

Final lead-up to F1 spectacle begins

Bahrain International Circuit launches today its 30-day countdown to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2023 | P12

WORLD 6 Suicide bomber breaches high security, kills 47 in Pakistan

Cate Blanchett thought about retiring from acting as last role was so demanding

8 CELEBS



BUSINESS 5 All-new 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is here!

Bahrain condolences with Saudi Monarch
 TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the passing of late His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Elah bin Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the deceased with mercy, rest his soul in vast paradise and provide the royal family with patience and fortitude.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Kingdom strongly condemns terrorist bombing in Pakistan
 TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned the terrorist blast inside a mosque in Peshawar in Northwest Pakistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the terrorist act which left dozens of casualties among innocent civilians, extending condolences to the Government people of Pakistan and to the victims' families and wished the injured speedy recovery.

The ministry reiterated Bahrain's solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in combating terrorist, rejecting any targeting of places of worship and innocent people.

Royal condolences
 TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of condolences to Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi over the victims of the terrorist bombing inside a mosque in Peshawar in Northwestern Pakistan. HM the King and HRH Prince Salman extended condolences to President Alvi, the victims' families and the people of Pakistan.

'Work together for benefit of citizens'



HM King directs government to adopt initiatives to sustain Bahrain economic stability and progress in all fields

The government is committed to undertaking its national tasks and responsibilities through its programmes for the next four years

HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

economic stability and progress in all fields, and provide quality opportunities for the Bahraini citizens.

HM the King stressed that the Bahraini citizens should always remain the main pillars of the development and nation-building processes, as well as all government programmes.

He affirmed that the government is committed to undertaking its national tasks and re-

sponsibilities through its programmes for the next four years, expressing great confidence in the citizens to carry out their national duties and role in the development to the fullest.

His Majesty was speaking as he chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

HM King Hamad lauded the Kingdom's wide-ranging achievements, and praised the steadily developing performance of the government, commending the role played by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in leading the government's work towards more development, ensuring continuous excellence and perfect performance.

His Majesty also directed the government to continue adopting initiatives that would raise the level of food security in the Kingdom and support national food production.

Tackling executive-legislature cooperation, HM the King described it as the cornerstone of the development and modernisation the Kingdom is currently witnessing in all fields.

He stressed that the achievements of the two branches and their efforts are a catalyst for more progress.

HM King Hamad lauded the

level of the ongoing constructive cooperation and fruitful coordination between the two branches to achieve the objectives of the comprehensive development process.

He also expressed his pride in the role played by the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and its brave personnel who always showcase the highest values of loyalty and bravery in carrying out the patriotic tasks entrusted to them.

HM the King affirmed that the BDF constitutes the nation's preventive shield and solid bulwark, extending sincere congratulations to the BDF commanders, officers and soldiers on the occasion of the BDF's 55th anniversary, as well as thanks and appreciation to them for the roles they play with efficiency, professionalism and unwavering readiness to defend the homeland.

Tackling health issues, HM the King said that the King Hamad American Mission Hospital, inaugurated recently in A'ali, will improve the health and treatment services in the kingdom, noting that it reflects the successful long-stranding partnership between Bahrain and the US.

He also commended the role played by the American Mission Hospital over the past 120 years, being among the first hospitals in the region.

(Continued on Page 2)

● His Majesty commends HRH Prince Salman for Kingdom wide-ranging achievements

● Bahrainis remain main pillars of development and nation-building

● Royal call to raise level of food security and support national food production

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa gave directives to the government to adopt initiatives that would sustain the Kingdom's



HM the King chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting, attended by HRH Prince Salman

For advancing societies

Italian media hails Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Rome

Italian newspapers and media websites have lauded the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the approach it adopts to ensure a healthy life that would advance societies.

They expressed admiration for the Bahraini model of religious freedom and peaceful co-existence, which brings together the hearts of all components of society.

They stressed that the Declaration includes noble messages written by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, who presents a righteous and reliable approach for the advancement

of societies, as well as a unique and unparalleled Bahraini model.

"Famiglia Cristiana" newspaper indicated that during his historic visit, His Holiness Pope Frances, the Pope of the Vatican, had described the kingdom as a "meeting place of peoples' civilisations", and praised the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a global document for freedom of religion and peaceful co-existence.

"Dialogue Interreligious" newspaper also asserted that the existence of different religions and their affiliates and the preservation of various places of worship in the kingdom over

the years are clear evidence of the application of international standards in freedom of religion and peaceful co-existence, which is one of the basics of human rights.

"Formich" newspaper also focused on the Declaration, noting that it confirms that the Kingdom has taken advanced steps to place itself on the international map and that it currently leads a global model of peaceful co-existence.

Italian news agency (ANSA) affirmed that the inauguration of the Declaration of Kingdom of Bahrain in Europe, starting in the Italian city of Rome, reflects important indications that



strengthen the strong relations between the Kingdom and Italy. SIR (Servizio Informazione Religiosa) confirmed on its e-paper that the Declaration of Kingdom of Bahrain reinforces

Bahrain's awareness of the importance of promoting religious freedom and peaceful co-existence as a way of life over many years to achieve peace and security for all segments of society.

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Royal vision and directives

HRH Prince Salman directs ministries and government departments to implement 'modernisation' and improve performance efficiency

● **HM King Hamad stresses importance of resolving Bahrain and Qatar issues**

(Continuation from Page 1)

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, instructed the ministries and government departments to implement His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's royal vision and directives to ensure the continuity of the development and modernisation in various fields and improve performance efficiency.

HRH Prince Salman attended yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting, chaired by HM the King. On behalf of the government, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister extended his deepest thanks and gratitude to HM King Hamad for appreciating the role the government plays in driving the Kingdom's comprehensive development process.

His Royal Highness affirmed that the royal appreciation would stimulate everyone in the government to double their efforts and work as one team so that the government performance will always achieve the lofty royal visions.

Peace and harmony

His Majesty emphasised that Bahrain is a country of peace and harmony, as it is characterised by its diverse social mixture, which enhances its strength and status among the nations.

He affirmed that the kingdom will maintain its approach based on consolidating the values of tolerance and openness, in a way that would enhance rapprochement among peoples and cultures and spread peace and harmony across the world.

While reviewing regional and international issues, HM King Hamad praised the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in various fields, stressing the Kingdom's support for everything aimed at strengthening cooperation among GCC states and achieving the interests of their peoples.

He also highlighted the importance of further developing cooperation and coordination



HM the King arrives for the weekly Cabinet meeting

among the GCC states at all levels to serve common interests and achieve the forecast goals.

HM the King also underlined the importance of commitment to implementing all the resolutions of the GCC Supreme Council and the Al-Ula Summit

Declaration, in addition to carrying on coordinating the stances of the GCC countries at various international gatherings.

Common aspirations

HM King Hamad also stressed the importance of resolving all

outstanding issues and matters between Bahrain and Qatar to achieve the common aspirations of their citizens, preserve the cohesion of the GCC, and safeguard the region's security and stability.

HM the King also renewed the

Kingdom's firm stance in support of the Palestinian cause, and backing of all endeavours aimed at achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region, in a way that achieves well-being, stability and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

BTEA promotes Bahrain as a unique wedding destination



Traditional Indian wedding

Zahra Ayaz

TDT | Manana

Within the scope of the tourism initiative 'Your Joy in Bahrain,' the Kingdom is about to welcome 14 weddings in the first quarter of this year.

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) hosted more than 54 weddings between 2017 and 2022, with 20,000 international guests and an average of 370 attendees per wedding.

The Kingdom has witnessed two weddings in 2017, 10 in 2018, 13 in 2019, two in 2020, six in 2021, and 21 in 2022.

BTEA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nasser Qaedi, confirmed that the authority has increased its efforts to bring in more weddings from different continents, helping to revive 'wedding tourism' in 2023 and building on the successes prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that the upcoming weddings are from India, Pakistan, China, Australia, the US, the UK, Canada, the UAE, Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, and others.

Dr Qaedi emphasised that the BTEA approach includes hosting international wedding planners and attracting exotic weddings, growing the network of wedding specialists, talking about the expansion ambitions in selected areas, and collaborating with others in other countries.

He highlighted the Kingdom's role in providing fantastical scenery and exceptional locations, including islands, beaches, the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), and heritage-based locations to host such exotic weddings. This makes Bahrain a popular location for planning with well-known, prestigious hotel chains that are appropriate for all wedding parties and pre-wedding events.

BTEA Advisor Dr Ali Hasan Folland pointed out that the authority managed in such a short period of time to turn the idea of promoting Bahrain as a leading tourist destination for weddings and social occasions



The authority has increased its efforts to bring in more weddings from different continents, helping to revive 'wedding tourism' in 2023 and building on the successes prior to the Covid-19 pandemic

DR NASSER QAEDI, BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITION AUTHORITY (BTEA) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

into a tremendous trademark in this regard on the regional map by targeting international and GCC markets.

"These efforts are part of BTEA endeavours to provide the necessary support to easily organise weddings in the Kingdom, as well as playing a pivotal role in planning and collaborating with the interested parties, logistic services, selected locations, and connecting suppliers and specialised," he said.



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Rotary clubs members tour Danat laboratory



Jamsheer gives a presentation to the visiting group

TDI | Manama

Members of Bahrain's Rotary clubs, including Rotary Manama and Rotary Adliya, have visited the Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT).

The visit is part of the institute's efforts to boost community support for its national strategy to revive the pearl sector and to inform the public about its services and programs.

The Institute's CEO Noora Jamsheer gave a presentation to the visiting group on the qualitative advancements made by Danat in its work and services, including jewellery inspection services, interna-

tional partnerships, and training initiatives.

"The institute, founded in 2017, has always been working to forge more fruitful alliances with its counterparts in the region and around the world and to maintain the highest professional standards, scientific knowledge, and industry standards," she said.

"The institute enhances confidence in the pearl trade in Bahrain and around the world."

Visitors toured Danat laboratory, the world's most prestigious laboratory of its kind, and learnt about the processes for testing and documenting pearls and precious jewellery using cutting-edge technology.

Horse riding reflects Bahrain's strong tradition, rich heritage

More Bahraini women are taking riding lessons and competing in various events

Zahra Ayaz

TDI | Manama

As young as 8 years old, Bahrainis continue their equestrian tradition as horseback riding lessons are reasonably priced in the Kingdom.

GCC visitors, as well as Indians and Filipinos, have been flocking to the areas in greater numbers to ride horses while taking in the natural beauty of the beaches.

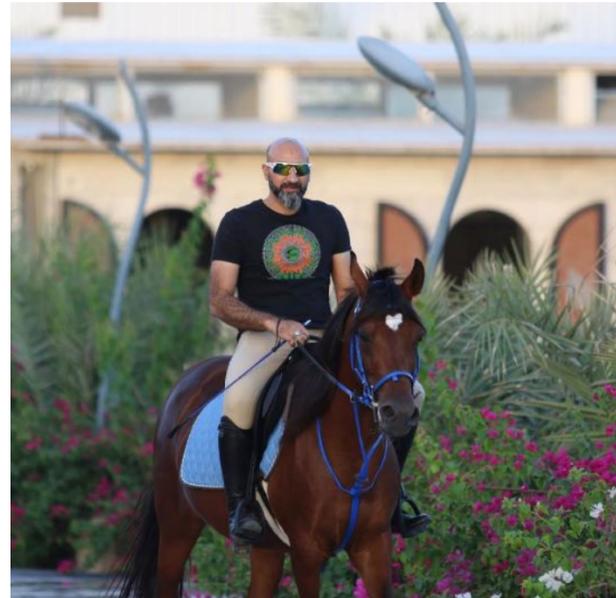
These kinds of initiatives are essential to increase the tourism sector's revenue, which is the leading non-oil producing revenue stream.

A unique collection of purebred Arabian horses has been preserved on this island for over 200 years, according to Bahrain Turf Club.

The Daily Tribune contacted expert trainers to find out if horseback riding was still one of the most popular sports in the Kingdom, and they believe everyone, especially the locals, had at least attempted horseback riding once.

Besides, the key distinction they made was that it was significantly less expensive than Europe and the UK; for instance, a 30-minute lesson in the Kingdom typically costs BD14, but a similar lesson in the UK costs 40 pounds.

The demand for this sport is



Osama Al Aali

dependent on the time of year, Osama Al Aali, a partner at the Aali Equestrian Club and Horse Riding School, told The Daily Tribune. There aren't many individuals who wish to learn or practise riding in the summer, but in the winter there is a large crowd.

"In our equestrian club, we do provide some activities for children below 8 years old once a month to encourage them. I believe there is no age restriction in this sport. Anyone can learn how to ride a horse, and lately we have seen that more

women than men are coming to ride. In a group of 10, there are three men and seven women," he said.

"I also believe that horseback riding is ingrained in Bahraini culture. People have been practising it since ancient times, and there are two different types of riders: those who enjoy the activity from the start and stick with it over time, trying to get better and learn the fundamentals before entering races and competitions. Others choose to try horseback riding just once to gain experience.



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OSAMA AL AALI, A PARTNER AT THE AALI EQUESTRIAN CLUB AND HORSE RIDING SCHOOL

"People are welcome to bring their own horses as well. We demonstrate horse riding lessons, horse auctions, horse liveries, and Arabian horse breeders and suppliers."

Earlier, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa stated that it's significant to support the stables of the locals and pave the way for an ideal environment for them as well as to encourage them to continue their efforts towards developing the equestrian sport and breed horses.

COURT STORY

Court finds private company employee not guilty of embezzling BD15,000

TDI | Manama

The Minor Criminal Court acquitted a private company employee accused by the owner of embezzling BD15,000, given that he was in charge of receiving money from clients.

The court found the witness statements and the accusation levelled against the defendant dubious.

According to the defendant's lawyer, the plaintiff's company accused her client of seizing the money received from clients instead of depositing it in the company's account.

He seized the company's bank card, balances and financial books, which amounted to BD15,000. The owner backed his claim with witnesses of the company's employees.

The defendant's lawyer contested the claim, noting that the defendant and the company owner had previous dis-

putes prior to this incident.

The defendant had filed a labour case requesting his labour dues, and a ruling was issued in his favour obligating the plaintiff to pay the defendant BD1,653,333 for late wages. This prompted the owner to retaliate by submitting a malicious claim.

The lawyer stressed her defendant's denial of the charge, indicating that he worked in the company for six months as supervisor with no connection to the financial accounts.

For six months he failed to receive his salary of BD400 and upon requesting it he was given notice of dismissal from the company.

She also pointed out the contradictions of the witness statements. The court ruled in the defendant's favour given the reasonable margin of doubt and lack of definitive proof of his guilt.

Stage set for Khalid bin Hamad AI competition



Organisers speak about preparations for the event (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)

Julia Cassano

TDI | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Vice President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) and Chairman of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), has helped the Su-

preme Organizing Committee prepare for the fourth edition of the Khalid bin Hamad Innovation and Artificial Intelligence Competition.

Bahrain Technical College (Bahrain Polytechnic) will organise the competition in cooperation with Microsoft.

HH Shaikh Khalid said that Bahrain Polytechnic's assistance

in organising the competition affirms the importance of education, staying up to date with technical developments, and capacity building.

Students from Bahrain and other GCC countries will showcase their developments and innovations at the competition to progress education in the region.



Dr Jassim Haji

Dr Jassim Haji, President International Group of Artificial Intelligence, told The Daily Tribune: "Artificial Intelligence in Sports Summit is a platform that aims to bring together key stakeholders including sports clubs, government entities, and the private sector. Additionally, it aims for AI experts to exchange knowledge and expertise, as well as offer advanced AI/ML opportunities for development and growth in the ever-promising sports sector."

BD3.5m in procurement requests discussed

TDI | Manama

Procurement requests by government entities amounting to BD3.5 million were discussed at the 59th Information and Communication Technology Governance Committee video-conference meeting.

It was chaired by Mohamed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA).

The committee covered a range of topics, including a project of Renewable Energy Cer-

tificate Platform, which aims to facilitate the procedure of issuing certificates utilising (Blockchain) technology to enhance protection and transparency of certificates circulating through the platform.

This comes within the framework of the National Renewable Energy Plan, which aims to make the Kingdom of Bahrain a center of excellence for sustainable energy and encourage the production of renewable energy, which contributes to reducing associated carbon emissions.



Participants in the online discussion

The committee highlighted IGA's Technology Infrastructure Development Project, through which modern technologies

will be adopted to build Virtual cloud to power government systems and applications based on cloud computing services.

Praise for strong Bahrain-Egypt ties

TDI | Manama

First Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives MP Abdunabi Salman Ahmed has praised solid relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Egypt.

He stressed strong fraternal relations between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Egyptian President Abdel-fattah Al Sisi.

MP Ahmed was speaking as he received in his office yesterday Egyptian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Yasser Mohammed Shaban. They discussed ways of boosting bilateral cooperation and coordination mainly in the parliamentary field.

The First Deputy Speaker pointed out the unified vision of both countries regarding regional issues.

He stressed common keenness to develop pan-Arab work, preserve security, stability, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Arab countries and ensure a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

Bahrain cleaning companies still facing post-pandemic 'hardship'

Julia Cassano

TDT | Manma

Although the economy is beginning to recover, many cleaning companies report sharp declines in profit margins compared to the days before the pandemic, which leaves businesses worried for the future.

The Daily Tribune went out to speak to various cleaning companies in the Kingdom, and they reported that although they struggled during the pandemic, efforts from the government are the main factor in businesses being able to survive during and after the global health crisis.

Numerous companies said that pre-pandemic businesses were booming in the current market; however, after the pandemic hit, they claimed sharp losses in business and profit margins.

Nazir Hamza Syed, managing director of Aaqil Cleaning & Maintenance CO. W.L.L., told The Daily Tribune: "Fundamentally, COVID-19 was a global disaster for many companies in the Kingdom, but substantial efforts by the government eased stress on the cleaning sector which helped us tremendously."

"The support offered by Tamkeen helped us survive through the pandemic as we were able to pay employee salaries and other expenses."

Majed Alalawi, general manager of Dustbusters Cleaning Company, shared similar thoughts claiming that: "All companies were affected by the



pandemic; however, the larger companies suffered more compared to SMEs, and our residential sector had taken a massive hit during the pandemic."

He noted that many factors changed in the course of the pandemic, including safety, hygiene, agreements, and COVID preparations.

The market was stabilising pre-pandemic, but following the pandemic, many businesses suffered immense losses, which fundamentally affected every-

one. "Profit margins and market share cannot compare to pre-pandemic margins," Alalawi said.

He thanked the government, saying: "Although it will take some time for the market to fully recover after the pandemic, the government provided tremendous efforts and assistance through Tamkeen to support private sector companies, which aided us greatly and allowed us to survive through stressful times. Efforts by the government kept us afloat during the pandemic, such as subsidising companies' parts of our expenses, including wages and salaries which kept numerous people



Fundamentally, COVID-19 was a global disaster for many companies in the Kingdom, but substantial efforts by the government eased stress on the cleaning sector which helped us tremendously

NAZIR HAMZA SYED, AAQIL CLEANING & MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L. MANAGING DIRECTOR



Efforts by the government kept us afloat during the pandemic, such as subsidising companies' parts of our expenses, including wages and salaries which kept numerous people employed

MAJED ALALAWI, DUSTBUSTERS CLEANING COMPANY GENERAL MANAGER

employed."

Essentially, efforts by the government allowed companies to stay in the market, who may have otherwise not survived through the massive loss.

Despite the tremendous efforts by the government, companies not only faced struggles through the pandemic; however, they continue to experience lessened numbers of profit margins post-pandemic.

Nazir confirms to The Daily Tribune that unfortunately, many cleaning companies are not reaching expectations and targets post-pandemic, which impacts companies in the cleaning sector greatly.

"We are not obtaining enough

inquiries, and this is due to many demands of low-cost cleaning services, instead of clients desiring higher-quality services," Nazir said.

"For cleaning companies like us, we take great pride in giving our customers high-quality services and cleaning products, and unfortunately, we are experiencing higher expenses when buying the cleaning materials, even though our profits have decreased post-pandemic."

He claims that with higher VAT rates, increased costs of products, and inflation, many companies are concerned regarding the future, and how such factors can worsen future profit margins.

BRCS takes part in regional relief work meeting



Dr Al Hajri and Dr Al Eid represent the BRCS at the event

Beirut

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has participated in the "Leaders of the Red Cross and Crescent Societies in MENA region" meeting in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

The meeting discussed coordinating efforts to address the humanitarian challenges that weigh heavily on the region and the resulting increase in the needs for providing relief and humanitarian aid.

The BRCS was represented by its board members Dr Mariam Al Hajri and Dr Kawthar Al Eid.

The participation is with-in BRCS keenness to concert efforts, consultation, coordination and the adoption of proactive plans by expanding the scope of efforts to meet humanitarian necessities.

It is also part of its efforts to coordinate humanitarian mobility towards adopting strategies to ensure rapid response to emergencies, building local, regional and international partnerships and teamwork to provide rapid relief support.

The meeting discussed coordinating efforts to address the humanitarian challenges that weigh heavily on the region.

Dr Al Hajri stressed the importance of developing policies, strategies, legislation and regulations based on planning and coordination with partners, in addition to monitoring and evaluation to enhance the resilience of the systems in the face of exceptional health conditions.

The national societies made presentations and discussed the topics of the consultative meeting, including the impact of crises in many regions of the Middle East, such as fuel, water and food shortages, epidemics, and environmental and climate issues.



شركة دلمون للدواجن
Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C

TENDER INVITATION

Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C. invites specialized companies to submit their proposal for the following:

Tender Ref.	Tender Title	Tender Document Fee	Initial Bond Fee
ADM/02/2023	Providing Medical Insurance Scheme for all staff in Delmon poultry company B.S.C.	BD 100 (Nonrefundable)	1% of Offer Value
Tender Publish Date		Jan 31, 2023	
Last date for purchasing tender documents		Feb 09, 2023	
Tender Closing Date		Feb 15, 2023	
Bids opening Date		Feb 16, 2023	

Brief Description of project:

Delmon poultry company B.S.C project is planned to be Providing Medical Insurance Scheme for Delmon Poultry company Employees The Contract date will be started from 15th March 2023 Total number of staff including dependents (spouse and children) is 276.

Guidelines for submission of bids:

- Collect the tender documentation from the Purchasing Department in the Delmon's Poultry Company Head office located in Hamala (Building 701 – Road 101 – Block 1012 (starting from **Tuesday 31. Jan. 2023** and till **Thursday 09. Feb. 2023, (during office hours 7am till 1pm)**)
- The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified cheque, Bank Guarantee (or as specified in the tender documents)
- Documents to be enclosed with the bids:
 - A copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, and copies of any other documents specified in the tender.
 - A copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
 - All the documents submitted with the tender should be stamped with the company's official seal.
 - Proposed envelopes (With technical and commercial offers + required documents) must be sealed and have the title of the tender, they must be addressed to the Head of Purchasing Department and deposited in the tender box in the same address mentioned above.
 - This Tender Invitation is considered supplementary to the tender documents. In case of any discrepancy between the Invitation and the tender document, the tender document prevails.
- For more details please contact Tel: +973 17 608 260 or +973 17 608 282 (ext. 291)

Cooperation agreement



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) signed a cooperation agreement with the International School of Choueifat, in the field of charitable and humanitarian work. The agreement stipulated on cooperation in the field of charitable and humanitarian work, in addition to implementing a package of charitable and humanitarian projects, initiatives and activities, allocating their proceeds to the foundation's employees, and supporting its projects, initiatives and activities on various occasions.

Inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and the Ministry of Interior continue joint efforts to intensify inspection campaigns against illegal practices in the Labour Market, in order to preserve a competitive, fair and stable labour market. LMRA conducted three joint inspection campaigns, the first was in the Northern Governorate in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate's respective Police Directorate. LMRA also conducted a joint campaign in the Muharraq Governorate in coordination with the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence of the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing. The other campaign was undertaken in the Capital Governorate conducted by the LMRA Enforcement sector. The campaigns resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action.

ADX and BHB announce joining of Muscat Stock Exchange to Tabadul

TDI | Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) and Bahrain Bourse (BHB) announced yesterday that Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has joined the "Tabadul" platform, the region's first digital exchange hub, established on the mutual market access model that provides a trading network between stock exchanges regionally. The MSX-listed securities, along with those of ADX and BHB, are now available for digital trading.

The announcement came during a bell-ringing ceremony, organised by the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange at its headquarters, in the presence of Saeed



Officials during a group photo opportunity following deal signing

Hamad Al Dhaheri ADX's Managing Director and CEO, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa CEO of Bahrain Bourse Haitham

Salim Al Salmi CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange, and Dr Maryam Buti Al Suwaidi, CEO of the UAE Securities and Commodities Au-

thority (SCA).

In September 2022, ADX and MSX signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

to strengthen bilateral collaboration in areas related to the exchange of expertise, information, and advisory services, as well as training, facilitating the entry of broker members, developing systems, and enhancing integration. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the visit of the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Sultanate of Oman.

Saeed Hamad Al Dhaheri, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ADX said: "We look forward to working closely with our partners at BHB and MSX to expand investment tools and to add additional financial markets under the

Tabadul platform, allowing the region's capital markets to grow and complement each other's financial ecosystems."

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse commented: "We look forward to onboarding other markets on Tabadul to further develop the platform and support sustained growth of markets."

Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange, commented on this saying, "Muscat Stock Exchange's accession to the Tabadul platform is a major step in our ambitious strategy to contribute to the market liquidity and provide varied options for investors."

All-new 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is here!

The all-new model features a new engine, striking design and advanced tech



The All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL, which is the fourth generation SUV model to sport the brand's latest design language and insignia, following the Nissan Patrol, Pathfinder, and KICKS, is available for booking at Nissan Showroom, Sitra.

TDI | Manama

As part of its strategy to solidify its SUV heritage in the kingdom, Nissan Bahrain launched the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL. Developed as a Premium Urban Crossover, the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL furthers the brand's commitment to introduce innovative mobility solutions, and offers customers class-leading versatility, elevated exterior and interior designs, advanced safety, and improved levels of capability.

Held yesterday at Nissan Showroom, the launch event began with an official unveiling of the all-new X-TRAIL hosted by Nissan Bahrain, attended by Farouk Almoayyed, Chairman of Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons, Board of Directors of Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons, CEO Alok Gupta, media and social elites from Bahrain embarked on an adventure-filled journey and made pitstops along a thrilling route to discover more about the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL. Reflecting the Nissan SUV's

role to Defy Ordinary, the key themes echoed across the event were eXpand, eXpress, eXplore, and eXhale, pushing guests to eXist beyond the everyday. A segment-leader on several fronts, the all-new model features the latest Nissan Intelligent Mobility technologies, including ProPILOT Assist for the very first time on the X-TRAIL line-up, and offers heightened connectivity with up to a collective 35.4-inches of cabin screens.

Ahmed Dailami, General Manager, Nissan Bahrain, said: "For over twenty years, the X-TRAIL has been an integral part of our SUV line-up in the region and has continually catered to the needs of families and adventure enthusiasts across the Kingdom. Brought about by a deep understanding of our customers, the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL, which is one of our most technologically advanced SUVs to date, addresses customer desires in the rapidly growing mid-size SUV segment and is in line with our global Nissan NEXT trans-

formation plan."

The latest addition to Nissan's impressive SUV lineup, the All-New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL features a striking exterior design, with distinctive Nissan elements including a signature V-motion grille and floating roof design. Accentuating the X-TRAIL's appeal to families are its bigger-opening rear door apertures, that open up to 85 degrees for easier rear access and egress. The interior receive a premium upgrade, underlined by Nappa leather-accented seating with 3D diamond quilting available on the top-of-the-range SL grade.

The 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is powered by an all-new 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine that, compared to its predecessor, raises power output by 12hp to 181hp, and boosts torque by 11Nm to 244Nm, for more effortless acceleration and confident overtaking. Power is pushed through an advanced Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with paddle-shift controls on the steering wheel for manual over-ride of the new

shift-by-wire transmission interface.

New 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is equipped with Intelligent 4x4 system with direct coupling that reacts faster than ever before, allowing for the seamless transfer of power between axles for ultimate stability and traction. A twist-dial Drive Mode Selector provides five driving modes to choose from: Off-Road, Snow, Auto, Eco and Sports, with the added benefit of Hill Descent Control for carefully modulated downhill off-road driving.

Nissan Intelligent Mobility suite of active safety features is provided with greater capability, making it the safest X-TRAIL ever, with Nissan Safety Shield 360 that includes Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning and High Beam Assist. Supporting this is the first-ever introduction of Nissan's semi-autonomous ProPILOT Assist on X-TRAIL, which can accelerate, brake, and cruise at a set speed within a single lane.

Al Salam Bank launches 2023 "Danat Savings" Scheme

TDI | Manama

Al Salam Bank announced the launch of its new "Danat Savings" scheme offering cash prizes hailed among one of the largest in the Kingdom, marking the merger of Danat and Thimaar saving schemes.

Danat Savings Scheme stands out in 2023 for its impressive, year-round lineup of awards and grand prizes, the biggest being a remarkable BHD 1,000,000 prize earmarked to be one of the largest in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The new scheme also offers a luxurious seaside villa at Diyar Al Muharraq's Al Naseem project and a monthly salary amounting to BHD 1,000 for one year. Among the other awards presented through Danat include BHD 50,000 cash prizes. Al Salam Bank is committed to continuously improving Danat Savings to elevate their clients' banking experience and improve their lives by offering life-changing rewards for every BHD 50 they invest in their Danat account.

This year's edition of Danat will enrich the lives of more than 120 winners every month. It will also offer exclusive prizes to clients who have never won awards through the "Never a Winner" category. As part of their youth-tai-



Muhammad Buhijji

lored scheme, the Bank also provides exclusive rewards to clients between 10 to 17 years of age in exchange for saving amounts starting from BHD 5 only. The new scheme also debuts "Danat Plus," tailored to reward loyal clients with frequent and long-term savings in their accounts, offering them more chances to win.

Muhammad Buhijji - Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank said: "We are confident that this year's scheme will position Al Salam Bank at the forefront of the Kingdom's banking sector, given the merger of Danat and Thimaar savings schemes, which now offer more valuable prizes, and the introduction of "Danat Plus," which recognizes clients with longstanding savings."

Zain Bahrain launches interactive 3D Smart Service

TDI | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications innovator in the Kingdom, announced the launch of an innovative 3D smart service in its eShop to support customers with the best online shopping experience when purchasing a device.

The new self-optimizing 3D interactive shopping service will help users to visualize devices as if they were holding them by presenting high-definition, true-to-life 3D models. The service enables users to easily view devices including smartphones, tablets, and smart watches from any angle in 3D; and to zoom-in for more details.

Ammar Al Ketbi, Zain Bahrain Chief Consumer Marketing & Sales Officer, commented, "Customers are seeking improved online shopping



Ammar Al Ketbi

experiences. With Zain Bahrain's 3D device visualization service, customers can enjoy a unique, innovative, and enhanced 3D shopping experience."

Customers can now enjoy the new 3D smart visualization service by visiting Zain Bahrain's E-shop at <https://eshop.bh.zain.com>



News in brief

◆ **Indonesian police** said yesterday a local trader of industrial-grade chemicals sold them as pharmaceutical-grade, leading to their use in medicated syrups that authorities suspect may have caused deaths of more than 200 children across the country. Authorities have said two ingredients, ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG), found in some syrup-based paracetamol medications are linked to acute kidney injury, which many of the children suffered. The two ingredients are used in antifreeze, brake fluids and other industrial applications, but also as a cheaper alternative in some pharmaceutical products to glycerine, which is a solvent or thickening agent in many cough syrups. They can be toxic and can lead to acute kidney injury. Pipit Rismanto, a senior police official, told reporters authorities have found that CV Samudera Chemical sold "industrial-grade" EG and DEG as pharmaceutical-grade propylene glycol manufactured by Dow Chemical Thailand and supplied them to distributors of local drug-makers. Police have arrested and charged officials at Samudera and its distributor CV Anugrah Perdana Gemilang. More suspects may be named as the investigation continues, Pipit said.



Indonesia finds local trader forged ingredient label in probe of cough syrup deaths

◆ **Iran summoned** Ukraine's charge d'affaires in Tehran on Monday over his country's comments on a drone strike on a military factory in the central Iranian province of Isfahan, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. "Explosive night in Iran," Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted on Sunday. "Did warn you."

◆ **Former UK prime minister** Boris Johnson has claimed President Vladimir Putin threatened to target him with a missile attack before ordering Russian forces into Ukraine. The apparent threat -- denied by the Kremlin -- came in a telephone call just ahead of the February 24 invasion, according to a BBC documentary to be broadcast on Monday. "He sort of threatened me at one point and said, 'Boris, I don't want to hurt you, but with a missile, it would only take a minute', or something like that," Johnson quoted Putin as saying. The Kremlin on Monday, however, dismissed the accusation as a "lie." "What Mr Johnson said is not true. More precisely it's a lie," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "Moreover, this is either a conscious lie -- then you need to ask Mr Johnson for what purpose he chose this version of events -- or it was unintentional and in fact he didn't understand what President Putin was talking to him about."



Boris Johnson says Putin threatened to target him with missile attack

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

UAE museum unveils Torah scroll that survived the Holocaust



Visitors attend an event commemorating the Holocaust

Reuters | Dubai

Czech scrolls saved from the Holocaust and later sent to London. "I lived in the Arab world when I was young, and the term Holocaust does not exist ... So this is a huge step," said Edwin Shuker, an Iraqi-Jewish businessman and vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who facilitated the loan. The Emirati embassy in Washington, in a Twitter post earlier this month, said the UAE would include Holocaust education at schools, the first country in the region to do so. "It's important to remember what happened. It's important to make sure that it will never happen again. And it's important to stand here together, all of us, Israelis, Emiratis and others in order to say: Not anymore," Israeli ambassador to the UAE, Amir Hayek, told Reuters on the sidelines of the museum event.

Suicide bomber breaches high security, kills 47 in Pakistan

- Bomber breached highly fortified Red Zone compound
- Up to 400 worshippers in prayer when bomber blew up
- Majority of the dead were police officials
- No immediate claim of responsibility for attack

Reuters | Peshawar, Pakistan

A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a crowded mosque in a highly fortified security compound in Pakistan yesterday, killing 47 people, the latest attack by resurgent Islamist militants targeting police in the unstable country.

Police said the attacker appeared to have passed through several barricades manned by security forces to get into the "Red Zone" compound that houses police and counter-terrorism offices in the volatile northwestern city of Peshawar.

"It was a suicide bombing," Peshawar Police Chief Ijaz Khan told Reuters. At least 47 people were killed and 176 wounded, he said, many of them critically.

It came a day before an International Monetary Fund team mission to Islamabad to initiate talks on unlocking funding for the South Asian economy hit by a balance of payment crisis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack. Officials said the bomber detonated his load at the moment hundreds of people lined up to say their prayers.

"We have found traces of explosives," Khan told reporters,



A police officer guides an ambulance after a suicide blast in a mosque, at police line area in Peshawar, Pakistan. Inset, Men move injured victims



Rescue workers use a crane to lift a portion of a collapsed roof



People and rescue workers remove the rubble



Rescue workers drill a portion of a collapsed roof to look for survivors



People and rescue workers lift a damaged portion

adding that a security lapse had clearly occurred as the bomber had slipped through the most secured area of the compound.

An inquiry was under way into how the attacker breached such an elite security cordon and whether there was any inside help.

Khan said the mosque hall was packed with up to 400 worshippers, and that most of the dead

were police officers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, the worst in Peshawar since March 2022 when an Islamic State suicide bombing killed at least 58 people in a Shi'ite Muslim mosque during Friday prayers.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told Geo TV that the bomber was standing in the first row of worshippers.

"As the prayer leader said 'Allah is the greatest', there was a big bang," Mushtaq Khan, a policeman with a head wound, told reporters from his hospital bed.

"We couldn't figure out what happened as the bang was deafening. It threw me out of the veranda. The walls and roof fell on me. Thanks to God, he saved me."

The explosion brought down the upper storey of the mosque, trapping dozens of worshippers in the rubble. Live TV footage showed rescuers cutting through the collapsed rooftop to make their way down and tend to victims caught in the wreckage.

"We can't say how many are still under it," said provincial governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

"The sheer scale of the human tragedy is unimaginable," Sharif said. "This is no less than an attack on Pakistan. The nation is overwhelmed by a deep sense of grief. I have no doubt terrorism is our foremost national security challenge."

Witnesses described chaotic scenes as the police and the rescuers scrambled to rush the wounded to hospitals.

Sharif, who appealed to employees of his party to donate blood at the hospitals, said anyone targeting Muslims during prayer had nothing to do with Islam.

"The US mission in Pakistan expressed deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims of the horrific attack," Washington's embassy said a statement.

Blinken reaffirms two-state solution ahead of Israeli-Palestinian visit

Reuters | Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he would urge Israelis and Palestinians to calm tensions as he visits during the worst violence in years, and reaffirmed a long-stalled peace vision as the "only path" forward.

In new bloodshed, Palestinian officials said Israeli troops killed a 26-year-old man at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank. The army said troops opened fire on the man's car after he rammed into one of them and attempted to flee an inspection.

Israel is on high alert after a Palestinian opened fire in a street outside a synagogue on Friday, killing seven people in the worst such attack in the Jerusalem area for over a decade. That followed an Israeli raid on the West Bank town of Jenin on Thursday in which 10 Palestinians, mostly gunmen, were killed.

"There is no question that this is a very difficult moment," Blinken told reporters in Cairo



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken waves as he boards his plane upon departure from Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport, in Tel Aviv, Israel

before departing for Tel Aviv. "We have seen, over many months, rising violence that is affecting so many."

In meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Blinken said, "we will be ... encouraging the parties to take steps to calm things down, to de-escalate tensions."

The last round of US-sponsored talks on founding a Palestinian state alongside Israel stalled in 2014.

China's Sichuan frees unmarried people to legally have children

Reuters | Beijing

Health authorities in China's southwestern province of Sichuan will allow unmarried individuals to raise a family and enjoy benefits reserved for married couples, in the latest effort to bolster a falling birth rate.

The government dictates that only married women are legally allowed to give birth, but with marriage and birth rates having fallen to record lows in recent years, provincial authorities revamped a 2019 rule to cover singles who want to have children.

From Feb. 15, married couples and any individuals who want offspring will be allowed to register with the government in China's fifth most populous province, with no ceiling on the number of children they can register for.

Until now, the commission had allowed only married couples who wanted to have up to two children to register with local authorities. Much of China's demographic down-



Newborn babies sleep in a ward at a hospital in Hefei, Anhui province

turn stems from its one-child policy imposed between 1980 and 2015.

A nationwide registry system for couples to register with local authorities ensures maternity insurance to cover medical bills, while letting married women keep their salary during maternity leave.

These benefits will now be extended to single women and men in Sichuan, which ranks seventh in the nation in terms of those older than 60, or more than 21% of its population, government figures show.

Rio Tinto apologises for loss of tiny radioactive capsule in Australian outback

Reuters | Melbourne

Rio Tinto Ltd apologised yesterday for the loss of a tiny radioactive capsule that has sparked a radiation alert across parts of the vast state of Western Australia.

The radioactive capsule, believed to have fallen from a truck, was part of a gauge used to measure the density of iron ore feed which had been entrusted to a specialist contractor to transport. The loss may have occurred up to two weeks ago.

Authorities are now grappling with the daunting task of searching along the truck's 1,400 kilometre (870 mile) journey from north of Newman - a small town in the remote Kimberley region



A member of the Incident Management Team coordinates the search for a radioactive capsule that was lost in transit by a contractor hired by Rio Tinto, at the Emergency Services Complex in Cockburn, Australia.

- to a storage facility in the north-east suburbs of Perth - a distance longer than the length of Great Britain.

The task, while akin to finding the proverbial needle in a haystack, is "not impossible" as searchers are equipped with ra-

diation detectors, said Andrew Stuchbery who runs the department of Nuclear Physics & Accelerator Applications at the Australian National University.

"That's like if you dangled a magnet over a haystack, it's going to give you more of a chance," he said.

"If the source just happened to be lying in the middle of the road you might get lucky...It's quite radioactive so if you get close to it, it will stick out," he said.

The gauge was picked up from Rio's Gudai-Darri mine site on Jan. 12. When it was unpacked for inspection on Jan. 25, the gauge was found broken apart, with one of four mounting bolts missing and screws from the gauge also

gone. Authorities suspect vibrations from the truck caused the screws and the bolt to come loose, and the radioactive capsule from the gauge fell out of the package and then out of a gap in the truck.

"We are taking this incident very seriously. We recognise this is clearly very concerning and are sorry for the alarm it has caused in the Western Australian community," Simon Trott, Rio's iron ore division chief, said in a statement.

The silver capsule, 6 millimetres (mm) in diameter and 8 mm long, contains Caesium-137 which emits radiation equal to 10 X-rays per hour.



people stay at least five metres (16.5 feet) away as exposure could cause radiation burns or radiation sickness, though they add that the

risk to the general community is relatively low.

"From what I have read, if you drive past it, the risk is equivalent to an X-ray. But if you stand next to it or you handle it, it could be very dangerous," said Stuchbery.

The state's emergency services department has established a hazard management team and has brought in specialised equipment that includes portable radiation survey meters to detect radiation levels across a 20-metre radius and which can be used from moving vehicles.

Trott said Rio had engaged a third-party contractor, with appropriate expertise and certification, to safely package and transport the gauge.

TOP 4 TWEETS 01

Paid tributes to Babu at Rajghat. @narendramodi

02

03

People worldwide have logged over 10 million #ClimateAction activities as part of our #ActNow campaign. World leaders should follow in their example and address the climate emergency with the urgency & ambition it deserves. Join the movement: http://un.org/actnow @antonioguterres

04

I like to say that starting a small business is an act of hope. Well, over the last two years, more than 10 million people have applied to start one. @POTUS

Bahrain Aims at Full Carbon Neutrality

KOTA SRIRAJ

The United Nations defines carbon neutrality as having net zero carbon footprint by balancing carbon emissions with equivalent amount sequestered or offset with help of carbon sinks that are able to as quickly absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it is produced. Carbon neutrality has been a global goal with every country, city, institution and company adopting plans for net zero carbon emissions so that collectively the world can cut the combined carbon emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels. But globally, the progress towards accelerating carbon neutrality has been anything but swift with many nations, even developed ones, struggling to rein in runaway carbon emissions.

Bahrain however has proved to be an exception as the nation has combined ambitious initiatives with suitable actions to quickly make progress in achieving net zero carbon footprint in many spheres.

At a very early stage, Bahrain had made it clear to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060 and in order to make this a reality the nation has put tireless efforts towards dialling down carbon emission from various sectors of the country. Bahrain's industrial sector for instance, has made significant progress when it comes to adopting environmental sustainability standards. Bahrain-based firm SICO for instance has offset its carbon emissions and is now carbon neutral. Similarly, the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) has become probably the only international F1 circuit that derives all its energy from solar power. The 2022 Grand Prix season was a proud moment for BIC as it was a green event that reduced the venue's carbon footprint and generated significant energy cost savings and supported Bahrain's commitment to sustainability and the Kingdom's net zero ambitions.

Bahrain International Airport (BIA) is yet another example where important steps have been taken to make the facility completely carbon-neutral by meeting all requirements to upgrade to Level 4 'Transformation', as stipulated by the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation program. Instances such as these show the commitment Bahrain has towards achieving net zero carbon emissions in near future. The acceleration of many more initiatives that are aimed at securing carbon free environment will surely help Bahrain set a benchmark in the global scenario. But the environmental conditions are also becoming increasingly challenging due to rising levels of pollution and climate change and to tackle this Bahrain needs to change gears and meet these challenges head on.

As a first step it is time to put a price on carbon and this must be done by ending large scale fossil fuel use. Additionally, increasing the reliance on renewable sources of power can help reduce the carbon output. There also needs to be a shift in tax policies by putting the tax burden on carbon emitters and polluters and reducing taxes for those who use renewable energy. Apart from these measures, the corporate sector can be encouraged to make mandatory climate-related financial risk disclosures and integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making at the corporate level. Carbon neutrality depends on innovative methods to achieve net zero carbon emissions. Bahrain has made commendable progress in this regard and needs more out of the box measuresto become a carbon emission free nation.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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

celebs

Julia Roberts, Jenifer Aniston to feature in new body-swap comedy

ANI | Los Angeles

Amazon Studios has won an auction to stream the Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston comedy movie, reported Deadline.

The untitled body swap comedy will be directed by Max Barbakow, who pitched the comedy last week. He will also write and produce the upcoming film along with LuckyChap Entertainment, the production label of Margot Robbie, Tom Ackerley and Josey McNamara. Roberts and her Red Om Films banner, Aniston's Echo Films are the co-producers of the film.

Barbakow is best known for directing the 2020 film 'Palm Springs' said that he hit upon



Jenifer Aniston and Julia Roberts

the idea after the surprise box office success of 'Ticket to Paradise', which re-teamed Roberts with George Clooney.

'Ticket to Paradise' flew to a better-than-expected \$169 million-plus at the global box office last year according to the Hol-

lywood Reporter. In the movie a divorced couple teams up and travels to Bali to stop their daughter from making the same mistake they think they made 25 years ago.

CAA handled the auction for the upcoming film and it is evident that star packages that can be fast-tracked and slotted into release schedules is the best way to get top dollar, Deadline reported.

Roberts is repped by CAA and Hirsch Wallerstein; Aniston by CAA, Lighthouse Management, and Hansen Jacobson; Barbakow by CAA, Range Media Partners, and Jim Gilio and Jonathan Sauer at Sloan, Offer; and LuckyChap by CAA, Entertainment 360, and attorney Jeff Bernstein.

Wrexham adventure is greatest experience of my life: Ryan Reynolds



Ryan Reynolds reacts during a match at Wrexham

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds has described his involvement with Wrexham as the "greatest experience" of his life.

The 'Deadpool' star and fellow actor Rob McElhenney bought the National League club in 2020 and he spoke of his passion for the venture as the non-league team held favourites Sheffield United to a thrilling 3-3 draw in the fourth round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

Ryan, who was in attendance for the cup tie in Wales, told the BBC: "Genuinely speaking it has been the greatest experience of my entire life."

"This adventure has been unlike anything else. I love it because it's a project that's going to be multi-decades."

"I met a supporter the other day whose grandfather's ashes were scattered across the pitch. I look at this place as like a church."

"In Canada, where I am from, people are obsessed with this club. It's been pretty remarkable. We've sold something like 24,000 jerseys and so many of them went to North

”
This adventure has been unlike anything else. I love it because it's a project that's going to be multi-decades
RYAN REYNOLDS

America. We can't get them any more. I can't get one.

"The part I find most gratifying is the support from the community outside the club. The fact Wrexham have become a tourist destination for so many folks and they are showing up here. There is something special about this town."

Wrexham were denied a famous cup upset after second-tier Sheffield United scored a last-gasp equaliser but Ryan took to social media to express his pride at the team's efforts.

He tweeted after the match: "When @RMcElhenney and I got into this it all felt so impossible."

'The Vampire Diaries' actress Annie Wersching loses battle with cancer at 45



Annie Wersching
IANS | Los Angeles

Actress Annie Wersching, best known for her roles in the television shows 'The Vampire Diaries', '24', 'Bosch and Timeless', died of cancer aged 45, her publicist confirmed.

Wersching continued to shoot even after her 2020 diagnosis, with prominent roles in Star Trek: Picard as the Borg queen in Season 2, and The Rookie. She also voiced Tess in the popular The Last Of Us video game, which was adapted into a TV series by HBO, reports Deadline.

Wersching's husband, actor Stephen Full, issued a statement.

"There is a cavernous hole in the soul of this family today. But she left us the tools to fill it. She found wonder in the simplest moment. She didn't require music to dance. She taught us not to wait for adventure to find you. 'Go find it. It's everywhere.' And find it we shall."

Pamela Anderson felt 'violated' by Pam and Tommy makers

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Pamela Anderson feels "violated" by the makers of 'Pam and Tommy'.

The biographical drama series explored Pamela's whirlwind romance with music star Tommy Lee, and the 55-year-old actress has admitted to being frustrated by the Hulu show.

She asked: "How are they allowed to do that?"

Lily James played Pamela in the show, but the blonde beauty doesn't blame the British actress for agreeing to star in the series.

Pamela - who was married to Tommy between 1995 and 1998 - told the Guardian newspaper: "I heard she'd been nominated for an Emmy, but maybe that was a joke."

"It's not her fault; it's a job. But whoever created it - well,

it just feels like something else stolen."

Lily, 33, underwent a dramatic transformation in order to play Pamela in the TV series.

The actress would spend up to four hours a day getting her hair and make-up done - but she still relished the experience.

Lily shared: "That's what's so cool about being an actor, is you get to do these polar opposites. Like I had brown frizzy hair and no make-up [in 'Yesterday'], and then all of a sudden I'm transformed after four hours of this incredible hair and make-up team."

"It was great, I'm so lucky."

It's like playing make-believe the whole time."

Lily also revealed that she was looking forward to watching Pamela's Netflix documentary, 'Pamela, a Love Story'.

She said: "I can't wait to watch [Pamela's documentary] and learn more."

"Of course we could only do our best based on the information we had, so for her to be able to tell her story is so important. I'll be watching along with the rest of the world. I'm eager to see what she says and hear what it's all about."



Pamela Anderson

Cate Blanchett thought about retiring from acting as last role was so demanding

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Cate Blanchett thought about retiring from acting after her demanding last role.

The 53-year-old actress is being tipped for another Oscar for her portrayal of an obsessive composer in 'Tár', but said it was so physically and emotionally draining she thought about giving up work.

She told Australian show 'The

Sunday Project': "I think it was because it was such a physical role, the echoes of it are still with me and I think I'm like a lot of audience members, I need time to process it."

"Obviously I'm lucky enough to work with some amazing directors who have changed my life, but when it all comes together like that, it does stay with you."

Cate then laughed: "So I don't ever want to work again."

The actress, who has three sons and a daughter with her screenwriter husband Andrew Upton, 56, added her work across the globe has left her pining for her family and she has been left "profoundly homesick over the last four years" and she dreams of returning to her native Australia so she can garden and be near water.

She added: "I'm very obsessed, as most Australians, obsessed by water. I want to be by the water, in

the water.

"I would love to learn to be patient, to be still and think. My grandmother was a wonderful gardener and my mother is likewise an excellent gardener and she lives with us, and I really want to spend time in the garden with my mum."



Cate Blanchett

SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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

How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
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Across
1- Condition; 6- Bodybuilder's pride; 9- What you don't know; 14- Supple; 15- Spanish aunt; 16- Specialized language; 17- Ordinance; 19- Salt water; 20- X; 21- Scottish boys; 22- Beneath; 23- Skin marking, often due to injury; 25- Waits; 26- Lectern; 29- Squabbling; 31- Eye membrane; 32- Method of raising money; 36- Blueprint detail, for short; 37- Inclined; 38- Crux; 40- Start for fish, meatballs, or massage; 43- Talks; 45- Bear in the sky; 46- Stiff; 47- Poker Flat chronicle; 50- Breezy; 51- Recipient; 52- Structure for storing grain; 54- Possess; to Burns; 57- Pipe cleaner; 58- Carry; 61- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 62- Actor Herbert; 63- Sao ...; 64- Approvals; 65- Lennon's lady; 66- Cookwear;

Down
1- Blind part; 2- Bring on board; 3- Env. notation; 4- 21st letter of the Greek alphabet; 5- Snake-like fish; 6- Shed ...; 7- Feathered creature; 8- Puts into words; 9- Self-satisfied person; 10- Made a mistake; 11- Nimble; 12- Taboos; 13- Bouillabaisse, e.g.; 18- South American ruminant; 23- From that time; 24- Stimulus; 25- Mouthpiece of a bride; 26- IBM products; 27- "My fault!"; 28- Took a blood sample; 29- Omega's opposite; 30- Small drink, young child; 33- Abrasive mineral; 34- Get as a result; 35- Tibetan beasts; 37- Donkey's uncle; 39- Half a fly; 41- Obedient; 42- Ill temper; 43- Descendant; 44- ... favor; 47- Swarm; 48- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 49- Actress Taylor; 50- Budget alternative; 51- WWII event; 52- WWII battle site; 53- Tiger's choice; 54- It may be happy; 55- He sang about Alice; 56- School founded by Henry VI; 59- Health have; 60- Infant fare;

Yesterday's solution

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

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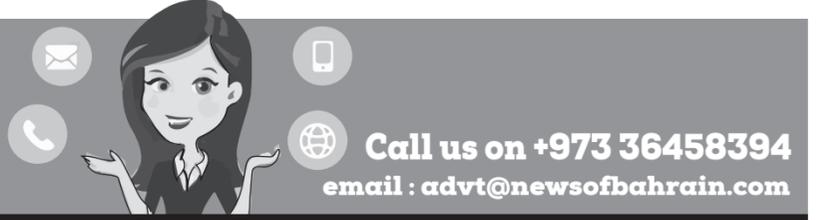
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'Just the start', Australia coach Arnold to stay on until 2026



Australia coach Graham Arnold and Mitchell Duke look dejected after being eliminated from the World Cup

AFP | London

Australia coach Graham Arnold announced that he would be staying on in the job until the end of the 2026 World Cup finals yesterday, saying he thought the success of last year's Qatar campaign was only the start for the Socceroos.

Arnold led Australia to the last 16 at the World Cup for only the second time with an unprecedented two victories in Qatar before a narrow 2-1 loss to eventual champions Argentina ended their campaign.

Feted back home only months after being pilloried during Australia's stuttering qualifying campaign, Arnold had been given time to consider his future in the role he took up after the 2018 World Cup.

"I just love them, every time I put that Socceroos shirt on,

At the end of the day, I want to help Australia. Probably what inspired me the most was seeing those fan sites (during the World Cup). Seeing how the Socceroos reunited the nation and seeing how many people love Australian football

GRAHAM ARNOLD

or I'm around the Socceroos, I just bleed green and gold," he told a news conference in Sydney.

"It's been a tough road at times, but I have so much belief in the group of players and the great staff that I've got that you know, this is just a start.

"Qatar was a fantastic achievement, but there's plenty more to come and I truly believe that."

Arnold, a former Socceroos striker who won two A-League titles as a club manager, said he had spurned interest from European sides and Middle Eastern national teams to remain in charge for another four years.

"At the end of the day, I want to help Australia," he said. "Probably what inspired me the most was seeing those fan sites (during the World Cup). Seeing how the Socceroos reunited the nation and seeing how many people love Australian football."

India's Pandya slams 'shocker of a wicket' after win against NZ

Reuters | New Delhi

India's stand-in captain Hardik Pandya has criticized the pitches used for the first two T20 Internationals against New Zealand and hopes a better surface will be rolled out for Wednesday's decider in Ahmedabad.

Pandya and New Zealand counterpart Mitchell Santner were surprised by the sharp turn throughout the series opener in Ranchi, where the touring side prevailed by 21 runs to grab a 1-0



Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav have a chat during the match

lead in the three-match series.

The spinners played an even more dominant role in Sunday's second match in Lucknow, where New Zealand posted 99-8 but managed to stretch the contest to the penultimate delivery of the match before India eked out a six-wicket win.

Spinners from both sides bowled 30 of the total 40 overs and not a single six was hit by a

batsman.

Suryakumar Yadav's uncharacteristically restrained 26 not out off 31 balls was the highest individual score by a batter.

"To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket," Pandya said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets are not made for T20.

To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket. I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets are not made for T20. Somewhere down the line the curators or the grounds that we are going to play in should make sure they prepare the pitches in time

HARDIK PANDYA

"Somewhere down the line the curators or the grounds that we are going to play in should make sure they prepare the pitches in time."

The overly spin-friendly nature of the track prompted Santner to consider making fast bowler Lockie Ferguson bowl off-spin.

"I was trying to find them (spinners) from everywhere," Santner said.

BETTER YOU KNOW
Suryakumar Yadav's uncharacteristically restrained 26 not out off 31 balls was the highest individual score by a batter

Australia's Green still in the frame for India opener

Reuters | Sydney

All-rounder Cameron Green has not been ruled out of facing India in the first of four tests next month despite his finger injury, Australia coach Andrew McDonald said yesterday.

Green broke his finger in the home South Africa series at the end of last year and has not played a match since, raising questions over whether he would be fit for the start of the first test in Nagpur on Feb. 9.

"He hasn't been ruled out," McDonald told ABC ahead of the team's departure on Tuesday.

"We just want to make sure we set up all our players up for success and there isn't much time left from now to the four-week check-in around his finger to the start of that test match.

"We'll see how he goes in the build-up and make that decision when we get on the ground in India."

While Green has provided a welcome fast-bowling option for Australia, McDonald has made it clear that he is valued foremost for his middle-order batting and could be selected on



Australia's Cameron Green in action (file photo)

While Green has provided a welcome fast-bowling option for Australia, McDonald has made it clear that he is valued foremost for his middle-order batting and could be selected on that basis alone

that basis alone.

McDonald said left-arm quick Mitchell Starc was still in a splint because of his damaged finger and will definitely miss the first test, as expected.

"Nothing's changed in terms of where he's at - he'll be available for the second test match, assuming that all things go well," he said.

"But we can't accelerate that with the nature of the injury."

Australia are looking to win a test series in India for the

He hasn't been ruled out. We just want to make sure we set up all our players up for success and there isn't much time left from now to the four-week check-in around his finger to the start of that test match. We'll see how he goes in the build-up and make that decision when we get on the ground in India

AUSTRALIA COACH ANDREW MCDONALD

first time since 2004 and four spinners and six pacemen were named in the squad for the tour.

"We feel like when we get on that plane we'll have great options for the captain and the selectors to work through and put on the park," McDonald said.

After the opener in Nagpur, Australia also play tests in New Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad with a one-day international series to follow.

YOU KNOW WHAT
Arnold was widely credited with building a strong bond within a squad that had arrived at the World Cup with very low expectations but beat Tunisia and Denmark to secure two wins in one World Cup tournament for the first time

Djokovic unsure on injury return after Australian Open 'perfect 10'

Novak Djokovic was troubled by his left hamstring, although it improved as the Grand Slam went on

● Djokovic gave everything to overcome injury, says coach Ivanisevic

AFP | Melbourne

New Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic said yesterday he hopes to return to action in a month's time but is "not sure" how quickly his injured hamstring will heal.

The Serb also revealed that he had not had time to properly celebrate winning a record-extending 10th Melbourne title on Sunday.

His 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5) victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas saw Djokovic equal Rafael Nadal's men's record of 22 Grand Slam tournament wins and go back to world number one in the rankings.

Djokovic was troubled throughout the competition by his left hamstring, although it improved as the Grand Slam went on.

While the 35-year-old paraded the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup around the gardens of Government House in Melbourne



Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after winning the 2023 Australian Open

“As it stands today I am still signed in for the Dubai tournament, which is in a month's time. I hope I'll be able to come back to the courts in several weeks' time. Let's see, you know, I'll speak to the medical team and then take it from there

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

yesterday for a photoshoot, he was asked by AFP how his leg was and when he might play again.

"I'm not sure, I'm going to do some medical check-ups in the next few days," he replied. "Then I'll be able to talk about it a bit more and understand the situation."

Djokovic pulled his hamstring before the Australian Open, having won a warm-up event in Adelaide, and was badly hampered at times at Melbourne Park, particularly in the early rounds.



Djokovic pulled his hamstring before the Australian Open, having won a warm-up event in Adelaide, and was badly hampered at times at Melbourne Park, particularly in the early rounds

At one point he did not practise between matches.

"As it stands today I am still signed in for the Dubai tournament, which is in a month's time. I hope I'll be able to come back to the courts in several weeks' time," he said yesterday.

"Let's see, you know, I'll speak to the medical team and then take it from there," he added.

Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic, said most players would not have played after a pre-tournament scan showed the extent of the hamstring injury.

"But not him -- he is from

Djokovic reclaims top spot in ATP rankings

Novak Djokovic reclaimed 2021.

top spot in the ATP rankings released yesterday after winning his 22nd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

The 35-year-old Serbian rose four places to dislodge Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who missed the tournament through injury and dropped to second.

Djokovic's 10th Australian Open title means he is world number one for the 374th week since July 2011.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost to Djokovic in straight sets in Sunday's final in Melbourne, overtook Norwegian Casper Ruud in third place, matching a career-best ranking he first achieved in August

2021.

Andrey Rublev of Russia, dominated by Djokovic in the quarter-finals, climbed to a career-best position of fifth.

The shock elimination of Djokovic's long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the second round saw the Spaniard drop four places to sixth.

Karen Khachanov's run to the semi-finals in Melbourne propelled the Russian up seven places to 13th.

Tommy Paul of the United States, who also reached the final four, broke into the top 20 for the first time as he soared up the rankings by 16 places to 19th.

outer space," Ivanisevic told reporters.

"His brain is working differently. He gave everything, 77 therapies a day. Every day was kind of better and better."

Djokovic said there had not been time for any partying on Sunday night to mark his latest achievement.

Asked how he had celebrated the victory, he smiled: "With the media, and with doping control!

"It was 3:00 am when I went back to the accommodation and it was a long night, but of course a huge relief.

"Ending a tournament and the whole journey here to Australia with a Grand Slam win is always incredibly satisfying," he added.

"I didn't have yet the chance to really celebrate as much as I would like to. I guess that's going to come in Europe."

Sabalenka closes in on Swiatek in WTA rankings

AFP | London

Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka climbed to second in the new WTA rankings released yesterday after claiming her first Grand Slam title as Poland's Iga Swiatek retained top spot.

The Belarusian advanced three places to reach her highest ranking since August 2021 at the



Aryna Sabalenka

expense of Tunisia's Ons Jabeur who slips to third.

Jessica Pegula of the United States fell one place to fourth and France's Caroline Garcia dropped to fifth.

Elena Rybakina, who lost out to Sabalenka over three sets in Saturday's final in Melbourne, climbed 15 places to a career-best ranking of 10th.

The Kazakh received no rankings points for winning Wimbledon last year following the All England Club's decision to ban players from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Former world number one Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic returned to the top 20 as she leaped 11 places to 20th.

Run machine Smith wins fourth Allan Border medal

Reuters | Sydney

Australia run machine Steve Smith clinched his fourth Allan Border Medal yesterday, becoming only the third player, after Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke, to achieve the feat.

Smith polled 171 votes, while nearest rival Travis Head managed 144, to claim Australian cricket's greatest individual honour which he had previously won in 2015, 2018 and 2021.

Former captain Smith racked up 1,524 runs, which included four hundreds, during the voting period and was crucial to Australia's rise to number one in the test rank-



Steve Smith

ings.

Such was his domination in the two other formats that it did not matter in the end that Smith did not poll a single vote in the T20 Internationals.

Smith will be one of Australia's key figures as they embark on a four-test tour in India where they hope to secure their place in the final of the World Test Championship.

Liverpool need more improvement, says Klopp after FA Cup exit

AFP | London

Liverpool have improved in the last two weeks but still need to get better, manager Juergen Klopp said after the FA Cup holders were knocked out of the competition by Brighton & Hove Albion on Sunday.

Liverpool went out of the Cup after a 2-1 loss at Brighton in the fourth round, having lost 3-0 at the same venue in the Premier League on Jan. 14.

The defeat followed Liverpool's exit from the League Cup in the last 16 and underlined their poor form this season, with Klopp's team currently ninth in the Premier League at the halfway stage.

"We have still space for improvement. We make steps but we have to improve, we have to improve further and that's what we will do," Klopp told reporters.

"Look, I am not over the moon about this performance but, again, the only thing that happened really is that we lost



Liverpool's Andrew Robertson is shown a yellow card by referee

against a good side, who we lost (to) two weeks ago in a horrendous game," he added.

"Today was much better. With the performance from today two weeks ago, that would've looked different as well."

Klopp said his team had closed the gaps for the greater part of the game but were guilty

of conceding from set pieces as Brighton came from behind to beat the six-times European winners.

"It's not that we were that much under pressure, we had our moments as well in the late period of the game. That's how football is, everything opens up a little bit," Klopp said.

“We have still space for improvement. We make steps but we have to improve, we have to improve further and that's what we will do. Look, I am not over the moon about this performance but, again, the only thing that happened really is that we lost against a good side, who we lost (to) two weeks ago in a horrendous game

JUERGEN KLOPP

"Again, the goal happened after a set piece and the set piece shouldn't have happened because we could have won that ball in a heading situation already."

Liverpool next play away to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday in the Premier League.

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HH Shaikh Isa welcomes Zimbabwe sports minister, former Olympic champion

TDT | Manama

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs Undersecretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BIC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received yesterday Minister of Sport, Arts and Recreation of Zimbabwe Kirsty Coventry upon her arrival in the Kingdom for an official visit.

Also on hand were BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji BOC board member Shaikha Dr Hessa bint Khalid Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Isa praised the



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa welcomes Kirsty Coventry upon her arrival



From left, Shaikha Dr Hessa bint Khalid Al Khalifa, Kirsty Coventry, HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Faris Al Kooheji during their discussions

relations between Bahrain and Zimbabwe and lauded Coventry for her rich sporting career. The ex-international swimmer is a former Olympic and world champion as well as a world record holder, and is the most decorated Olympian from Africa.

On her part, Coventry expressed her thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and her happiness to be in Bahrain to enhance the horizons of bilateral cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the field of sports.

Final lead-up to F1 spectacle begins

Bahrain International Circuit launches today its 30-day countdown to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2023

● Loads to look forward to both on and off the race track during this year's F1 season-opening race at BIC

● Today is last day to buy F1 tickets and get free access to last two days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) launches today its final 30-day countdown to the first open day for fans at the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023.

Excitement continues to build for F1's season-opening round, taking place 3 to 5 March at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir.

Following the record attendance at last year's F1 spectacle, BIC is looking forward to welcoming the public for what is expected to be an even bigger



Action from last year's Bahrain Grand Prix (File photo)

turnout.

The circuit will be opening its doors from the Thursday of race week on 2 March, with three-day ticket-holders able to enjoy a behind the scenes view at the Pit-Lane Walk. The on-track action will begin on Friday, 3 March, with the main event, the 57-lap Bahrain Grand Prix, will be taking place under lights on Sunday, 5 March.

All throughout the weekend, there will be non-stop racing from morning to night

as a packed timetable will see F1 being supported by the FIA Formula 2 Championship, the FIA Formula 3 Championship and the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East. F2 and F3 will be staging the first rounds of their respective 2023 seasons in Bahrain, while the BIC-based Porsche Sprint Challenge will be holding the fifth and penultimate meeting of its 2022/2023 campaign.

Race-goers will also be able to enjoy all kinds of family at-

tractions off the track, including carnival rides, roaming acts, stage shows, kids' activities and a spectacular live performance by multi-platinum-selling artist DJ Snake.

DJ Snake will be taking to the main stage at BIC's F1 Village vending area on Friday night, and all those with tickets will be able to enjoy the concert at no extra cost.

Tickets to this year's race weekend are selling fast. BIC's



The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023 is scheduled for 3 to 5 March at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, but the first open day for fans is Thursday, 2 March, of race week

Early Bird offers have generated its best-ever sales as compared to previous years, and BIC's Corporate Lounges are already completely sold out.

Those looking to experience the pinnacle of motorsport must therefore purchase their tickets as soon as possible to be a part of the region's biggest racing and entertainment extravaganza.

Those who buy their tickets before tomorrow, 1 February, will be able to enjoy free access to the last two days of the F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2023, taking place 23 to 25 February at BIC. The pre-season tests will see the F1 teams and drivers out on track together in their new cars for the first and only time ahead of the 2023 season's start.

Visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 to make a purchase or to get more information on ticket prices and other hospitality options.

BIC is offering a pair of all-new hospitality packages for this year's event, in response to the massive demand for these options. These include The Dome Lounge and The Champions

Club.

The Dome Lounge includes three-day access to a dedicated stand next to the BIC dome located along the main straight, opposite the podium; three-day entry to the Dome Lounge, which will include complementary food all day, showcasing a mix of international cuisine; access to an exclusive range of beverages, a full programme of entertainment in the Dome Lounge, including DJs, roaming entertainers, and much more to keep fans entertained between racing sessions; and entry to the exclusive Fashion TV after-party, straight after the race.

The Champions Club offers Beyond Grandstand trackside seating; access to The Champions Club lounge, located just below the seating, offering premium hospitality with gourmet food and an open bar; an appearance by an F1 Media Personality or Driver; F1 Executive Q&A; Guided Paddock Tour; and a Grid Walk and F1 Championship Trophy photo opportunity.

Complete details are available on bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline.

Muharraq, Najma claim tough five-set victories

● Muharraq stave off late Al Nasser charge in win

● Al Najma hold on against a battling Nabih Saleh

TDT | Manama

Muharraq and Al Najma both claimed hard-earned victories in five sets last night in their round-of-six contests of the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Muharraq needed to battle to the maximum to topple Al Nasser 3-2 (20-25, 25-20, 25-19, 17-25, 15-13) in their contest, while Najma avoided an upset and overcame a tough challenge from Nabih Saleh 3-2 (25-22, 25-16, 20-25, 22-25, 15-10).

Both games were played at the Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa. They were



Action from Al Najma's win against Nabih Saleh

part of the second phase of the league's round-of-six playoffs, which is being played in double round-robin format. The top four at the end of these fixtures move on to the league's semi-finals.

With their wins yesterday, Muharraq improved to a 3-4 win-loss record while Najma

moved to solo first place on the six-team table with a 6-1 mark.

The rest of the standings feature Al Ahli on 5-1, Dar Kulaib with a 4-2 win-loss mark, Nasser with a 2-5 mark and Nabih Saleh with a winless 0-7 standing.

In Muharraq's win, they managed to stave off a late Nasser

charge. Playing key roles for their side were Nigerian import Samuel Anthony Ogwuche, Abbas Ehsan, Hussain Khalifa, Hassan Al Haddad and Sayed Ali Mohammed.

For Nasser, they relied on the efforts of Mohammed Jassim, Ali Sultan, Ibrahim Mohammed, Hussain Mahdi and Jassim Turki in putting up a tough fight.

Meanwhile, Najma appeared to be cruising to another fine victory after going two sets up against Nabih Saleh, but their rivals clawed their way back valiantly and forced the tie-break.

Najma were eventually able to hold on for the win, led by the likes of Mirza Abdulla, Hassan Dhahi, Fadhel Abbas and Estonian professional Kevin Saar.

Nabih Saleh almost ended their losing streak but were unlucky in the end. Hussain Ashoor, Sayed Hashem, Jaafar Radhi and Kenyan professional Peter Camara put in fine performances in the loss.

Rajovic takes second on Saudi Tour first stage



Dusan Rajovic, second from left, sprints to the finish in yesterday's first leg

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain Victorious rider Dusan Rajovic sprinted to second place yesterday in the opening stage of the Saudi Tour, part of this year's Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Asia circuit.

Rajovic was making his debut with the Bahraini outfit, and he put on a spectacular show, completing the 180.5-kilometre opening leg

behind only winner Dylan Groenewegen of Team Jayco AlUla.

Rajovic commented after his finish: "The last kilometer was nervous; a lot of riders were fighting in the front."

"In the end, second place is not bad, it's the start of the season. I was thinking I could do better as the team put me in a good position, I was coming from behind but was closed. Second place is not bad, but we'll keep fighting in the next stages."