calling for a youth centre to be built in Wadi Al Sail will be discussed in Parliament on Tuesday.

Submitted by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, the request urges the Government to establish a centre serving residents of the area, offering youth programmes alongside sports and cultural activities.

The memo backing the proposal says the centre would help young people develop sporting and cultural talents, put their energy to better use, and bring them together through a wider range of programmes.

It argues there is no similar youth centre in Wadi Al Sail.

## Approval

Parliament's Services Committee has recommended approval, with all members present agreeing the case rests on public-interest grounds.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs told Parliament it places strong focus on youth empowerment centres and works to reach young people across different areas, with an emphasis on finding, developing and showcasing their talents.



Image used for illustrative purposes only



MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi

It said this supports its work to enable youth to contribute to sustainable development.

The ministry said the Southern Governorate already has nine youth empowerment centres, as well as a specialist centre, offering activities across cultural, sporting, educational and professional fields.

## Priority

It added it is prioritising support for existing centres to im-

prove performance and make better use of available facilities, including wider use of technology and greater focus on job skills, alongside newer trends in sport and leisure.

The ministry also spoke of stronger links between centres through joint programmes and closer coordination, aimed at raising the standard of activities and attracting more young people, while giving them more chances to meet and share experience.

In its response, the ministry pointed to the Hamad Town Model Youth Centre, which it said is close to Wadi Al Sail.

## Beneficiaries

The centre, it added, served more than 18,000 beneficiaries and ran more than 50 programmes and events during 2024, and young people from Wadi Al Sail can make full use of its services.

# Ras Hayyan sewerage link hinges on Ras Abu Jarjur treatment plant

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Sewerage services for Ras Hayyan will be delivered through two planned network projects, the Ministry of Works said, but the area cannot be linked up until a central treatment plant at Ras Abu Jarjur is built.

The ministry said this in a written reply to a parliamentary question from MP Lulwa Ali Al Rumaihi. It said the sewerage works would be carried out through a project to build a network in Ras Hayyan's Block 963, and a second project covering Jaw and Ras Hayyan in Blocks 958 and 957.

Both schemes are still at the design stage, it said, with funding already set aside to cover the design work.

The ministry added that steps are being completed to start consultancy and design work for the first phase of the Southern Region central wastewater treatment plant, ahead of works on site.



# UK tech campaigner sues **Trump** administration over US sanctions

Imran Ahmed was among five European figures involved in tech regulation

● Ahmed, a critic of billionaire Elon Musk, holds US permanent residency

● European Commission said it was seeking clarification from Washington

AFP | New York, United States

The chief of a prominent anti-disinformation watchdog has sued President Donald Trump's administration over a US visa ban, calling it an "unconstitutional" attempt to expel the permanent American resident, court filings show.

Imran Ahmed, a British national who heads the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), was among five European figures involved in tech regulation whom the US State Department said this week would be denied visas.

The department accused them of attempting to "coerce" US-based social media platforms into censoring viewpoints they oppose. The European Union and several member states strongly condemned the move and vowed to defend Europe's regulatory autonomy.

The campaigner filed his complaint Wednesday in a New York district court against Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Sarah Rogers, US Attorney General Pam Bondi, and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.

Ahmed, a critic of billionaire Elon Musk, holds US permanent residency, commonly known as a "green card."

"I am proud to call the United States my home," he said in a statement. "My wife and daughter are American, and instead of spending Christmas with them, I am fighting to prevent my unlawful deportation from my home country."

Ahmed faces the "imminent prospect of unconstitutional arrest, punitive detention, and ex-



U.S. President Donald Trump calls children as he participates in tracking Santa Claus' movements with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Santa Tracker on Christmas Eve at the Mar-a-Lago resort

pulsion" from the United States, the court filing said.

However, a district judge granted a temporary restraining order barring Ahmed's arrest or detention, with a further hearing scheduled for Monday.

When reached for comment Thursday, the State Department expressed defiance.

"The Supreme Court and Congress have repeatedly made clear: the United States is under no obligation to allow foreign aliens to come to our country or reside here," a spokesperson said.

Rogers said earlier that Ahmed was sanctioned because he was a "key collaborator" in efforts by former president Joe Biden's administration to "weaponize the government" against US citizens.

## 'Not be bullied'

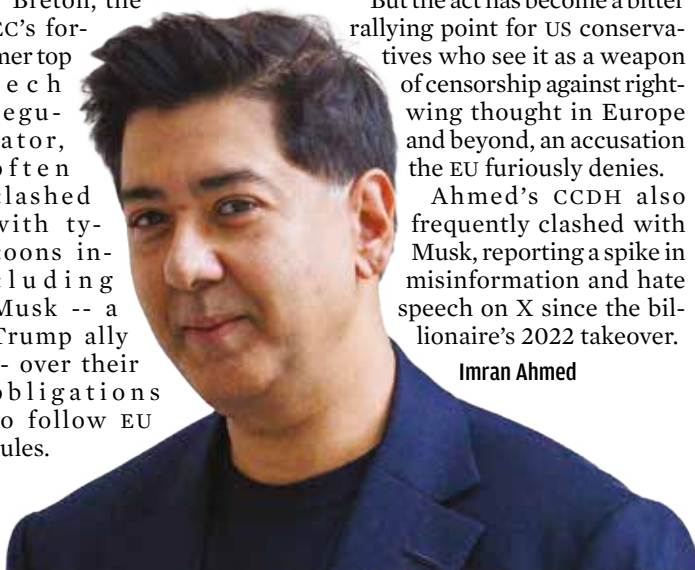
"My life's work is to protect children from the dangers of unregulated social media and AI and fight the spread of anti-semitism online. That mission has pitted me against big tech executives -- and Elon Musk in particular -- multiple times," Ahmed said.

"I will not be bullied away from my life's work."

The crackdown also targeted former European commissioner Thierry Breton, Anna-Lena von Hoderberg and Josephine Ballon of the German nonprofit HateAid, and Clare Melford, who leads the UK-based Global Disinformation Index.

Condemning the move, the European Commission said it was seeking clarification from Washington, and if needed "will respond swiftly and decisively to defend our regulatory autonomy against unjustified measures."

Breton, the EC's former top tech regulator, often clashed with tycoons including Musk -- a Trump ally -- over their obligations to follow EU rules.



Imran Ahmed

The State Department has described him as the "mastermind" of the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA), which imposes content moderation and other standards on major social media platforms operating in Europe.

The DSA stipulates that major platforms must explain content-moderation decisions, provide transparency for users and ensure researchers can carry out essential work, such as understanding how much children are exposed to dangerous content.

But the act has become a bitter rallying point for US conservatives who see it as a weapon of censorship against right-wing thought in Europe and beyond, an accusation the EU furiously denies.

Ahmed's CCDH also frequently clashed with Musk, reporting a spike in misinformation and hate speech on X since the billionaire's 2022 takeover.

# Japan govt approves record budget, including for defence



Japan's Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama holds a press conference after the cabinet's approval of the fiscal 2026 budget proposal at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

The Japanese government approved a record budget for the upcoming fiscal year yesterday, to pay for everything from bigger defence spending to ballooning social security costs as inflation persists.

The 122.3-trillion-yen (\$782 billion) budget for the fiscal year from April 2026 will include a record nine trillion yen for defence spending, as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi aims to accelerate Tokyo's sweeping upgrade of its military in the face of worsening relations with China.

"This budget is the least we need to fulfil our defence responsibilities as Japan faces its most severe and complex security environment since the end of the war," Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi told a news conference.

Japan has been shedding its strict pacifist stance in recent years, moving to obtain "counterstrike" capabilities and doubling military spending to two percent of GDP.

At the core of its request is 100 billion yen for the so-called SHIELD coastal defence system, which would marshal drones to block any invasion by foreign troops.

Japan is hoping that SHIELD -- Synchronised, Hybrid, Integrated and Enhanced Littoral Defence -- will be completed by March 2028, with no details yet about to which part of Japan's coastline it will be linked.

The budget plan comes as China and Japan are enmeshed in a spat over Takaichi's suggestion in November that Tokyo could intervene militarily in any attack on Taiwan.

Beijing claims self-ruled, democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to use force to bring it under its control.

## Market worries

The expanding budget also arrives as the market worries about Takaichi's big spending policies adding to Japan's public debts.

The 122-trillion-yen figure compares with the 115 trillion yen sought for the current fiscal year to March, which was also a record.

Japan already has the biggest ratio of debt to gross domestic product (GDP) among major economies, projected to reach 232.7 percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Parliament approved a massive extra budget this month to pay for a 21.3-trillion-yen stim-

ulus announced in November.

The market has reacted by driving down the value of the yen, while the benchmark yield rose for Japanese government bonds.

Some observers have drawn comparisons to the United Kingdom's 2022 bond market turmoil under then-premier Liz Truss.

Takaichi has advocated big government spending to spur economic growth.

The current size of the budget is unlikely to shock the bond market, Takahide Kiuchi, executive economist at Nomura Research Institute, wrote in a note before Friday.

But an increase to around 125 trillion yen or more, he said, would cause the "turmoil in the bond market, already in crisis mode, to deepen further".

Kiuchi noted that, under Takaichi, the extra budget quickly ballooned, reaching \$18 trillion yen.

"Financial markets are likely on high alert for a similar occurrence," he said.

"Should the fall of the yen and bond prices further accelerate due to the size of the budget, it would increase worries about adverse effects on the economy and people's lives."

A weaker yen raises prices of imports for resource-poor Japan, which relies heavily on foreign food, energy and raw materials to power its economy.

Takaichi came to power in October with a pledge to fight inflation after anger over rising prices.

Another challenge is Japan's ageing population, caused by chronically low birth rates and a cautious approach to immigration.

The draft budget needs to be approved by parliament.

# Lebanon's cabinet approves draft law on financial crisis losses

Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's government yesterday approved a draft law to distribute financial losses from the 2019 economic crisis that deprived many Lebanese of their deposits despite strong opposition from political and banking officials.

The draft law is a key demand from the international community, which has conditioned economic aid to Lebanon on financial reforms.

It will be submitted to the country's divided parliament for approval before it can become

effective.

The cabinet passed the draft bill with 13 ministers in favour and nine against. It stipulates that each of the state, the central bank, commercial banks and depositors will share the losses accrued as a result of the financial crisis.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam told journalists after the session that the bill "is not ideal... and may not meet everyone's aspirations" but is "a realistic and fair step on the path to restoring rights, stopping the collapse... and healing the banking sector".

According to government esti-



Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam

mates, the losses resulting from the financial crisis amounted to about \$70 billion, a figure that is

expected to have increased over the six years that the crisis was left unaddressed.

Depositors who have less than \$100,000 in the banks, and who constitute 85 percent of total accounts, will be able to recover them in full over a period of four years, Salam said.

Larger depositors will be able to obtain \$100,000 while the remaining part of their funds will be compensated through tradable bonds, which will be backed by the assets of the central bank.

The central bank's portfolio includes approximately \$50 billion, according to Salam.



Japan has the world's highest public debt, at well over 200% of its gross domestic product, yet it has avoided a debt crisis because most of the debt is owned domestically, mainly by Japanese citizens, banks and pension funds.



News in brief

◆ Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that he would meet US President Donald Trump this weekend to discuss efforts to end Russia's invasion. "Over the weekend, I think on Sunday, in Florida, we will have a meeting with President Trump," Zelensky said in a message to journalists. The latest round of US-Ukraine negotiations produced a 20-point plan to end the war, which has been sent to Moscow. "We will discuss these documents, security guarantees," Zelensky said. "As for sensitive issues, we will discuss Donbas and the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and we will certainly discuss other issues," he added. Zelensky said this week there was still disagreements between Kyiv and Washington over the two issues. Despite that, Ukraine won some concessions in the latest plan, which would freeze the frontline and remove a requirement for Kyiv to legally renounce its bid to join NATO, Zelensky said.



Zelensky to meet Trump this weekend in Florida

Israel minister tells army act 'forcefully' against attacker's village

◆ Defence Minister

Israel Katz yesterday ordered the military to launch an operation in the village of Qabatiya in the occupied West Bank after it emerged that a Palestinian who killed two people came from there. "Defence Minister Israel Katz instructed the IDF to act forcefully and immediately against the village of Qabatiya, from which the murderous terrorist emerged, in order to locate and thwart every terrorist and strike the village's terror infrastructure," Katz's office said in a statement.

SPOTLIGHT

Funny old world: the week's offbeat news

AFP | Paris, France

From Japan getting its teeth into its bear problem to why all is not so sunny for the Swedes... Your weekly round-up of offbeat stories from around the world.

From predator to plate

Japan has come up with a novel way of tackling the growing menace of bear attacks... by eating them.

Bear is back on the menu in country inns cooked on a stone slate -- or in a hot pot with vegetables -- as culls are stepped up after 13 people were killed in maulings this year, twice the previous record.

Bears, who can weigh up to half a ton and outrun humans, have been breaking into homes looking for food, nosing around schools and rampaging through supermarkets.

But as alarm has grown, so too has the appetite for eating them.

"The number of customers who want to eat their meat has increased a lot," restaurant owner Koji Suzuki, 71, told AFP in the hilly city of Chichibu near Tokyo.

So much so that he is having to turn away customers.

One who nabbed a seat, 28-year-old composer Takaaki Kimura -- who had never eaten bear before -- loved the taste.

"It's so juicy, and the more you chew, the tastier it gets," he said, grinning as he and his friends sat around the grilling stone and bubbling pot.

Suzuki, who is also a hunter, said they took care cooking the bears to show respect for their life. "It's better to use the meat at a restaurant like this, rather than burying it."

That won't fly

A Mexican pilot barricaded himself into the cockpit and refused to fly his passengers to the resort of Cancun in one of the most unusual strikes of the year.

The captain told passengers he was owed five months' sal-



Chef Kiyoshi Fujimoto seasoning bear meat at his restaurant in Sapporo, in Japan's northern Hokkaido prefecture

ary, and said "this plane isn't leaving until they pay us what they owe us," according to a video cited by local media.

"I feel bad for you, because you don't deserve this," he told holidaymakers before he was arrested by police at Mexico City's Benito Juarez International Airport.

Not much hygge

Those suffering from the post-Christmas blues should spare a thought for the Swedes. The capital Stockholm did not get a single hour of sunshine for the first 15 days of the month.

The sun was only seen for 30 minutes, putting it on track to be the darkest December since 1934 when there was so little light meteorologists "rounded it down to zero hours".

Famously stoic Scandinavians have cultivated concepts like "hygge" -- or coziness -- to get them through the long winter nights.

But even that is being tested by the gloom, with meteorologist Viktor Bergman "very pessimistic" about snow for a white Christmas and New Year to cheer everyone up.

Yemen separatists say Saudi strikes **will not deter** them

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the air strikes

● Separatists accused Riyadh of conducting air strikes on their positions

● Saudi urged the separatists to withdraw from Hadramawt and Mahra provinces

● Around 15,000 Saudi-backed fighters amass near Yemen border: Yemen govt official

AFP | Al Mukalla, Yemen

Yemen separatists said they would not be deterred from pursuing their objectives after air strikes they blamed on Saudi Arabia hit their positions yesterday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the air strikes, which came amid a dramatic escalation in a conflict that, for more than a decade, has plunged Yemen into humanitarian catastrophe.

On Friday, following a Saudi call on them to pull back, the separatists accused Riyadh of conducting air strikes on their positions.

A video aired on separatist-affiliated media showed a plume of smoke rising from the desert, with four-wheel white cars in the



Yemeni armed forces ride in the back of a lorry as the Southern Armed Forces Command celebrate the 58th anniversary of National Independence Day, in the port city of Aden, in the southern part of the Arabian peninsula

foreground.

"The Council affirms that such actions will not serve any path of understanding and will not deter the people of the South from continuing to move forward toward restoring their full rights," the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) said.

The Saudi-led coalition, which backs the government, did not immediately respond to AFP's request to confirm the strikes.

'Last resort'

A Yemeni government official in Riyadh told AFP earlier this week that Saudi Arabia was con-

sidering military action against the STC as a "last resort" should efforts to persuade the group to withdraw from newly-seized territory fail.

The head of Yemen's presidential council Rashad al-Alimi met with Western ambassadors and with Saudi Arabia's defence minister and dispatched government envoys to Aden to persuade the STC to withdraw from Hadramawt and Mahra, said the official, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

Earlier this month, a Saudi-Emirati military delegation visited Aden to ask the STC to

return the two provinces, with Saudi deescalation efforts still ongoing, Riyadh said on Friday.

If efforts to return those areas collapse, Saudi Arabia had signalled to the Yemeni government that it could launch air strikes and deploy the Nation Shield forces.

The strikes also came a day after Saudi Arabia urged the separatists to withdraw from Hadramawt and Mahra provinces.

On Friday, the UAE welcomed efforts by Saudi Arabia to support security in Yemen, as the two Gulf allies sought to present a united front.

Oman, a mediator that also borders Yemen, called for "avoiding escalation... and engaging in a comprehensive political dialogue".



Yemen sits at one of the world's most strategic choke-points: the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, through which a significant share of global maritime trade and energy shipments pass between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean

Fuel shortage forces Gaza hospital to **suspend most services**

AFP | Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories

A major Gaza hospital said yesterday it had suspended several services because of critical fuel shortages in the devastated Palestinian territory, which faces a severe humanitarian crisis.

Ravaged by more than two years of war, the Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza's Nuseirat district cares for around 60 in-patients and receives nearly 1,000 people seeking medical treatment each day.

"Most services have been temporarily stopped due to a shortage of the fuel needed for the generators," said Ahmed Mehanna, a senior official involved in managing the hospital.

"Only essential departments remain operational: the emergency unit, maternity ward and paediatrics."

To keep these services running, the hospital has been forced to rent a small generator, he added.

Under normal conditions, Al-Awda Hospital consumes



A young Christian worshipper prays during Christmas celebrations at the Holy Family Parish in Gaza City

between 1,000 and 1,200 litres of diesel per day. At present, however, it has only 800 litres available.

"We stress that this shutdown is temporary and linked to the availability of fuel," Mehanna said, warning that a prolonged

fuel shortage "would pose a direct threat to the hospital's ability to deliver basic services".

Khitam Ayada, 30, who has taken refuge in Nuseirat, said she had gone to the facility after days of kidney pain.

But "they told me they didn't

have electricity to perform an X-ray... and that they couldn't treat me," the displaced woman told AFP.

"They gave me a painkiller and told me that if my condition didn't improve I should go" to another hospital, she said.

"We lack everything in our lives, even the most basic medical services," she added.

Hospital official Mehanna urged local and international organisations to intervene swiftly to ensure a steady fuel supply.

Despite a fragile truce observed since October 10, the Gaza Strip remains engulfed in a severe humanitarian crisis.

While the ceasefire agreement stipulated the entry of 600 aid trucks per day, only 100 to 300 carrying humanitarian assistance can currently enter, according to the United Nations and non-governmental organisations.

The remaining convoys largely transport commercial goods that remain inaccessible to most of Gaza's 2.2 million people.



Spanish Crown issues the Laws of Burgos, governing the conduct of settlers with regard to native Indians in the New World

Flushing Remonstrance petition is signed in the Dutch colony of New Netherland, protesting the ban on Quaker worship and asserting the right to religious freedom



International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are formally established with the signing of articles of agreement by member countries, ratifying Bretton Woods Conference findings based on ideas of economists Harry Dexter White and John Maynard Keynes [I]



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Too many leaders today view human rights as the problem. We know human rights are the solution. They are the foundation of peace. They are the engine of progress. And they are the path out of conflict & chaos to security & hope.

@antonioGuterres

02



Evidence-based scientific innovation is driving better health outcomes around the world. New medicines and vaccines are saving lives from diseases once thought to be among the most daunting.

@DrTedros

03



In a turbulent world that moves ever faster, Christmas offers us a rare pause moment to breathe, slow down, and remember what truly matters.

@vonderleyen

04



It is important if we succeed in organizing what we discussed today with President Trump's envoys. Some documents, as I see it, are nearly ready, and some documents are fully prepared.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

# Shook the whole town

Nigerians surprised by US strikes



A missile launch from a naval vessel as President Donald Trump says US forces conducted "powerful and deadly" strikes against Islamic State militants in northwestern Nigeria

● The Department of Defense's US Africa Command, using an acronym for the Islamic State group, said "multiple ISIS terrorists" were killed in an attack in the northwestern state of Sokoto.

AFP | Kano, Nigeria

Nigerians across Sokoto state awoke to loud blasts Thursday night, worried their village was being attacked by one of the multiple armed groups that plague northwest Nigeria.

They were in fact strikes by the United States, in a Christmas Day bombardment targeting militants in several places.

AFP reached three villagers by phone in the Sokoto countryside.

The attack was a surprise to some around Jabo town, who said that their area was sometimes a target of armed "bandit" gangs and jihadists, but was not a stronghold for the groups.

"We heard a loud explosion which shook the whole town and everyone was scared," said Haruna Kallah from Jabo, some 100 kilometres south of Sokoto city near the Niger border.

Nigeria and the US have been locked in a dispute over what President Donald Trump has characterised as the mass killing of Christians in the country's armed conflicts.

The Nigerian government and independent analysts reject Washington's framing, noting the west African country faces interlinked security crises that

## Nigeria signals more strikes likely in 'joint' US operations

AFP | Lagos, Nigeria

Nigeria yesterday signalled more strikes against jihadist groups were expected after a Christmas Day bombardment by US forces against militants in the north of the country, which it said was a joint operation with its military.

The west African country faces multiple interlinked security crises in its north, where jihadists have been waging an insurgency in the northeast since 2009 and armed "bandit" gangs raid villages and stage kidnappings in the northwest.

The US strikes come after Abuja and Washington were locked in a diplomatic dispute over what Trump char-

acterised as the mass killing of Christians amid Nigeria's myriad armed conflicts.

Nigeria's military said in a statement that its forces, in conjunction with the United States "conducted precision strike operations against identified foreign ISIS-linked elements" in northwest Nigeria.

Washington's framing of the violence as amounting to Christian "persecution" is rejected by the Nigerian government.

"It's Nigeria that provided the intelligence," the country's foreign minister, Yusuf Tuggar, told broadcaster Channels TV, saying he was on the phone with US State Secretary Marco Rubio ahead of the bombardment.

Ayuba Abdulkarim, another Jabo resident, said: "There was a huge explosion and everyone was terrified and thought the town was under attack from Lakurawa."

"Luckily no one was hurt, but fragments from the bomb caused damage to walls and roofs of nearby homes."

Tukur Shehu, resident of Tangaza, a neighbouring district, said two strikes targeted Warriya and Alkassim villages -- known to house Lakurawa camps, from where they launch attacks and keep hostages.

US special forces sneaked into Tangaza district in October 2020 and rescued Philip Walton, a US citizen kidnapped from his home in southern Niger.

## China's high-speed rail network passes 50,000km mark

AFP | Beijing, China

China's sprawling high-speed rail network passed 50,000 kilometres (31,000 miles) in total operating distance with the opening of a new line on Friday, state media reported.

The country has the world's largest rail network -- one-fifth longer than the circumference of the earth.

The trip begins in the city of Xi'an -- home to China's famed Terracotta Warriors -- and ends in Yan'an to its north, state broadcaster CCTV said. Both cities are in northern China's Shaanxi province.

Some homes were demolished and displaced residents would receive 5,000 yuan (\$700) per household to relocate, local authorities said in 2020 when construction began.

China's rail network has expanded by around 32 per cent compared to 2020, state-



Representative image

owned China Railway added Friday in a statement.

The Xi'an-Yan'an line spans a total of 299 kilometres and the shortest trip takes 68 minutes, CCTV said.

The C9309 train runs at 350 kilometres (217 miles) per hour, outpacing Japan's Shinkansen, which has a top speed of 320 kilometres (200 miles) per hour.

Beijing has also been financing railways in other Asian countries under its Belt and Road Initiative, which funds infrastructure projects globally, but a number of plans have been stalled or mired in controversy.

## Israel announces recognition of Somaliland as 'sovereign state'



a general view of the city of Hargeisa, capital and largest city of the self-proclaimed Republic of Somaliland.

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel yesterday formally recognised Somaliland as an "independent and sovereign state" and signed an agreement to establish diplomatic ties between the two countries, the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

"The prime minister announced today the official recognition of the Republic of Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state," his office said, making Israel the first country to officially recognise Somaliland as a country.

"The declaration is in the spirit of the Abraham Ac-

cords," Netanyahu's office said, referring to several agreements between Israel and Arab countries brokered by US President Donald Trump during his first presidency.

The president of Somaliland, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, hailed the recognition move, saying it marked the beginning of a "strategic partnership".

"This is a historic moment as we warmly welcome... the Prime Minister of the State of Israel's recognition of the Republic of Somaliland and affirm Somaliland's readiness to join the Abraham Accords," normalising relations with Israel, he posted on X.

## Palestinian kills two in stabbing and ramming attack, Israeli police say

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

A Palestinian killed two people in a stabbing and car-ramming attack in northern Israel yesterday, triggering the defence minister to threaten a crackdown on the assailant's village in the occupied West Bank.

The attack came a day after an Israeli military reservist dressed in civilian clothes rammed his vehicle into a Palestinian man in the West Bank, where violence has surged

since the war in Gaza began.

The Gaza war, sparked by Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, also set off several attacks by Palestinians inside Israel that have left dozens dead.

"Preliminary investigation indicates this was a rolling terror attack that began in the city of Beit Shean, where a pedestrian was run over," Israeli police said in a statement about Friday's attack, adding that the victim was a 68-year-old man.



# celebs

## Pete Davidson and Elsie Hewitt ‘are taking everything day by day’

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Pete Davidson and Elsie Hewitt are “settling into a rhythm” of parenting.

The 32-year-old comedian and Elsie, 29, recently announced the birth of their daughter Scottie Rose - but Elsie’s early experience of parenthood was complicated by having to have her wisdom tooth extracted just one day after giving birth.

A source told People: “Elsie is doing really well now and feeling so much better since having the tooth taken care of.

“It was an unexpected hiccup right after the delivery, but she handled it like a champ and has been focused on resting and soaking in these first moments with the baby.”

The loved-up couple are now embracing the challenge of caring for their daughter.

The insider explained: “Being home has been really special for them.

“They’re settling into a rhythm, taking everything day



Pete Davidson and Elsie Hewitt

by day and just enjoying getting to know their daughter. It’s been a lot of firsts, but it’s a really happy, exciting time for both of them.”

Pete and Elsie are supporting each other through the challenges of parenthood.

The source shared: “They’ve

very much in it together. They’ve both learning as they go, supporting each other and feeling grateful as they step into this new chapter as parents.”

Meanwhile, Pete previously revealed that he’s found the focus on his personal life to be

“traumatic”.

The comedian has dated a host of famous women, including Kim Kardashian, Ariana Grande, Kaia Gerber, Margaret Qualley, and Phoebe Dynevor, but Pete felt frustrated that people often knew him for his high-profile love life, rather than his comedy talent.

He said on The Breakfast Club: “It just got to a point where I was ... I got really tired of my whole career just being like my personal life. And living through that is it’s sort of traumatic. Like not to be like lame, but like it’s traumatic to live in your own crap all the time.”

Pete also hated the experience of being sexualised by the public.

The comedy star explained: “I don’t want to victimise myself in any way because I’m cool, but the sexualisation of me — if that was a girl, people would be like, there would be a march for it ... Seriously. You’re just talking about my d\*\*\* all day.”

## Kate Winslet: Brits are not good at processing grief

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kate Winslet thinks Brits often struggle “talking about grief”.

The 50-year-old actress has made her directorial debut with Goodbye June, which follows a family coming together as their mother passes away, and Kate hopes the new movie can help to change some attitudes in the UK.

The British actress - whose son Joe wrote the script for the film - explained: “In this country, we’re not necessarily so good at processing, especially when it comes to talking about grief.

“And so hopefully through this film, which is also very funny, hopefully through this film, people might see something of themselves and connect with it in that way.”

The new film stars the likes of Dame Helen Mirren, Timothy Spall, Andrea Riseborough and Johnny Flynn, and Timothy has admitted

to being wowed by the first-time director.

He said: “I worked with her when she was 20. She was impressive then, just before she got Titanic ... and she’s paid attention. She’s listened. She’s a great actress.

“She knows how it works, and she helps other actors to do the best they can. And she’s all over the crew. She’s great with them. She’s paid attention in every department.”

Meanwhile, Kate previously revealed that she finds the continued fascination with tanic to be “curious.”

The actress starred alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in the 1997 romantic-disaster film, and Kate still finds it odd that her comments about Titanic remain the “take-home” from some of her interviews.



Kate Winslet

## Ed Sheeran ditched ‘beer-guzzling’ lifestyle after becoming a dad

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Ed Sheeran ditched his “beer-guzzling” lifestyle after becoming a father because he wanted to be “a responsible dad”.

The 34-year-old pop star became a first-time dad in 2020 when he welcomed daughter Lyra with his wife Cherry Seaborn and they became parents again in 2022 when they welcomed another little girl named Jupiter - now the singer has revealed he embraced a healthy new lifestyle and started exercising to help him with his new role as a fa-



ther.

He told Men’s Health UK magazine: “[Fitness] just sort of became something that really added to my life. I think, underneath it all, I am a pizza-eating, beer-guzzling smoker, but that’s just not my reality as a parent in my thirties. I think that you have to make good decisions.

“I’d never run more than a kilometer and did my first 10K during COVID – stuff like that, building up to that, it just makes you feel better. And I think that in my thirties, that’s where I’m at. I’m not saying I’m done with enjoying myself, I still drink. I love red wine, I love a nice meal, but it’s not every day.”

Ed Sheeran

## Taylor Swift was against dating athletes until meeting Travis Kelce

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift was always opposed to dating athletes - until she met Travis Kelce.

The 36-year-old pop singer began dating Travis in 2023, and the loved-up couple announced their engagement earlier this year - but Taylor was previously opposed to the idea of dating a sportsman, as she didn’t think they’d have much in common.

The chart-topping star - who has previously dated the likes of Harry Styles, Calvin Harris and Joe Alwyn - says in her Disney docuseries The End of Era: “I’ve been very non-athlete because I’m not one and I’ve always been like, ‘What would we talk about?’”

However, Taylor’s mom, Andrea, actually encouraged the musician to pursue a relationship with Travis, 36, after he



Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce

spoke glowingly about Taylor on his New Heights podcast.

Speaking to her mom, Taylor said: “So you call me up with this tone of, ‘Hey, I know you’re going to not react well to this, but there’s a guy...’”

Andrea actually wanted to learn more about Travis after he spoke about Taylor on his podcast.

She said: “I’m looking at the headlines and perusing around on the Internet and I see that

this guy came to your show and he brought a friendship bracelet and wants to meet you. So I call up my resident expert on the Kansas City Chiefs, my cousin Robin, and I go, ‘Tell me about this guy named Travis Kelce.’”

Meanwhile, Patrick Mahomes - Travis’ teammate at the Kansas City Chiefs - previously claimed that the singer has helped to make the NFL franchise a “worldwide team”.

Patrick told Time magazine: “[The Chiefs] went from a nationwide team that was kind of global to a full global worldwide team . That came from Taylor’s fan-base.”



## Paul Rudd says he lied about being directed by Sir Ben Kingsley on his CV

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Paul Rudd lied about playing Hamlet “in a production directed by Sir Ben Kingsley” at the beginning of his career.

The 56-year-old actor has been one of the most in-demand actors for the past two decades with roles in hits like Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, Friends, Ant-Man and Ghostbusters: Afterlife.

But when he was starting out, Rudd’s manager got creative with his CV and put that he had done

Shakespeare with Oscar winner Kingsley, even though he had in fact only attended a class run by the Gandhi star.

Appearing on The Graham Norton Show, Rudd revealed: “When I first got a manager, I had no credits to put on my CV, but I’d once done an afternoon masterclass with Sir Ben Kingsley when I was in school. My manager put this down as, ‘Paul played Hamlet in a production directed by Sir Ben Kingsley.’ I lived in fear that he would one

day see my CV!”

Rudd got his big screen break in 1995 with roles in comedy Clueless and horror sequel Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers and he is combining horror and comedy for his latest project Anaconda, a meta-reboot of the 1997 movie of the same name.

Rudd stars with Jack Black in Tom Gormican’s film about two friends who travel to the Amazon to shoot an amateur remake of the Jennifer Lopez-led Anacon-

da, only to encounter a real and giant man-eating snake.

Asked how the film came about, Paul said: “Jack and I are both huge fans of Tom Gormican’s The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent and when this script showed up it seemed to have similar DNA in that it was a clever meta comedy take on a reboot. I was very excited to work on it particularly when I found out Jack was involved.”

Jack, 56, joined Paul on the UK TV chat show and admitted

he agreed to sign up to play wedding videographer Doug McCallister when he was told Rudd would be playing background Ronald “Griff” Griffen Jr.

The School of Rock star said: “It is really very funny and crazy. I had never read anything like it. I was mainly excited to work with Paul because he makes me laugh so much. I made sure he was definitely attached to the film before I signed anything.



# Classifieds



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MASTAN ALI INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33303946 or MASTANALI3330@GMAIL.COM

fast solution AC services has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008304 or A.SAIF@W.CN

ALAMEED RESTAURANT. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335514 or SAYEDJMJ@GMAIL.COM

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

ALJOBANI AUTO SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001549 or RANAAL08@HOTMAIL.COM

PAK SIALKOT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36353618 or NASEERU285@GMAIL.COM

Bahrain Specialist Hospital has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (MANAGERIAL SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66711895 or bshhr@bsbh.com.bh

NORDIC PALACE & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111101 or govt@nordicbh.com

PINK SHOES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33781964 or ZULFIQARSAD3@YAHOO.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

ALKUWAITI FOR ALUMINIUM has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GLASS CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17612254 or alkuwaiti74@gmail.com

ALWESHAH BUILDING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17761341 or ALWESHA@YMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

alajal gate tailoring has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33169704 or WAL-AL-B@HOTMAIL.COM

ALSHROOQ SERVICES STATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FUEL STATION ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17625552 or AHMED.ALKAABI@BANAGAS.COM.BH

DUKE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39966289 or saalmishal@gmail.com

AL MOUSSAWI INTERNATIONAL FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39688133 or sadeeq@yahoo.com

copy time center has a vacancy for the occupation of PRINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17550231 or tarada14@gmail.com

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

Mega Mart has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17341070 or anil.nawani@babasons.com

NEW NAGLAA SADEK FOR MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34638555 or REFAEY.GRG@GMAIL.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREENAGROUP.COM

ARHUM A C MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35917512 or SECURECLEARANILE@GMAIL.COM

BU SARWA AUTO ELECTRICAL SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33694867 or WALEED-BANGASH1967@GMAIL.COM

BISM OVEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33602409 or DC@FAHDAN.COM

SM JAPANESE BH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38000318 or a.nasif@thecollection.bh

LUCKY ALNOOR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33461761 or MAJADJAVED12@GMAIL.COM

Real Value Contracting WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36767312 or INFO@REALVALUECONTRACTING.COM

HOOT W SAMAK RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36144465 or EMADBH720@GMAIL.COM

B F G INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39651165 or Taghrid.wanou@BFGINTERNATIONAL.COM

DILBAGH N SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213050 or DILB.BH.IND@GMAIL.COM

AERO STUDIO INTERIOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33161222 or SKENARAWORKSHOP.SS@GMAIL.COM

DWILMY FOR FRESH FISH Co. Partnership has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33739999 or MASOMAI1976BH@HOTMAIL.COM

SOHAIL AHMED SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37516178 or SOHAILAHMED.B.A.H@GMAIL.COM

ABBAD LIGHTS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39833725 or ABBADBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

AJWAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33884711 or A.ALHAMRY1@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD USMAN ASLAM CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33136796 or ABDULRAHMAN11051@GMAIL.COM

ADRNAH GRILLS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36243624 or BUHANAK@GMAIL.COM

MR.RIGHT GENERAL CLEANING OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32212919 or JAFFAR.BINASHOOR@GMAIL.COM

TURMER ENTERPRISES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES SUPERVISOR (WHOLESALE TRADE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301828 or zraartrading-bahrain@gmail.com

GHAUSIA PARVEEN HADAITULLAH HUSAIN BAKSH (191002) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667325 or ECHI3968@GMAIL.COM

GLOBAL ARATCO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660141 or BNCONSTRUCTION.BH@GMAIL.COM

THE TEA HOUSE CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33839651 or teahousebh@gmail.com

HOUSE OF BREAKFAST CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39995159 or MOHD-ALABBASI@HOTAMIL.COM

S K K INTERNATIONAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37372907 or TAHIRSHAFIQ705@GMAIL.COM

EMBARK ARABIA CONTRACTING CO. - PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77992515 or BIJU.PACHAYIL@GMAIL.COM

EAGLE FOR SAFE AND SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270140 or alialtmini@yahoo.com

ABDULLAH AHMED AL MUZIEL INDUSTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17261222 or INFO@AAMINDUS.COM

SHARY JAN CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35605503 or MRMJANNATUL@GMAIL.COM

EAGLE FOR SAFE AND SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270140 or alialtmini@yahoo.com

BELLAROMA DERMATOLOGY CENTRE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777407 or mady2022@yahoo.com

SAVOY GRANDE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32250282 or HIREN@BRUPCO.COM

DOHAT ARAD MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39111798 or KHALI-FAYASEEN2016@GMAIL.COM

ALBAIT ALRAFEEA CONSTRUCTION EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38044168 or EDRAZI459@GMAIL.COM

ALBAIT ALRAFEEA CONSTRUCTION EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38044168 or EDRAZI459@GMAIL.COM

PEPPER CAFE - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or INFOBAHRAIN2@GMAIL.COM

DAWAT NOOR RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(FOOD & BEVERAGES INDUSTRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36726854 or MIANHARONALI327@GMAIL.COM

dolphin cargo logistic service has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17697455 or CARGO.DOLPHIN@YAHOO.COM

CHANDIO VISITOR ASSISTANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35036552 or RAFIQALLCITY-DUBAI@GMAIL.COM

GEORGIA UNIFORMS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17294445 or J.KHAMDAN@HOTMAIL.COM

THREE FRIENDS AUTO REPAIR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33757074 or TM363013@GMAIL.COM

BAHADAR SAID CLEANING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32119631 or SHAHZEHB9999@GMAIL.COM

ALHELMEYA CONTRACTING & AIR CONDITIONING MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17225321 or ABDULFATHAH-MUHAMMED72@GMAIL.COM

CHIC & SHINE SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33402472 or ADNANGEE4545@GMAIL.COM

KAWATER PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38009746 or MOHMEDDABDAZ-IM@GMAIL.COM

BHANWARIYA BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37774616 or ABBAS33901@GMAIL.COM

MERRAKI INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36364110 or marjanali92@icloud.com

SAGHIR AHMED MOTOR VEHICLE SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33212370 or SAGHIRAHMED4776@GMAIL.COM

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

Wadi Al Safa Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36900332 or alialattar67@yahoo.com

AUMA ACTUATORS MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COORDINATOR(MATERIAL INVENTORY CONTROL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17896585 or NAVEEN.SHETTY@AUMA.COM

MUBARAK HAMAD AHMED ALASMI (SMIHAN / 11636 ) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36868228 or QAREEB@WINDOWS.LIVE.COM

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

LAVANA SUITES has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17234488 or DR\_RAJAB@HOTMAIL.COM

CRUMBLES CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33550228 or CRUMBLESADM@GMAIL.COM

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

SAN CARLO CICHETTI BSC has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or SALWA@AL-ABRAAJ.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

DRIVEWAY AUTO PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37559535 or sumonprohdan2015@GMAIL.COM

STAR ONE PAINTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33851089 or Usmanhameed1732@gmail.com

AGEEB GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66699971 or ALI.HUSSAIN.YUSUF@GMAIL.COM

AQUA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233317 or MOHAMEDALASFOOR@GMAIL.COM

YORKS TAILORING AND TEXTILES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210406 or yorkstex@yahoo.com

QUICK SOLUTION BUSINESS SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33415225 or SANEEJ201450@GMAIL.COM

KUNARZARDI CAFETERIA AND TRADITIONAL FOOD has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17296555 or JOHNJOVENCLADERA31174228@GMAIL.COM

BOSS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777701 or BOSS-C099@GMAIL.COM

ROTI SHOTI MEALS ON WHEELS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17341122 or JASSIM96@YAHOO.COM

ADA CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUC-

TION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13000000 or TOPDELMON.SE@GMAIL.COM

SKENAR FOR TRADE SALE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39008114 or SARBJEET2003@YAHOO.COM

Seven Sea Gate Marine W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39676747 or DANEEZ1977@GMAIL.COM

ONX ABAYAS has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33249494 or SZAYER@GMAIL.COM

ALI AHAMMAD SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35434910 or ALI.BH8712@GMAIL.COM

HICOM EXCAVATION & CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36870003 or adarsh.kk@hicomhc.com

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

SHINING STAR SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36535255 or FATIMA.KAMAL@EBDAABAHRAIN.COM

Nidukki Trading Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456218 or OPERATIONS@NIDUKKI.BH

RAMEEZ ANWAR CARGO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35611842 or MIRZADXB281@GMAIL.COM

CHANDIO VISITOR ASSISTANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35036552 or RAFIQALLCITY-DUBAI@GMAIL.COM

THC FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17225050 or satish@cinqo-me.com

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

GUJRANWALA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33880919 or SAAMIIR@LIVE.COM

ALMADHIF RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17555666 or MID-LEEASTALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

JKUH FABRICS AND TAILORING. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33419191 or BUASALLI500@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

ALHANAFI CLEANING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39904366 or ALIABDULLA4800@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

BAHRAIN SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES STS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17622082 or info@BAHSTS.COM

Manama Packaging Industry W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675246 or MFIAKRAM@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

THINK TANK CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34557624 or ADNANRASHEED9087@GMAIL.COM

POULLAIDES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of REINFORCED IRON WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826660 or PCBBAH@BATELCO.COM.BH

M H 70 MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33344715 or FESTIVALS114@GMAIL.COM

CO CO DIP JUICE AND CHOCOLATE has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36697609 or S.NOOR.ALMARZOOQ@GMAIL.COM

1980S A NOSTALGIC RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33533149 or INFO@HALAYAGROUPINTL.COM

LI SARA BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34168877 or ALIJAAAN83@GMAIL.COM

MAITHAM AUTO PARTS & TIRES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39450706 or ALIJAWAD2007@HOTMAIL.COM

AL HUR LAND AUTO ELECTRICAL SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(VEHICLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39727775 or AQEL\_F@ICLOUD.COM

ALQURA ALSHAMEYA BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39887840 or HENDALSHETT11969@GMAIL.COM

JESHURA CREATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35581314 or NAZZARALI9@GMAIL.COM

LANDMARK CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295050 or MADEEHA@LANDMARKBAHRAIN.COM

BOU BILAL BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36120088 or ABDULLAAB-DULHALEM183@GMAIL.COM

ZENON CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39719998 or AHMED304@HOTMAIL.COM

ALBADIYA HOUSE HOLD APPLIANCES STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335334 or AHMED.ALMAADANI@YAHOO.COM

KEEMA CHAPATI restaurant co w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39867872 or HASHZH2@GMAIL.COM

TEA CORT KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39501060 or BH\_1996@ICLOUD.COM

KAISER MEHMOOD BAJWA SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34673834 or JANIMANO059@GMAIL.COM

TRIDEV SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

SHAHI CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38060144 or AMJCONSTRUCTION782@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD ZUBAIR FOR OTHER INFORMATION SERVICE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(PHOTO COPY MACHINE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35933065 or MUHMADZUBAIR844@GMAIL.COM

HAVELI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32121453 or GUR-PREEETSINGHSANDU2050@GMAIL.COM

HAMMAM ALSULTANA SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66668282 or FATIMABINJAAFAR@GMAIL.COM

LANDMARK CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295050 or MADEEHA@LANDMARKBAHRAIN.COM

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

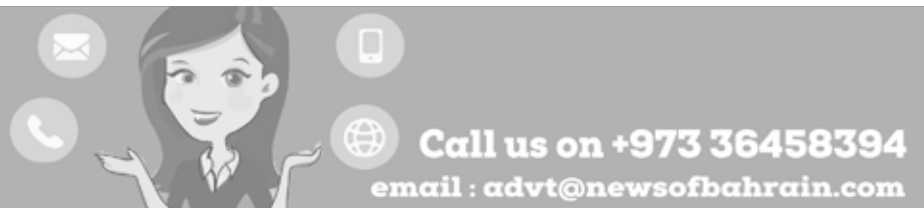
UNIQUE FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306469 or CHIRIVELLAHARIKZ@GMAIL.COM

Restaurant Reef Alyemen has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000422 or Whaidarah@gmail.com

Sayyar Hospitality Solutions W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290111 or OFFICE@SAYYAR.BH



# Classifieds



## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOIL-FIELD.COM

NORDIC RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111015 or govt@nordicbh.com

AUTOFAKHAMA GENERAL TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39854269 or MOHAMMEDRAFUMMER@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD UMER BUILDING MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36137494 or UMERPRINTS@GMAIL.COM

ARAB AVENUE CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33505605 or MOHANLALVS@GMAIL.COM

EBRAHIM HAMAD ALTHAWADI TRADING & CONT. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17274404 or deepupath-epparampl@gmail.com

BILAWAS KHAN CARGO AND COMBINED FACILITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33534178 or BILAWASKHANCF@GMAIL.COM

TIE UP SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956025 or STONES4U@GMAIL.COM

LAYAZ SPA AND BEAUTY CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119797 or LAYAZSALON@GMAIL.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nassercor.net

Devji & Co. has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17104751 or dharmajith.tm@devji.com

RAYADIZ VENTURE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34617179 or INFO.SAYEDRH@GMAIL.COM

KRONOS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441273 or MRK1313@GMAIL.COM

DAR TAJ FRUITES & VEGETABLE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39860760 or CRS68882@HOTMAIL.COM

Trusted Choice Construction Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36797661 or TCCCBH@GMAIL.COM

ADEL HUSSAIN ABDULLA HAMADA WAFI/7520 has a vacancy for the occupation of FISHERMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470778 or ADEL.HAMADA7898@GMAIL.COM

HONEY SINGH CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33228725 or BARRINDERS@GMAIL.COM

EMCO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17821988 or emco@emco.com.bh

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOT-ITEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

AMORY BEAUTY HOUSE & SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33994114 or RIFFA7788@GIMAL.COM

ALHOTY TECHNICAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727450 or layla@alhotybahrain.com

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SHEETMETAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nassercor.net

EVERCARE FOUNDATION FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED SUPPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of SOCIAL WELFARE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36886644 or INFO@MAGICSHINEBH.COM

Qaftan maghrebi Tailoring has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17259995 or NHBABHRAIN@YAHOO.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY /

FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nassercor.net

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# Aston Villa face Chelsea test as Premier League title race heats up

Title challengers face key tests while rivals deal with absent star players

● **Liverpool's Alexander Isak out with fracture**

● **Manchester United lose Bruno Fernandes to injury**

● **Arsenal host Brighton as Christmas leaders**

AFP | London

Aston Villa face a tough challenge at Chelsea on Saturday after muscling their way into the Premier League title race alongside Arsenal and Manchester City.

The Gunners, top of the tree at Christmas, host Brighton, while Pep Guardiola's in-form City travel to Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot is grappling with a striker crisis after Alexander Isak fractured his leg, while Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes also faces a spell on the sidelines.

Here we look at three talking points ahead of the festive action:

## Rogers spearheads Villa charge

Unai Emery's third-placed Villa are still considered rank outsiders for the Premier League title even though they are just three points behind leaders Arsenal.

Villa's 2-1 home win against Manchester United was their 10th consecutive victory in all competitions -- the first time they have achieved the feat as a top-flight team since 1914.

One of the major reasons for their recent success is the form of England midfielder Morgan Rogers, who failed to register a



Aston Villa's English midfielder #27 Morgan Rogers celebrates with team-mates after scoring

single goal involvement in his first seven matches in all competitions.

Now it is a different story: he has recorded 11 goal involvements in his past 15 appearances and the quality of his goals has been striking.

Rogers' seven Premier League goals this season have come from just 2.86 expected goals -- a metric used to determine how likely a player is to convert a chance.

But football analysts Opta give Villa just a five percent chance of becoming English champions for the first time since 1981.

Emery's men have an opportunity to silence the doubters when they take on fourth-placed Chelsea, with a match at Arsenal to follow just days later.

## Slot's goals headache

In the early weeks of the sea-

son, Arne Slot would probably have envisaged Mohamed Salah and Alexander Isak as two of his first-choice attackers.

Now the Liverpool boss has neither -- Salah is with Egypt at the Africa Cup of Nations, while Isak faces at least two months on the sidelines after fracturing his leg against Tottenham.

Slot has steadied the ship at Anfield after a shocking run of six defeats in seven Premier League matches that left Liverpool's title defence in tatters.

A run of three wins and two draws in five league games has lifted the reigning champions into fifth spot, but there will

be concerns over where the goals are going to come from ahead of the visit of bottom club Wolves.

Isak's absence will heap more pressure on the shoulders of top-scorer Hugo Ekitike.

The summer signing has netted eight times in the Premier League -- twice the tallies of Salah and Cody Gakpo.

## Fernandes blow for Man Utd

Bruno Fernandes has been a shining light and virtually ever-present during Manchester United's recent lean years.

But manager Ruben Amorim is going to have to plan for a period without his talisman after

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Villa's current 10-match winning streak across all competitions is their first such run in the top flight since 1914, over a century ago, marking a historic period of form for Unai Emery's team

the Portugal midfielder pulled up with an apparent hamstring injury in United's 2-1 defeat at Villa Park.

While the prognosis is unclear, Amorim has already ruled Fernandes out of United's clash against Newcastle at Old Trafford on Friday, among a list of absentees, with the Portuguese boss urging the rest of his squad to "step up" in the absence of his "impossible to replace" captain.

"It's massive," defender Diogo Dalot told Sky Sports. "We don't know how bad it is but for him to come off (in) the game, we know how tough he is."

Playmaker Fernandes has five goals and seven assists in the Premier League this season for inconsistent United, who are also without top-scorer Bryan Mbeumo, on Africa Cup of Nations duty with Cameroon.



Aston Villa's Belgian midfielder #24 Amadou Onana (L) fouls Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder #08 Bruno Fernandes (R)



Liverpool's Swedish striker #09 Alexander Isak (C) is helped off the field by medical staff

## Spurs extend domination of NBA-best Thunder

AFP | New York

Reigning champion Oklahoma City have the NBA's best record, but they cannot beat San Antonio, with superstar Victor Wembanyama coming off the bench Thursday to help lift the Spurs to an emphatic 117-102 victory.

De'Aaron Fox scored a game-high 29 points while Wembanyama had 19 points and 11 rebounds in 26 minutes and guard Stephon Castle added 19 points for the Spurs, who stretched their win streak to eight games.

"My first Christmas game," Fox said. "It feels great getting



San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama chases a loose ball

another victory."

After roaring to a 24-1 start, the Thunder have dropped four of their past six games -- three of those losses coming to the Spurs.

"When you play a team of this caliber, the details are much more magnified," Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said. "We did a phenomenal job as the game progressed adhering to those nuances."

Wembanyama wouldn't call it a statement win for the season but he says the Spurs have learned from beating the Thunder.

"I'm not really sure it's smart to think so far into the future," said Wembanyama.

"This is like a playoff series. We played them three times in 10 days so we learned a lot on the technical side."

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# Australia lead England by 46 after 20 wickets fall on crazy day at MCG

Green pitch and overcast skies trigger dramatic collapses on opening day

● Australia bowled out for 152

● England collapse for 110

● Tongue claims five-wicket haul

AFP | Melbourne

An astounding 20 wickets fell on a frantic day one of the fourth Ashes Test on Friday with Australia all out for 152 before storming back to dismiss England for 110 and leave the clash on a knife-edge.

England skipper Ben Stokes won a key toss on a green track and his quicks feasted after sending in the hosts under overcast skies in front of 94,199 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It was the biggest cricket crowd ever at the cavernous arena, exceeding the 93,013 who watched the 2015 World Cup final, and they witnessed the home side collapse with Josh Tongue grabbing 5-45.

But England fared even worse, slumping to 16-4 and never recovering, leaving Australia to face one over before stumps, which nightwatchman Scott Boland safely negotiated with Travis Head at the other end.

Australia were 4-0 at the close with Boland on four, 46 ahead, with Head yet to face a ball.

"I feel like anyone could have taken a 'five-fer' today," said Tongue, who became the first Englishman to take five wickets in an innings in a Test at the MCG since Dean Headley and Darren Gough in 1998.

"When I'm at my best I'm bowling at that fuller length.



England's Josh Tongue (L) celebrates the wicket of Australia's Steve Smith

Stokes has spoken to us quite a bit about it, going a touch fuller but hitting the pitch hard.

"If we get the ball in the same areas tomorrow we can get them three of four wickets down in the first hour."

Australia bowler Michael Neser, who took 4-45, was not making any predictions for the second innings after a day when the ball dominated the bat.

"We saw how tough it was when we batted. The ball was nipping around and we needed to bowl in the right areas," Neser said.

"You need to put pressure back on their bowlers. You need to find the perfect balance be-

## Scorecard

Australia 152 (Neser 35, Tongue 5-45, Atkinson 2-28) and 4 for 0 lead England 110 (Brook 41, Neser 4-45, Boland 3-30) by 46 runs

tween defence and attack."

Tongue said the match was far from over.

"No, not at all. They lead by 50," said Tongue.

"We will come back refreshed tomorrow morning. We have got to make sure to stick to what we did today and come out tomorrow."

## Duckett woes continue

Beleaguered England opener

Ben Duckett's week went from bad to worse, out for two just days after unverified video surfaced showing him drunk during a mid-series beach break.

It was another shocking dismissal for the 31-year-old, lobbing a simple catch to Neser at mid-on off the irrepressible Mitchell Starc.

Neser in the next over removed Jacob Bethell, playing in place of the under-performing Ollie Pope, when he edged to Alex Carey behind the stumps.

Zak Crawley was taken in the slips by Steve Smith off Starc four balls later, then Joe Root edged Neser to Carey to put England into freefall.

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I feel like anyone could have taken a 'five-fer' today. When I'm at my best I'm bowling at that fuller length. Stokes has spoken to us quite a bit about it, going a touch fuller but hitting the pitch hard. If we get the ball in the same areas tomorrow we can get them three of four wickets down in the first hour

JOSH TONGUE

Harry Brook decided attack was the best form of defence, smashing sixes off Starc and Neser, and with Stokes temporarily halted the carnage.

They put on 50 before Scott Boland trapped Brook lbw for 41.

Boland then bowled Jamie Smith for two and had Will Jacks caught behind, all within the space of 10 deliveries from the 36-year-old.

When Stokes edged Neser to Smith in the slips for 16 it was all but over.

Australia have already retained the Ashes after crushing eight-wicket victories in Perth and Brisbane and an 82-run win in Adelaide.

The tourists lost the famous urn in just 11 days of play with a drinking scandal by players during a beach break piling on the pressure.

## Crucial toss

They responded well after Stokes won a crucial toss.

Head drove consecutive boundaries off a wayward Brydon Carse, but he only lasted



The 94,199 crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was the largest ever for a cricket match at the venue, surpassing attendance at the 2015 World Cup final

22 balls, chopping on Atkinson for 12.

Jake Weatherald tickled down the leg side to wicketkeeper Smith on 10 in Tongue's first over.

Tongue then enticed an edge from Marnus Labuschagne on six that was well taken by Root at slip.

Steve Smith and Usman Khawaja began to stabilise the innings before Tongue struck again to bowl the Australia captain for nine.

Khawaja on 29 got the faintest of edges to Smith off Atkinson before Adelaide century-maker Alex Carey, on 20, flicked Stokes to Crawley who had just moved to leg gully.

Cameron Green, who has had a lean series, crunched back-to-back fours off Tongue. Neser, in his fourth Test but first red-ball affair, went one better, cracking three in succession off the same bowler.

But Green ran himself out for 17 going for a risky single then Starc hoisted Carse to a back-peddalling Stokes at mid-off before Tongue removed Neser and Boland.

## 'Personality' the key for Celtic boss Nancy when it comes to new signings

AFP | Glasgow

Celtic manager Wilfried Nancy insists personality will be a central consideration when he contemplates bringing fresh recruits to the Scottish champions.

The Frenchman took over at the Glasgow giants earlier this month and has been looking at his squad ahead of the January transfer window.

Celtic are currently second in the Scottish Premiership table, six points behind leaders Hearts but with a game in hand over the Edinburgh club.

"We have a lot of ability in terms of the way we play," said Nancy ahead of Saturday's match away to bottom-of-the-table Livingston.

"It is important that when you sign players, they need to have personality," the former Columbus Crew boss added.



Wilfried Nancy

"This (Celtic) is a big club. To play here is not always easy. It is so, so important to have players who can play here at a club like this."

Nancy added Celtic defender Kieran Tierney was an example of the type of player he admired.

"Everybody knows Kieran," he said. "I knew him before I came here. He's an important player for us. There are different kinds of personalities. Kieran is not a vocal leader but shows on the pitch.

## Arteta eager to avoid repeat of Rice red card against Brighton

AFP | London

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is keen to ensure there is no repeat of Declan Rice's controversial red card against Brighton when his Premier League leaders face Brighton at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

The Gunners are just two points ahead of second-placed Manchester City and Pep Guardiola's men could be one point clear at the top of the table if they see off Nottingham Forest at the City Ground before Arsenal face the Seagulls.

Last season, Rice was sent off after he received a second yellow card for delaying a restart.

Arsenal were leading 1-0 before Rice's controversial dismissal but ended up dropping two points in a 1-1 draw.

"I remember it very well," said Arteta as he reflected on the fixture. "I was very pissed off in the manner that we played with



Arsenal's players celebrate winning League Cup quarter-final match

10 men, so hopefully it is going to be very different next time.

"I think the rules are different now. We paid a big price for that rule. And hopefully that stays away and we continue to play with 11 players."

Rice's red card was one of six

Arsenal received in the Premier League last season but they've yet to have a player sent off so far this term.

Kai Havertz could return for Arsenal on Saturday, with the 26-year-old not having featured since the Gunners' first match of

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I remember it very well. I was very pissed off in the manner that we played with 10 men, so hopefully it is going to be very different next time. I think the rules are different now. We paid a big price for that rule. And hopefully that stays away and we continue to play with 11 players

MIKEL ARTETA

the season following surgery on his right knee.

Havertz returned to training last week and Arteta said he was close to making the squad for their League Cup penalty-shootout triumph over Crystal Palace on Tuesday.