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WEDNESDAY
APRIL, 2024
220 FILS
ISSUE NO.9892

SPORTS

Reddy helps Hyderabad edge Punjab

Hyderabad's young star Nitish Kumar Reddy shines in nail-biting victory | **P16**

WORLD 6 Parents sentenced for school shooting: First conviction of its kind

THE DAILY tribune

Al Khaldiya go top of the table 15 SPORTS

BUSINESS 5 Stocks slide before US inflation, ECB meeting



Eats and Treats



P08-09

Bahrain embraces time for togetherness

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain joyously marks the onset of Eid Al Fitr festivities today, ushering in a time of celebration, family gatherings, and cherished traditions.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of congratulations from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on Eid Al Fitr.

HRH Prince Salman wished HM the King abundant health, happiness and long life.

HM King Hamad sent a reply cable of thanks to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, congratulating him on this occasion and wishing him abundant health and happiness.

His Majesty and HRH Prince Salman received cables of congratulations from senior members of the Royal Family, heads of Representatives and Shura councils, ministers, senior state officials, dignitaries, members of the Representatives Council, Shura and municipal councils, governors, Bahrain's ambassadors abroad, heads of diplomatic missions to the Kingdom, heads of societies and sports associations, clubs and citizens.

They also exchanged cables of good wishes with the leaders of the GCC, Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

TDT wishes



The management and staff of The Daily Tribune extend their best wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the people of Bahrain, and the Muslim world on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr. The Daily Tribune is publishing throughout the holiday.

Government offices close for Eid festivities

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain's ministries and public institutions will be closed for three days starting today in observance of Eid Al Fitr holidays.

Since Friday is an official holiday, an extra day will be given in lieu, as stipulated in a circular issued by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

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Debts First

MPs push for tighter debt rules for foreigners

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a proposal aimed at enforcing stricter debt settlement regulations for foreign investors.

In a decisive move during yesterday's weekly session, the MPs voted to amend Article 64 of the Bahraini Penal Code to primarily set up stringent objective and procedural safeguards.

Notably, MPs Jameel Mulla Hasan and Mohammed Al-Maarafi stood as the sole nay-voters. The council has entrusted the government with drafting the amendment, which is set to undergo review in upcoming sessions.

These measures are aimed at ensuring that foreign investors settle their debts entirely before departing the country. The amendment seeks to ensure that foreign offenders, subject to court-ordered deportation, have fully cleared their financial obligations. This pivotal step aims to safeguard the interests of individuals to whom these offenders owe debts.

This proposal not only addresses the prevention of exploitation by foreign investors but also strives to establish a just and equitable legal environment.

Such measures underscore Bahrain's commitment to modernise its legal framework in alignment with principles of justice and humanity, amid navigating the complexities of international finance and human rights challenges.



The Council of Representatives session in progress



However, the Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs has raised a crucial point of consideration. They noted that prioritising debt settlement over deportation may constrain the discretionary powers of judges, especially in cases of serious crimes where deportation may serve the public interest more effectively.

> "It is important to protect Bahrain's reputation as an investment destination and implement stringent regulations to prevent exploitation by foreign investors."
>
> - MP MARYAM AL-DHAEN

MP Maryam Al-Dhaen emphasised the importance of protecting Bahrain's reputation as an investment destination, urging stringent regulations to prevent exploitation by foreign investors.

Rights of creditors

She proposed legislation prohibiting foreign investors from departing the country without fully settling their debts, thus safeguarding the rights of creditors.

While the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) supports the proposal's intent to combat fraud and protect creditors, it has cautioned against measures that may lead to the detention of individuals solely due to debt default.

The institution referred to Article 11 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Bahrain in 2007, stating no imprisonment for failure to fulfill contract obligations.

Russia opens probe into West 'financing terrorism' claims

AFP | Moscow

Russia yesterday opened a probe into "financing terrorism" that implicates Western countries, saying funds received by US firms in Ukraine - including one that employed Joe Biden's son - were used for "terrorism acts" in Russia.

The announcement came with Moscow continuing to blame the West and Ukraine for the attack on a concert hall last month that left 144 dead.

The attack on the Crocus City Hall has been claimed by the Islamic State group and US officials have said they warned Moscow of an imminent attack.

Europe court slams Swiss 'inaction' on climate crisis

AFP | Strasbourg, France

Europe's top rights court yesterday said Switzerland was not doing enough to tackle climate change in a historic decision that could force governments to adopt more ambitious climate policies.

The European Court of Human Rights, part of the 46-member Council of Europe, however, threw out two other climate cases against European states on procedural grounds.

Openness and humanity praised

Ambassadors extend warm greetings to celebrate Eid Al Fitr with Bahrain

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

As Eid Al Fitr fills the air with joy, ambassadors in the Kingdom of Bahrain have extended their warmest wishes to leadership and citizens in a recent interview with the Daily Tribune Newspaper, highlighting the strong diplomatic ties between Bahrain and other nations.

The envoys commended Bahrain's welcoming nature and its dedication to humanitarian initiatives during this festive period.

Joyful experience

British Ambassador Alastair Long remarked on his experience during Ramadan, stating, "It has been a joy to experience Ramadan in Bahrain. My Embassy colleagues have been welcomed into so many convivial gatherings. It serves to remind, if any reminder were needed, what an open and welcoming place Bahrain is."



He extended Eid greetings to Muslims worldwide, including the UK's Muslim population.

Joyous occasion

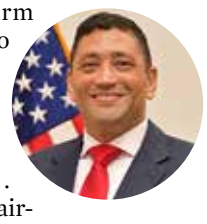
By extending the warm greetings to the leadership, Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Vinod K. Jacob, thanks His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the royal pardon on this joyous occasion.



"Eid Al Fitr reminds us of the values of compassion, brotherhood, and togetherness," he said.

Bahraini hospitality

The US Embassy in Bahrain issued a warm message to the nation on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.



H. E. Chargé d'Affaires David Brownstein extended heartfelt greetings of "Eid Mubarak Saeed" to all Bahrainis celebrating the end of Ramadan.

The statement highlighted the US Embassy community's appreciation for Bahraini hospitality throughout the holy month. They expressed enjoyment in participating in iftars, majales, and ghabgas – traditional Ramadan gatherings.

Peace and prosperity

In a separate message, Nepal's Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E. Tirtha Raj Wagle, also extended greetings to the Kingdom.



Ambassador Wagle offered warm wishes to King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, the Royal Family, and the Bahraini people. He conveyed happiness, peace, and prosperity for all during Eid Al Fitr, and expressed hope that the spirit of unity and compassion would continue to inspire everyone.

On the joyous occasion of Eid Al Fitr, ambassadors from Russia and Japan extended their warmest wishes to the Kingdom.

Happiness and harmony

H.E. Dr. Alexey Skosyrev, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, sent his greetings through The Daily Tribune, stating, "I would like to extend my warmest and sincerest greetings to H.M. King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, H.R.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the members of the Muslim community of the Kingdom on the blessed occasion of Eid Al Fitr! May this holiday bring happiness and harmony into your homes. Have a joyful Eid!"



Unity and compassion

Ambassador Okai Asako of Japan also sent her greetings, saying, "I have the great honor to extend warm greetings and heartfelt wishes to all Bahraini people and Muslims around the world, on the joyous occasion of Eid Al Fitr. Throughout Ramadan, I had the pleasure of partaking in traditional Bahraini Majalis, Iftars, and Ghabqas, where I witnessed the essence of Ramadan society and generosity. This special time allows us to reflect on the shared values of unity and compassion that both Japan and Bahrain cherish. I wish you a heartfelt and peaceful Eid Mubarak."



Both ambassadors' messages highlight the importance of Eid Al Fitr and the strong ties between their respective countries and Bahrain.

Bonds of solidarity

"On the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, which is a rewarding moment for strengthening our bonds of unity and solidarity by feelings of compassion, peace, and friendship," H.E. Ambassador of Türkiye, Esin Çakıl, said.



She extends her warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to the friendly and sisterly people of Bahrain as well as Turkish citizens living in Bahrain. "I pray to Allah the Almighty that the Eid would bring peace, well-being, and happiness to the Islamic world and all humanity," she added.

Good health

H.E. A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Bangladesh Embassy, offered greetings on behalf of his government and people. He expressed well wishes for peace, prosperity, good health, and happiness to the Bahraini people, including the Bangladeshi community residing in Bahrain.



Joyful greetings

On behalf of the Government and People of Malaysia, H.E. Ambassador Shazryll Zahiran extends his warm and joyful greetings of Eid Mubarak to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa AlKhalifa, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and to all the great people of Bahrain.



Peace and justice

The unwavering commitment to peace and justice to the people by the leadership of the Kingdom praised by H.E. Ardi Hermawan, Indonesian Ambassador to Bahrain.



"I and my colleagues at the Embassy enjoyed visiting the Majlis during Ramadan. Such an occasion is a reminder of what an open and welcoming place Bahrain is, which Indonesia shares," he said.

Growth and prosperity

H.E. Saqib Rauf, Pakistan Ambassador, conveyed his warm greetings to everyone in Bahrain, the government of Bahrain, and the leadership for the growth and prosperity for the future of Bahrain.



Reflection and devotion

"This holiday marks the culmination of a sacred time for reflection and devotion," said H.E. Piyapak Sricharoen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand.



"The experiences of fasting, prayer, and charity during Ramadan inspire many, and I extend my best wishes for a happy, peaceful, and prosperous Eid Al Fitr."

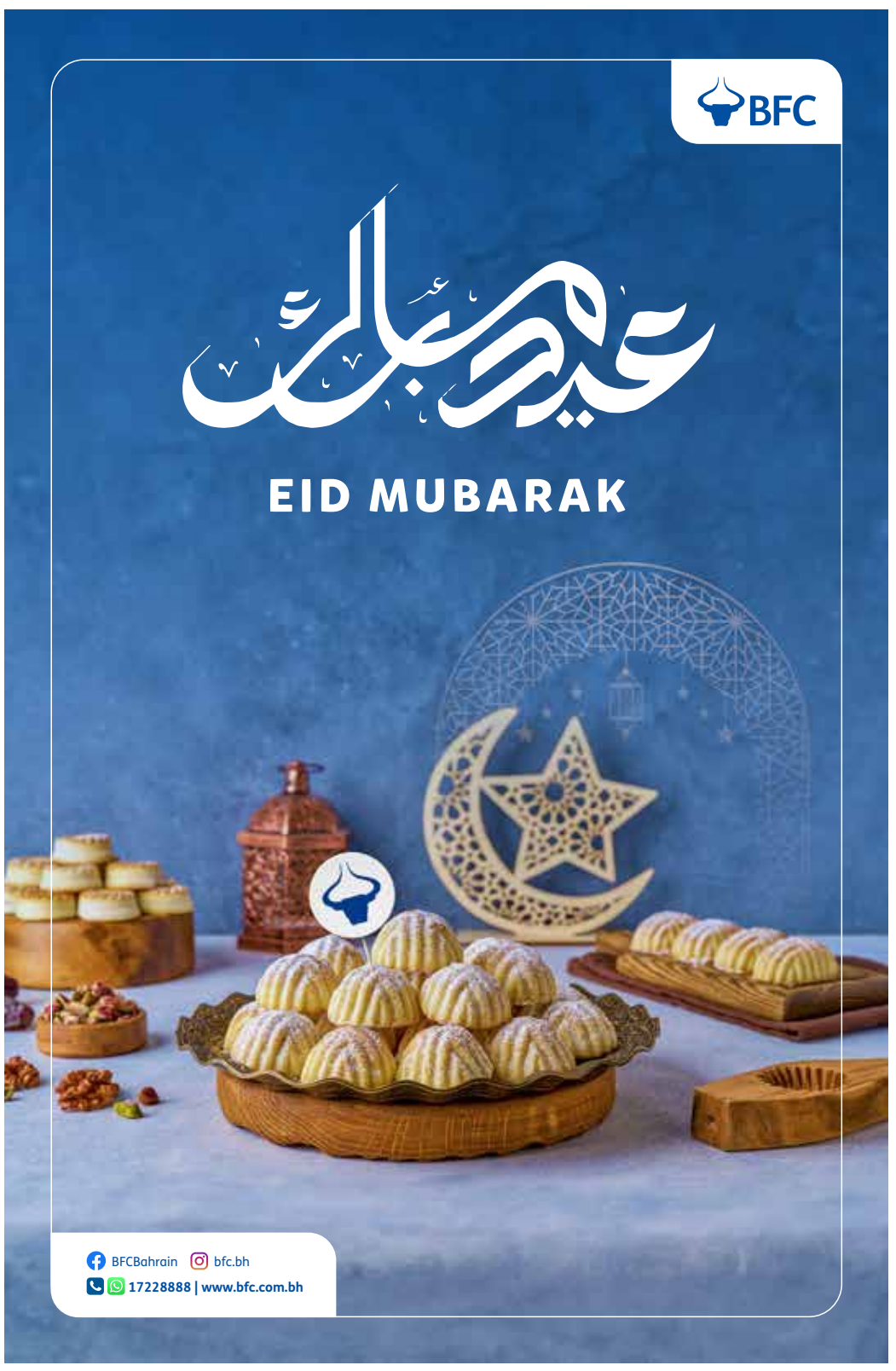
Renewed blessings

H.E. Adriano Silva Pucci, Brazilian Ambassador, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the significance of Eid Al Fitr in a global context.



"May the holiday bring renewed joys and blessings to the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Muslim world in general," he said. "In these challenging times, we Brazilians particularly hope that the spirit of charity inherent in this spiritual celebration serves as a call to peace for all of humanity."

These greetings from the diplomatic community showcase strong ties between Bahrain and other nations.



Four defendants face trial in baby's killing

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun the trial of four defendants involved in the intentional killing of a six-month-old child. The court has scheduled a session for April 23 to review the case.

According to details, the first defendant, a 22-year-old Gulf national residing in Bahrain, was present in the house along with the fourth defendant, a 29-year-old Asian woman who worked as the child's nanny.

On the day of the incident, the second defendant, a 32-year-old Asian woman and mother of the child, left her six-month-old baby with them. It was during this time that the first defendant allegedly struck several blows to the child's face, causing injuries.

The fourth defendant, the child's nanny, had witnessed the assault.

Justice Ministry upgrades 32 mosques

TDT | Manama

Yousef bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Jaffari Endowments Council, praised the support of HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman for building and rehabilitating the houses of worship.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has announced the completion of the opening, restoration, and development of 32 mosques affiliated with the Sunni and Jaffari Endowments during Ramadhan in all governorates of Bahrain, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

His Excellency Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Moawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, commended HM King's support in restoring the houses of worship, and the directives of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in restoring mosques during the month of Ramadhan for the third consecutive year.

Dr. Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed bin Futtais Al Hajeri, Chairman of the Sunni Endowments Council, commended the directives of HM King Hamad for building and maintaining mosques, supported by the government, led by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime minister, in meeting the needs of houses of worship in various governorates.

Urgent crisis response

Schools need enhanced counseling services amid growing mental health concerns

TDT | Manama

The crucial issue of school counselling took centre stage during yesterday's session at the Council of Representatives.

The escalating need for more comprehensive counselling services in schools has become imperative, particularly due to the recent surge in serious mental health and social issues attributed to social media's impact.

MP Mohammed Al-Hossaini brought this concern to the forefront in a passionate exchange with the Minister of Education, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Al-Hossaini highlighted the increasing prevalence of social phobia and mood-related disorders, such as anxiety and depression, among school students in our educational institutions.

Echoing Al-Hossaini's sentiment, the Minister acknowledged the need for additional counsellors, stating, "Currently, there are 613 counsellors serving our schools for this academic year. We ensure that at least one counsellor is available in each school to cater to the students' needs and oversee behavioural concerns. The assignment of counsellors is carefully determined by the student population of each school, taking into account the workload, the school's characteristics, and the educational priorities at various levels."

Moreover, Al-Hossaini emphasised the importance of nurturing leadership qualities in public schools, advocating for a balanced focus that extends beyond mere academic accomplishments.

Staggering numbers

Dr. Juma, affirming confidentiality in dealing with student issues, provided some staggering numbers for this academic year: 69 mental health cases and 60 family-related cases were addressed by counsellors, highlighting the often interconnected nature of these issues.

Additionally, the minister reported 197 cases of violence and harm inflicted on others.

Illustrating how schools can serve as safe havens for students to escape from challenging home environments, the minister added that managing students struggling with social and emotional issues also involves addressing their home environments and parental engagement.



> "Managing students struggling with social and emotional issues also involves addressing their home environments and parental engagement."
>
> - H.E. DR. MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION

He cited cases of self-harm tendencies in students where counsellors had to resort to legal channels to compel negligent parents to take responsibility.

MPs vote to prolong questioning period

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives passed a proposal yesterday to amend Article 143 of its internal regulations, aiming to extend the duration of parliamentary questions until the end of the legislative session.

This proposal seeks to depart from the current practice of ending the questioning period with the conclusion of the legislative term in which the question was submitted.

The proposed amendment to Article 143 of Decree-Law No. 54 of 2002, concerning the internal regulations of the Parliament, was submitted by MPs Abdulnabi Salman, Dr. Mahdi Al Shuwaikh, Eman Shuwaiter, Mamdouh Al Saleh, and Basma Mubarak.



Parliamentary questioning in progress

According to the explanatory memorandum of the proposal, its purpose is to enhance the effectiveness of the parliamentary questioning tool by extending its duration until the end of the legislative session in which the question was raised. This approach aligns with parliamentary practices in other countries worldwide.

Lawyer found guilty of false accusation and defamation

TDT | Manama

The Appeals Court has accepted the appeal filed by the Public Prosecution in the case involving a lawyer accused of making false accusations and intending to defame a fellow lawyer during his internship.

The Court ruled to overturn the previous acquittal issued by the Lower Court and sentenced the accused to six months of imprisonment for the charges brought against him.

The incident dates back to when the victim worked at the accused lawyer's office.



Celebrate Eid with cinematic delights!

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Eid Al Fitr is a joyous occasion that brings families and friends together. After a month of fasting during Ramadan, people look forward to celebrating Eid by indulging in various forms of entertainment.

One popular choice is visiting the cinema to catch the latest blockbuster movies.

With a plethora of popular cinema theaters to choose from, such as City Centre Cinema, EPIX Cinema, Oasis Mall Cinema Juffair, Mukta A2 Cinema at Lulu Juffair, Seef Mall Cinema, Cineco Al Hamra Cinema, Wadj Al Sail Cinema, Atrium Mall, and more, movie enthusiasts are spoilt for choice.

Among the various cinema theaters, City Centre (CC) stands out as the most visited spot, where families flock to create unforgettable memories during Eid.

Offering a diverse selection of films, City Centre theaters provide an exceptional cinematic experience for all moviegoers.

Here are some of the exciting movies screening today at VOX Cinemas, City Centre:

"Crew" an Indian film that promises to captivate audiences. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 7:00 PM, 9:30 PM, and 12:00 AM.

"The Beekeeper", a thrilling English movie, screening timings at City Centre theater are 3:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 9:45 PM, and 12:00 AM.

"Madame Web", embark on a mesmerizing adventure with this film. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 6:30 PM, 9:00 PM, and 11:30 PM.



Grab some popcorn and enjoy watching the movie

YOU KNOW WHAT

Among the most popular cinema theaters across the Kingdom include City Centre Cinema, EPIX Cinema, Oasis Mall Cinema Juffair, Mukta A2 Cinema at Lulu Juffair, Seef Mall Cinema, Cineco Al Hamra Cinema, Wadj Al Sail Cinema, and Atrium Mall.

"Wonka", immense yourself in the magical world of this enchanting movie. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 6:30 PM, 9:00 PM, and 11:30 PM.

"The Goat life", screening timings at City Centre theaters are 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 10:00 PM, and 1:30 AM.

"Bade Miyan Chote Miyan", indulge in this entertaining Indian movie. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 4:00 PM, 7:30 PM, and 11:30 PM.

"3almashi", an Arabic movie that promises a unique cinematic experience. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 7:00 PM and 11:45 PM.

"The First Omen", dive into the world of horror with this spine-chilling English movie. Screening timings at City Centre theaters are 12:15 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM, and 12:30 AM.

With such a diverse range of films available, there is something for everyone to enjoy. So gather your loved ones, make this Eid a truly memorable one.

Grab your popcorn, find your seats, and let the magic of the big screen transport you to new worlds of imagination and excitement.

Come one, come all

Merry mix of Eid Al Fitr festivities begins today across Kingdom



"Everyone must follow traffic rules and cooperate with the police for a safe and enjoyable holiday."

- BRIGADIER SHAIKH ABDULRAHMAN BIN ABDULWAHAB AL KHALIFA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRAFFIC

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Eid Al Fitr festivities kick off today, offering a vibrant calendar of events across the Kingdom until April 15th.

Most events are set for the evenings after 5pm, allowing you to celebrate with your loved ones under the twinkling lights in popular destinations including The Avenues, Adliya Block 338, Bahrain Bay, and Al Liwan.

The events feature dazzling light shows, live music, and a dose of culture with Manama Nights and the Annual Fine Arts Exhibition at the National Museum, both starting at 6pm.

If you are looking for an activity to keep the children entertained head to the Muharraq Model Youth Centre Theater in Busaiteen on April 11th for "Chance 2 Dance," an engaging theatrical show starting at 6 pm.

You can catch a side-splitting laughter with renowned comedian Jayvijay Sachan's performance at the Golden Tulip Hotel on April 12th for an unforgettable Eid celebration filled with humor and joy.

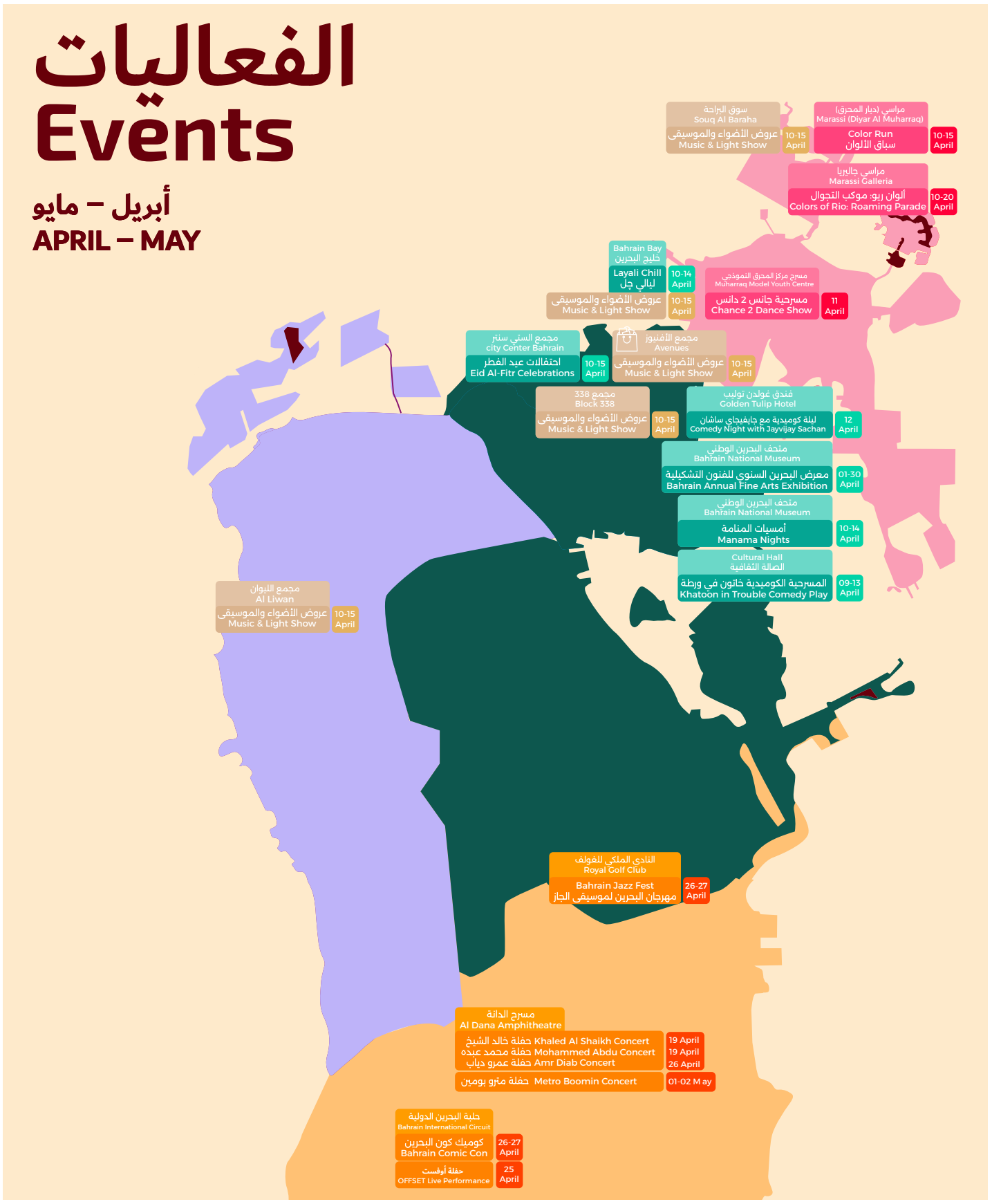
Witness the magic of the "Colors of Rio" Roaming Parade at Marassi Galleria from April 10th to 20th. This magnificent spectacle promises a mesmerizing journey of vibrant colors and lively music, creating unforgettable memories with your family and friends.

Safety During Festivities

The Director-General of Traffic, Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa, reassured residents that the Directorate has made arrangements to ensure smooth traffic flow throughout Eid Al Fitr, especially near mosques, commercial malls and events venues.

These measures include monitoring traffic through smart systems and patrols, with continued online support through the government portal and eTraffic app.

The Director-General extends Eid greetings to the public, urging everyone to follow traffic rules and cooperate with the police for a safe and enjoyable holiday.





Adliya Block 338



Al Liwan



Bahrain Bay

Teacher's day in court

Trial begins for insulting Ministry of Education

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has commenced proceedings in the case of an "educational" teacher accused of insulting a public institution in the country, namely the Ministry of Education.

The accused appeared before the court accompanied by a male and a female lawyer. They requested a copy of the lawsuit documents and requested a postponement to review, respond, and present their arguments.

On the other hand, the attending prosecutor delivered an argument stating that the Public Prosecution has charged the defendant with insulting a public institution, namely the Ministry of Education. This was done through a recorded video clip in which the accused used words and phrases that caused distress to the aggrieved party.

The prosecutor emphasised that the Public Prosecution would not have referred the accused educator unless there was conclusive and self-explanatory evidence of her criminal act.

Four defendants face trial in baby's killing

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun the trial of four defendants involved in the intentional killing of a six-month-old child. The court has scheduled a session for April 23 to review the case.

According to details, the first defendant, a 22-year-old Gulf national residing in Bahrain, was present in the house along with the fourth defendant, a 29-year-old Asian woman who worked as the child's nanny.

On the day of the incident, the second defendant, a 32-year-old Asian woman and mother of the child, left her six-month-old baby with them. It was during this time that the first defendant allegedly struck several blows to the child's face, causing injuries.

When the fourth defendant, the child's nanny, witnessed the assault and questioned the first defendant about it, he reportedly showed no concern. Shortly after, the child tragically passed away.

The first defendant informed others about the child's death, but he displayed a lack of remorse, referring to the child as illegitimate.

Following the child's death, the fourth defendant contacted the second defendant, the child's mother, and falsely informed her that her son had died due to falling off the bed while he was asleep. Subsequently, the second defendant reported the incident to the authorities.

Batelco launches number portability on app

Batelco first to provide fully automated number portability

TDT | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, has launched a seamless number portability feature on the Batelco mobile App, enabling mobile users to instantly switch from their current provider to Batelco, with a few quick steps. Batelco is the first operator in Bahrain to provide this unique feature and this comes as part of its continuous efforts to innovate and enhance the experience of its customers.



Aseel Mattar

> We are thrilled to introduce this exciting new feature! We have accelerated and evolved the process and with just a few simple taps, mobile customers can now port-in and join the Batelco family digitally. The feature ensures a smooth transition enabling users to easily navigate the step-by-step guide and change their operator in just one minute
>
> ASEEL MATTAR

In line with Batelco's ongoing drive to digitise the customer journey, the new feature provides a comprehensive, end-to-end digital experience for customers and removes the need to visit a Batelco retail shop. The 'One minute Switch to Batelco' feature integrates the various steps needed to change provider, speeding up the process and ensuring convenience.

Aseel Mattar, General Manager Consumer at Batelco said, "We are thrilled to introduce this exciting new feature! We have accelerated and evolved the process and with just a few simple taps, mobile customers can now port-in and join the Batelco family digitally. The feature ensures a smooth transition enabling users to easily navigate the step-by-step guide and change their operator in just one minute."

"Our commitment to our customer satisfaction is embedded in every aspect of our operations. We constantly strive to elevate our customers' experience to higher standards."

Stocks slide before US inflation, ECB meeting

AFP | London

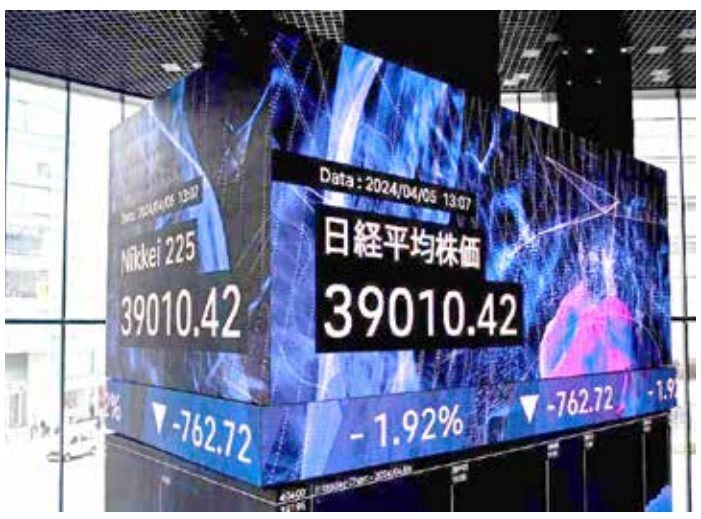
US and European stocks retreated yesterday as investors awaited this week's US inflation data, eurozone central bank meeting and corporate results.

Investors will be poring over US consumer price data to be released Wednesday after the last two inflation reports came in hotter than expected, delaying expectations of interest rate cuts. Then Thursday, the European Central Bank meets to discuss interest rate policy for the eurozone.

The March consumer price index (CPI) data may provide an indication whether or not the sticky inflation readings at the start of the year were due to seasonal factors, and how much possibility there is the US Federal Reserve could begin to cut rates starting in June.

"The Fed to some extent indicated seasonal factors might have kept inflation sticky in January and February, but that excuse might not fly much longer," said analysts at Charles Schwab.

The inflation news has the "ability to swing market sentiment, as does the earnings guidance that will be flowing out of the first quarter earnings reporting period," said Patrick J. O'Hare, an analyst at Briefing.com.



An electronic board displays a share price of the Nikkei index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo

With US consumer prices picking up in January and February, the jobs market still strong and the US economy in rude health, traders have regularly rolled back their forecasts for monetary policy easing this year, and some are even contemplating no cuts before 2025.

"At the beginning of this year markets were pricing in six 25 basis point cuts: Now it's nearer to two or three," said Trade Nation's David Morrison.

"There have been some FOMC members who feel that the recent stalling of the decline in inflation, together with robust economic data releases, means that it's far too early to consider cutting rates," he said referring to members of the Fed's monetary policy-setting committee.

But Schwab analysts said investors may now be okay with that.

"Wall Street's bullish reaction to last week's blow-out March jobs report reflects the idea that investors could be getting comfortable with of one, two, or even no rate cuts this year as long as there's no sign of recession and earnings growth continues," said Schwab analysts in a note to clients.

Despite the news that the US economy created just over 300,000 jobs last month hurt the chances of a Fed rate cut in June but US stocks rose as investors saw it as a good indication for corporate earnings.

The end of the week sees the start of the US earnings season, with JPMorgan, Wells Fargo and Citigroup up first. Next week will see some European luxury groups report, including LVMH, Richemont, Burberry and EssilorLuxottica.

While the ECB is almost certain to keep interest rates unchanged at Thursday's meeting, analysts are divided over whether it will wait for the Fed to cut first, or if it will be spurred into action by Europe's sputtering economies.

BP issues upbeat quarterly outlook



A general view of a BP gas station in Farmingdale, New York

AFP | London

British energy major BP said yesterday that it expects rising oil and gas production and solid trading in the first quarter.

"Upstream production in the first quarter is expected to be higher compared to the prior quarter, with production higher in oil production and operations, and slightly higher in gas and low carbon energy," BP said in a brief statement.

Gas sales are "expected to be strong" after a solid performance in the fourth quarter of 2023, while oil sales have regained strength after a weak performance in the prior period.

In response, BP's share price gained almost two percent in late morning deals on London's flat stock market.

Yesterday's earnings update was published ahead of first-quarter results due on May 7.

"It looks like BP is poised for another strong quarterly scorecard after results in the final three months of 2023 outpaced expectations," commented Victoria Scholar, head of investment at Interactive Investor.

She noted that BP and the broader energy sector have also been supported by "underlying oil prices with geopolitical supply shocks and improving global demand".

The price of Brent crude topped $91 a barrel on Friday as worries intensified that the Gaza war could spiral into a broader conflict involving major crude producer Iran.

Higher oil prices tend to boost profits and revenues across the energy industry.

French beauty brand L'Occitane halts Hong Kong trading over takeover

AFP | Paris

French beauty company L'Occitane yesterday halted trading of its Hong Kong-listed shares pending an announcement of a takeover, according to a company notice to the bourse.

The buyout would be a take-private deal jointly launched by US private equity giant Blackstone and L'Occitane's billionaire owner Reinold Geiger, Bloomberg reported.

The $5.55 billion Hong Kong-listed L'Occitane International rejected last September a buyout offer from Geiger's investment holding company, L'Occitane Group.

At the time, L'Occitane Group held more than 72 percent of L'Occitane International.



Logo of L'Occitane is seen outside a store

Bloomberg reported in February that Blackstone had been conducting preliminary due diligence for a potential bid for L'Occitane International.

Founded in France's southern region of Provence in 1976, the luxury cosmetics retailer went public in Hong Kong in 2010.

HSBC sells Argentina division for $550 million

AFP | London

Global bank HSBC has agreed to sell its Argentina division to the financial services company Grupo Financiero Galicia for $550 million as it focuses on core Asia operations, it said yesterday.

"This transaction is another important step in the execution of our strategy and enables us to focus our resources on higher value opportunities across our international network," chief executive Noel Quinn said in a statement.

The London-listed lender expects to take a $1.0 billion pretax loss on the disposal in the first quarter, while the price is subject to adjustments depending on the performance of the business before the deal closes, it added.



View of the Angel de la Independencia monument in front of the HSBC bank headquarters in Mexico City

"HSBC Argentina is largely a domestically focused business, with limited connectivity to the rest of our international network," Quinn said.

"Furthermore, given its size, it also generates substantial earnings volatility for the group when its results are translated into US dollars.

"Galicia is better placed to invest in and grow the business."

Argentina's economy is plagued by triple-digit annual inflation that stands at over 200 percent, and a highly volatile peso currency.

HSBC added yesterday that following the deal's close, it would write off $4.9 billion in historical foreign exchange losses, partly linked to the sharp devaluation of the peso announced late last year by Argentina's President Javier Milei.

The Argentina business has a network of more than 100 branches and employs 3,100 people. It has around one million customers and generated revenues last year totalling $774 million.

Quinn said HSBC remained committed to its business in Mexico and the United States, and to serving international clients across its global network.

Parents sentenced for school shooting: First conviction of its kind

Parents of US school shooter sentenced to 10-15 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter

- **Judge emphasizes parental responsibility amidst emotional sentencing hearing**
- **Son serving life for deadly attack**

AFP | Washington

The parents of a teenager who carried out a deadly school shooting in the US state of Michigan were sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison yesterday in an unprecedented and closely watched case.

Jennifer Crumbley, 46, and her husband James, 47, were the first parents of a school shooter convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the United States for the actions of their child.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Matthews sentenced them to 10 and 15 years in prison each with credit for the 28 months they had already spent behind bars.



James Crumbley (L in orange) and his wife, Jennifer Crumbley (R in black-and-white stripes) during the hearing

Their son Ethan, who is now 17, is serving a life sentence for the November 30, 2021, shooting which left four students dead and seven other people injured at Oxford High School, 45 miles (70 kilometers) north of Detroit.

"Parents are not expected to be psychic," Matthews said at an emotional sentencing hearing in Pontiac, Michigan, attended by parents of the victims.

"But these convictions are not about poor parenting," Matthews said. "These convictions confirm repeated acts, or lack of acts, that could have halted an oncoming runaway train."

> **Parents are not expected to be psychic. But these convictions are not about poor parenting. These convictions confirm repeated acts, or lack of acts, that could have halted an oncoming runaway train**
>
> OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CHERYL MATTHEWS

Addressing the court before sentencing, Craig Shilling, the father of Justin Shilling, 17, one of the slain students, told the Crumbleys "the blood of our children is on your hands."

Steve St. Juliana, the father of another victim, Hana St. Juliana, who was 14, said her murder "has destroyed a large portion of my soul."

"I am forever denied the chance to hold her or her future children in my arms," he said.

'Alarmed'

During separate trials, the Crumbleys were accused of ignoring warnings that their son had mental health struggles.

Jennifer Crumbley testified during her trial that her husband bought their son the 9mm SIG Sauer handgun he used in the attack just days earlier as an early Christmas present.

She took the boy to a shooting range the day after the purchase.

The Crumbleys were summoned to the school on the day of the shooting itself after a teacher became alarmed by a violent drawing she found on Ethan's desk.

They were shown the drawing and advised they needed to get the boy into counseling. The parents allegedly resisted taking their son home and he returned to class.

He later entered a bathroom, emerged with the gun which had been concealed in his backpack and fired more than 30 shots.

Amid a huge number of deadly firearms incidents involving young people in the United States, pressure has been mounting to punish parents who make it possible for their children to get weapons.

The father of an Illinois man accused of killing seven people in July 2022 pleaded guilty in November to misdemeanor charges of "reckless conduct" for helping his son obtain the assault rifle used in the mass shooting.

A Virginia woman whose six-year-old son shot and severely wounded his teacher was recently sentenced to two years in prison for felony child neglect. She later received an additional 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to illegally obtaining the firearm.

Venezuela arrests ex-oil minister El Aissami in graft probe

AFP | Caracas

Venezuelan authorities announced the arrest yesterday of influential ex-oil minister Tareck El Aissami, who had resigned from his post last year amid a corruption scandal at state oil company PDVSA.



Tareck El Aissami

"We have managed to reveal the direct participation and consequent arrest" of El Aissami, Attorney General Tarek William Saab said, adding that charges would be announced "in the next few hours."

El Aissami, 49, also previously headed PDVSA. He was a close lieutenant to President Nicolas Maduro, serving as his vice president from 2017 to 2018.

He resigned in March 2023 amid a corruption scandal over irregularities in the management of funds from oil operations carried out with crypto assets.

The case also led to the detention of dozens of officials, including top management of the Sunacrip crypto regulator.

Saab displayed photos of El Aissami under arrest, handcuffed while under the escort of two officials.

He also announced the capture of Simon Zerpa, an ex-economy minister, and Samar Lopez, a businessman accused of money laundering.

The new arrests add to some 61 people taken into custody amid the investigation into PDVSA US-based subsidiary Citgo.

Several experts have accused Maduro of using the investigation as an excuse for a "political purge."

Four dead, five missing in blast at Italy hydroelectric plant

AFP | London

An explosion at an Italian hydroelectric power plant yesterday killed at least four people and left five missing, an official said.

Three people were also injured in the incident at the Bargi plant run by Enel Green Power located on Lake Suviana, the official from the Bologna prefecture in central Italy told AFP.

Fire service images showed smoke rising from the plant on the water's edge where firefighters searched for the missing following the early afternoon blast.

The mayor of the nearby town of Camugnano, Marco Masinara, called the explosion a "terrible workplace accident" that affected the "entire community".



An aerial view following an explosion at a hydroelectric power plant

"It seems there was a floor slab collapse and rescue is difficult as a lot of water entered inside the eighth basement floor," he said.

No official cause has yet been determined.

Bologna fire department head, Calogero Turturici, told local television that at least one person was seriously injured.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on social media that she was "following with apprehension the terrible news regarding the explosion."

Enel Green Power, the renewables unit of energy giant Enel that operates the plant, said it was coordinating with authorities.

In a statement to AFP, it said "a fire affected one of the two groups of the Bargi plant" in the province of Bologna.

"Following investigations, the dam basin of the Bargi plant was not damaged and is safe," it said.

Production was halted, but there was no impact on local or national supply, it said.

"The company informs that it is continuing to operate in line with all the necessary safety measures as per internal procedures to guarantee the evacuation of its staff."

Nobel-winning 'God particle' physicist Higgs dies aged 94

AFP | London

British physicist Peter Higgs, whose theory of a mass-giving particle -- the so-called Higgs boson -- jointly earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics, has died aged 94, the University of Edinburgh announced yesterday.



Peter Higgs

"He passed away peacefully at home on Monday 8 April following a short illness," the Scottish university, where he had been a professor for nearly five decades, said in a statement.

It called him "a great teacher and mentor, inspiring generations of young scientists".

"His family has asked that the media and public respect their privacy at this time," the university added.

Millions of Indonesians take part in exodus for Eid celebration

AFP | London

On motorcycles, cars, buses, planes or by boat, millions of Indonesians have travelled to their hometowns in an annual exodus for the Eid holiday that begins in the country on Wednesday.

Major seaports and toll roads have been packed in recent days, while airports and bus terminals were also full of travellers looking forward to reuniting with their families.

The annual migration known as "mudik", or exodus, takes a toll on Indonesia's roads. Travellers who pack their families and luggage into cars or motorbikes can face gruelling trips of 24 hours or longer.

Indonesia's transport ministry says up to 193 million people were expected to travel for Eid this year, up from 123 million estimated to have made the trip last year in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.



Motorcyclists wait to board a ferry to cross the Sunda Strait to return home ahead of Eid al-Fitr

More than 28 million were forecast to have left the Greater Jakarta area alone, enduring hours of traffic or congested airports and seaports to celebrate the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with their families.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi called on those making the exodus to avoid motorbikes and take ships, buses or trains instead for safety reasons.

So many people were making journeys home that the Indonesian navy deployed a battleship to transfer residents of capital Jakarta who failed to get tickets to the Javan cities of Semarang and Surabaya, state news agency Antara reported.

Wosse Muhammad Arif Sani, a 28-year-old civil servant, spent 13 hours on the road in traffic to reach his wife's Central Java hometown from Bogor, a city south of Jakarta.

"For me, mudik is our tradition. And the lengthy travel time or issues on the road, that's the art, the excitement. Because the journey takes longer than usual. Seeing people on the road, that's entertaining," he said.

THE DAILY tribune

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

QUOTE OF THE DAY

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE PEACE EVEN IF WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

News in brief

Thailand says prepared to receive 100,000 people fleeing Myanmar



◆ **Thailand is prepared to accept 100,000 people fleeing Myanmar, its foreign minister said yesterday, as fighting near a crucial border town rumbled on.** Thailand shares a 2,400km border with Myanmar, which has been embroiled in a civil war since the junta overthrew the democratically elected government in 2021. In recent months, Myanmar's army has faced its worst threat yet as fighting from anti-junta groups engulfs previously peaceful areas of the country.

Top Chinese official to visit North Korea this week



◆ **China's third highest-ranking official Zhao Leji will visit North Korea this week, Beijing and Pyongyang said yesterday, as the two countries mark 75 years of diplomatic ties.** Zhao, who is a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo and is China's top lawmaker, "will lead a Chinese party and government delegation to pay an official goodwill visit from April 11 to 13", foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said. Beijing is North Korea's most important ally and economic benefactor, their relationship forged in the bloodshed of the Korean War in the 1950s.

Australia taps admiral to be new military chief



◆ **Australia appointed a senior naval officer as its new military chief yesterday, signalling the growing importance of maritime security as China muscles up in the Asia-Pacific region.** Vice Admiral David Johnston will be tasked with seeing through the landmark AUKUS pact with Washington and London, a major military overhaul that will see Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines. Defence Minister Richard Marles said Johnston was the first navy officer to lead Australia's armed forces in more than two decades. "In respect of acquiring a nuclear-powered submarine capability, and of modernising our service fleet, this will be a time when having someone from the navy in the top job will be very worthwhile," Marles told reporters.

Shipwreck off Djibouti leaves 38 migrants dead

- 66 people were aboard
- 22 survivors assisted
- many believed Ethiopian nationals

AFP | Addis Ababa



A migrant boat is seen in Mediterranen waters east of Cape Greco in southeastern Cyprus ahead of a rescue operation (file photo)

The bodies of 38 migrants, including children, have been recovered after a shipwreck off the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, the UN said yesterday, the latest disaster on the so-called Eastern migration route.

The UN's International Organization for Migration told AFP that the boat was carrying 66 people when it sank in the early hours of Monday.

The tragedy took place just 200 metres (yards) off the coast of Godoria in the northeast of Djibouti, the agency said in an email to AFP.

"Thirty-eight bodies have been recovered. 22 survivors are being assisted by IOM and local authorities," IOM regional spokesperson Yvonne Ngede said.

She said those on the boat included women, children and babies and that most of them were believed to be Ethiopian nationals.

In a post on X accompanied by a picture of white body bags lined up on a beach, the IOM said at least six other people were missing and presumed dead after the "tragic shipwreck".

The Ethiopian embassy in Djibouti said the accident involved a boat carrying around 60 Ethiopian migrants from Djibouti to war-torn Yemen.

Each year, many tens of thousands of African migrants brave the perilous "Eastern Route" across the Red Sea and through war-scarred Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia, escaping conflict, or natural disaster or seeking better economic opportunities.

"On their journeys, many face life-threatening dangers including starvation, health risks and exploitation -- at the hands of human traffickers and other criminals," the IOM said in a statement in February.

'Putting themselves in grave danger'

Africa's second most populous country, Ethiopia is blighted by various conflicts and several regions have suffered from severe drought in recent years.

More than 15 percent of its some 120 million inhabitants depend on food aid.

The Ethiopian embassy in Djibouti said that in the last five years, 189 of its citizens making the journey had lost their lives in boat accidents alone.

"Our citizens are putting themselves and their families in grave danger," the embassy said.

People should not be "deceived" by human traffickers, it said, calling for the judiciary to take action against them.

In February, the IOM said that according to its Missing Migrants Project at least 698 people, including women and children, had died crossing the Gulf of Aden from Djibouti to Yemen last year.

"This number could be higher considering some tragedies often go unnoticed," it said.

In November 2023, a shipwreck off the shores of Yemen left 64 migrants missing, presumed dead at sea, the agency added.

SPOTLIGHT

March saw 10th straight month of record global heat: monitor



Burnt sunflowers in a field during a heat wave in the suburbs of Puy Saint Martin village, southeastern France

AFP | Paris

Europe's climate monitor said yesterday that March was the hottest on record and the tenth straight month of historic heat, with sea surface temperatures also hitting a "shocking" new high.

It is the latest red flag in a year already marked by climate extremes and rising greenhouse gas emissions, spurring fresh calls for more rapid action to limit global warming.

Every month since June 2023 has beaten its own "hottest ever" tag -- and March 2024 was no exception.

The EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said that March globally was 1.68 degrees Celsius hotter than an average March between the years 1850-1900, the reference period for the pre-industrial era.

The March record was only broken by 0.1C but it is the broader trend that was more alarming, said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of C3S.

Huge swathes of the planet endured above-average temperatures in March, from parts of Africa to Greenland, South America and Antarctica.

'Borrowed time'

It was not only the tenth consecutive month to break its own heat record, but capped the hottest 12-month period on the books -- 1.58C above pre-industrial averages.

This doesn't mean the 1.5C warming limit agreed by world leaders in Paris in 2015 has been breached -- that is measured in decades, not individual years.

Nonetheless "the reality is that we're extraordinarily close, and already on borrowed time," Burgess told AFP.

The UN's IPCC climate panel has warned that the world will likely crash through 1.5C in the early 2030s.

The story at sea was no less "shocking", Burgess said, with a new record for global ocean surface temperature set in February eclipsed once again in March.

"That's incredibly unusual," she said.

Myanmar junta slams UN's 'one-sided' human rights claims

AFP | Bangkok



Myanmar junta military soldiers parade during a ceremony to mark the country's Armed Forces Day in Naypyidaw

Myanmar's junta yesterday slammed the UN's "one-sided allegations" about its human rights record and said it had received no official communication regarding the recent appointment of a new UN special envoy to the conflict-torn country.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the military seized power in February 2021, ending a brief democratic experiment and sparking clashes with ethnic rebel groups and anti-coup fighters.

The junta has reacted with fury to attempts by the UN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc to establish dialogue between it and its opponents, whom it has vowed to "annihilate".

Last week the UN's rights council adopted a resolution slamming "horrific and systematic human rights violations" in Myanmar.

It also criticised the junta's "stranglehold" on humanitarian assistance, which it said was exacerbating a crisis that has displaced more than 2.5 million people.

Ecuador's ex-VP hospitalised after capture in embassy raid

AFP | London



Jorge Glas

Ecuador's ex-vice president Jorge Glas, arrested in a raid on Mexico's embassy in Quito, has been hospitalized after refusing to eat, the prison authority said Monday as a diplomatic spat over his capture spiraled.

Glas, 54, was in a stable condition at a naval hospital in Guayaquil, the SNAI authority said in a statement, and will be kept under observation.

Ecuador carried out a raid on the embassy Friday to capture Glas, who sought refuge there last December pending a corruption investigation against him.

Mexico had granted him political refugee status just hours before.

Earlier Monday, a Brussels-based lawyer for Glas told AFP she feared for his life and pleaded for international help.

"I believe that Jorge Glas is at grave risk, at imminent risk, in the hands of the (Ecuadoran) government. It was a kidnapping, and I believe at any moment they could kill him," Sonia Vera said.

The SNAI statement said Glas had not responded during roll-call at Guayas prison Monday.

He appeared to have fallen ill after refusing to eat for 24 hours, it added, and was taken to hospital. Local media, citing a police report, said Glas went into a "self-induced coma" after taking antidepressants.

Late Friday, Ecuadoran special forces equipped with a battering ram surrounded the Mexican embassy, and at least one agent scaled the walls, in an almost unheard-of raid on diplomatic premises, which are considered inviolable sovereign territory.

Vatican foreign minister in Vietnam ahead of possible Pope Francis trip



Archbishop Paul Gallagher

AFP | Washington

The Vatican's de facto foreign minister arrived in Vietnam yesterday hoping to ease strained ties between the communist Southeast Asian nation and the Holy See, and pave the way for a potential visit by Pope Francis.

Archbishop Paul Gallagher is the most senior official to visit Vietnam since diplomatic relations were cut at the end of the war with the United States in 1975, when the communist government expelled the apostolic delegate.

In recent years the two have tried to restart diplomatic relations, and Gallagher's trip -- which will include tours of Hanoi, southern business hub Ho Chi Minh City and ancient capital Hue -- comes after a Vietnamese delegation visited the pope earlier this year.

Vietnam has around six million Catholics, who make up roughly six percent of its population.

THE DAILY tribune



Eats & Treats

BAHRAIN

to your heart's content



Celebrate a Sweet Eid

Sweets form an integral part of every celebration. Nothing can compare to the anticipation of a sweet treat at the end of a savoury meal. A sweetened festivity is always a joy to the senses. Using seasonal ingredients in desserts is a great idea, and the tactical use of natural sweeteners in desserts is an art. There is no shortage of dessert ideas as the internet is flooded with sweet recipes containing every ingredient you can think of. Malai Kulfi is a commonly enjoyed Indian frozen dessert. This rich and creamy ice cream is traditionally prepared from milk, sugar, cardamom and nuts. The mixture is simmered while continuously stirring to caramelise the sugar and reduce the milk. The resulting thickened cream is moulded and frozen to form kulfi.

Mango Kulfi is made extra special with sweet, ripe mangoes which you can easily find at local supermarkets in Bahrain. The mango puree adds sweetness, reducing the need for added sugars, thereby producing a luscious, guilt-free and cooling treat. Prepare this summer delight and enjoy it with your friends and family during the Eid holidays.





MANGO KULFI RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 4 cups full fat milk + ⅓ cup extra
- 4 tbsp milk powder
- 4 tbsp sugar
- 1 cup mango purée (4-5 small mangoes)

Instructions:

- In a deep, heavy bottom pan, add 4 cups of full fat milk. Let this mixture come to a boil.
- In an electric grinder /mixer, add in mango chunks and sugar. Blitz this until it reaches a pureed consistency. Set this aside.
- In a small bowl, mix ⅓ cup of remaining milk with milk powder and combine the two. Once the milk has come to a boil, add this mix into the boiling milk, stirring continuously. Now reduce the heat and let the milk simmer until it is reduced to half its quantity.
- Once the milk has reduced down, transfer it into a clean bowl and let it cool down completely. Once cooled, mix in the mango puree.
- Pour the mango mix into kulfi moulds. Cover the mould with foil and stick in ice cream sticks.
- Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight for best results!

Unravelling the Summer Appetite Mystery

Why do we lose our hunger in the heat?



Feeling less hungry during the sweltering heat of summer is a common experience for many people, and it is not just a figment of the imagination. I have noticed that I feel thirstier in summer while hunger is secondary. There are several scientific reasons behind this phenomenon.

When our bodies are exposed to high temperatures, they work harder to regulate internal temperature through sweating. This increased physiological effort can decrease appetite as the body prioritizes cooling mechanisms over digestion. Additionally, dehydration often accompanies hot weather, and our bodies can mistake thirst for hunger. As a result, we may feel less inclined to eat when in fact we need fluids to hydrate.

Hot weather can affect our metabolism. Exposure to heat can temporarily increase metabolic rate as the body works to maintain a stable internal temperature. While this might seem counterintuitive to appetite suppression, the increased metabolic activity does not necessarily translate to increased hunger. Instead, it can disrupt the usual signals that regulate appetite, leading to decreased hunger signals.

Another factor is the types of foods typically consumed during the summer months. People opt for lighter, more relaxed fare such as salads, fruits, and smoothies, which are hydrating and refreshing. These foods are often lower in calorie density than heavier, calorie-rich meals typically consumed during colder months. As a result, even if appetite is suppressed, individuals may still meet their energy needs with fewer calories.

Feeling less hungry during summer is a complex phenomenon influenced by physiological, metabolic, dietary, and psychological factors. While it may be a natural response to the heat, it is essential to listen to our bodies' cues and ensure adequate hydration and nutrition, even when appetite is diminished.

Try my chicken salad recipe, which provides all the nutrients you need while keeping you refreshed. The chicken seasoning contains more than just plain, bland salt and pepper. Meanwhile, the use of grape tomatoes provides a juicy pop of freshness. I love the neutral flavour of the baby spinach that allows the flavour of other components to come through. Adding eggs and avocados adds omega-3 as well as several vitamins and minerals. A generous sprinkling of Grana Padano cheese intensifies the flavour of each bite. Finally, the dressing comprising of zesty lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil completes the dish, making it the perfect summer meal.

TANIA'S SUMMER CHICKEN SALAD RECIPE

(Serves 2)

Salad ingredients:

- 2 large chicken breasts (cut into 1.5" cubes)
- 1 heaping cup baby spinach leaves, rinsed and dried
- 2 eggs
- ½ small onion (thinly sliced) – (optional)
- ½ clove of raw garlic (minced)
- 12 grape tomatoes (cut in half)
- 1 ripe avocado (cubed)
- ¼ cup Grana Padano cheese (grated and sliced)
- 4 tbsps Extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsps Fresh lemon juice



Seasoning mix for the chicken:

- ¾ tsp of salt
- ¼ tsp crushed black pepper
- ½ tsp onion powder
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp paprika powder
- ¼ tsp smoked paprika powder
- ¼ tsp cumin powder
- 1/8 tsp turmeric powder

Mix the seasoning and apply over the chicken.
Leave to rest while preparing the other components of the salad.

Instructions:

1. Boil eggs in water until cooked. Peel and set aside for later.
2. Cut all ingredients as mentioned in the ingredients list.
3. Fry the seasoned chicken in a little butter and oil until cooked through, and set aside.
4. To assemble the salad, divide all ingredients into half (As the ingredients are for two plates of salad). Layer the spinach, cherry tomatoes, onions, garlic, and avocado.
5. Drizzle lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil. Season lightly with salt and pepper.
6. Add the eggs, cheese and warm chicken and top generously with cheese.
7. Finish with a little cracked black pepper and serve immediately.

C24-35

Culinary mastery at the highest level

Trust is very mportant. If you are a micromanager and feel the need to double check everything, you are not creating a culture where someone feels recognised. When you trust your team, they will always try to showcase their skills and outperform.



A master in the gastronomic world, Executive Chef Joergen Sodemann brings with him over 30 years of experience. His passion for using locally sourced ingredients and dedication to creating innovative and flavourful dishes align perfectly with The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's overall culinary vision. He has a wealth of knowledge from working for The Ritz-Carlton in multiple locations and is immensely creative. Read on, as Chef Joergen talks about his childhood exposure leading to his culinary passion, leadership strategies and his contributions to The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

1.How have your German roots contributed to your journey and proficiency as a chef?

I grew up in a German family of food lovers. Basic German values of discipline is in my DNA and this enabled me to be successful. I always focus on quality over quantity and believe that if you do something, you should do it right and strive for perfection.

2. What is your most memorable moment as a chef?

I was a part of the opening team of ten hotels. It is very rewarding to see your plans come into action. The people that I have worked with and mentored come to me with gratitude, and I treasure that. It makes me happy to know that I have impacted teams and helped with their career and personal growth.

3.What is the best cooking advice you have received and from whom?

My grandparents were my mentors and they taught me two things- Be patient and quality takes time. Focus and practice helps in obtaining the best quality. Rushing things is not a good idea and I always believe in that, but of course we have to adapt to a fast-paced environment.

4.What is your philosophy to effectively managing a team of chefs?

Our culture differentiates us from other hotels. It is legendary and very specific to our brand. Luckily, that culture tells us how to do business. How to treat each other with respect, take care of our assets/ resources, we have a set of guidelines for everything. This ensures success in managing teams and has worked very well for me. I manage a team of 110 chefs and our diverse manpower is willing to learn from each other. Trust is very important. If you are a micromanager and feel the need to double check everything, you are not creating a culture where someone feels recognised. When you trust your team, they will always try to showcase their skills and outperform.

5.Can you share some behind-the-scene insights into the process of creating a new dish for the hotel's restaurant menus.

Firstly, we look at the market demand, sales and customer preferences. We also look at available products and try to source locally whenever possible. We consider local techniques and recipes and gather ideas to implement for guests to enjoy. The team comes together during the daily line-up and share ideas that could work. We do internal competitions with a tasting panel where everyone cooks a dish. We look at taste and presentation and with a few tweaks, come up with a new dish for our menu.

6. The hotel is increasingly adopting sustainability practices. What role does sustainability play in your culinary approach, in terms of sourcing and food waste reduction?

Sustainability has become an important factor and as part of our sustainability approach, we work with local farmers especially at the Farmers' Market in Budaiya. We collaborate with the Bahrain Food Bank to donate food from our breakfast buffet, iftars and ghabgas. We also have oil filtering processes and oil recycling techniques. We use coffee grounds as fertilizers and track food waste as well. We have a goal to further reduce food waste and contribute to global sustainability.

7.Describe one of your signature creations that has been particularly successful at the Ritz-Carlton.

My grandmother's cheesecake aka 'Cheesecake Next Level' is one of my signature dishes that has been very famous among guests. I use labneh as an adaptation to the original recipe and it results in a very smooth, light cheesecake with a delightful vanilla flavour.

8.You have worked at a luxury property in Tokyo, Japan. Please tell us about the Japanese concept of 'Kushiyaki' that you have introduced at Le Jardin. What unique delights can guests expect to enjoy?

The art of kushiyaki at Le Jardin restaurant in The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, is a culinary experience that truly captivates the senses. Kushiyaki, a traditional Japanese grilling technique, involves skewering and grilling various ingredients to perfection over charcoal, resulting in smoky and flavorful dishes.

At Le Jardin, this art form is elevated to new heights, with a meticulous attention to detail and flavor profiles that transport diners to the vibrant streets of Japan. The skilled chefs at Le Jardin masterfully prepare an array of kushiyaki dishes, showcasing the freshest seafood, premium cuts of meat, and seasonal vegetables, all expertly grilled to impart a delicious char and depth of flavor.

9.What is exciting post Eid?

We are coming up with an Arabic/ Oriental buffet concept to attract local guests. We will have Bahraini guest chefs and try as much as possible to Bahrainise this particular culinary offering. We are looking at Bahrainis to come and enjoy some traditional classics that we have seen people enjoying at the Masaya Tent.

10. Name a food item that makes you happy.

Any food that is cooked and produced with love and passion makes me happy.



Chef Joergen's signature dish- 'Cheesecake Next Level'

11.If you could have someone cook for you, who would that be and why?

I always think about my grandmother. We had fresh produce and farm animals at home and she used to cook three meals a day. She used to prepare food with a passion to make everyone happy. That has always stayed with me. She is no more but given the choice, I would love to eat a meal cooked by her again.



TODAY IN HISTORY

1483

Edward V (aged 12) succeeds his father Edward IV as king of England. He is never crowned, and disappears presumed murdered, after incarceration in the Tower of London with his younger brother Richard (the "Princes in the Tower")



1731

British mariner Robert Jenkins' ear cut off by Spanish Guarde Costa in the Caribbean, later catalyst for war between Britain & Spain

1869

Hudson Bay Company cedes its territory to Canada

2003

Baghdad falls to US forces, ending the invasion of Iraq, but resulting in widespread looting

Simon Harris becomes Ireland's youngest prime minister



Simon Harris

AFP | Dublin

Simon Harris became Ireland's youngest ever prime minister yesterday, pledging to bring "new energy" to the role but conceding that time is tight before looming crucial election tests.

Harris, 37, replaces Leo Varadkar who abruptly quit last month citing personal and political reasons.

Ireland's parliament voted 88 to 69 in favour of Harris who was officially installed at a ceremony with President Michael D. Higgins.

The centre-right Fine Gael party -- part of a three-party governing coalition -- selected Harris as its leader following an uncontested election after Varadkar resigned.

But he faces key elections within months as well as domestic pressure to tackle crises over housing and opposition to migration.

Gaza war rages as Hamas studies truce proposal

Amid ongoing ceasefire talks, Israeli airstrikes target key locations in Gaza

- **Netanyahu vows to destroy Hamas despite ceasefire discussions**
- **Proposal for temporary truce and hostage exchange under review**

AFP | Gaza

Israel bombed targets in Gaza yesterday after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted the army would destroy Hamas despite ongoing Cairo talks towards a ceasefire and hostage deal.

More than six months into the war, Hamas said it was "studying" a new proposal for a temporary truce, submitted during the talks with US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

Under the plan, fighting would stop for six weeks, about 40 women and child hostages would be exchanged for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and up to 500 aid trucks would enter Gaza per day, a Hamas source said.



A United Nations (UN) team visit as Palestinian civil defence recover human remains from the grounds of Al-Shifa hospital

Hamas said it "appreciates" the mediators' latest efforts but accused Israel of failing to respond to its demands including a full withdrawal of forces from Gaza.

Netanyahu stressed -- despite growing pressure from top ally the United States -- that Israel would pursue the twin goals of bringing home "all our hostages" and destroying Hamas after its October 7 attack.

In a video message Monday, the premier said Israeli forces would storm Gaza's far-southern city of Rafah on the Egyptian border, despite global concern for the fate of around 1.5 million Palestinians sheltering there.

"This victory requires entry into Rafah and the elimination of the terrorist battalions there," Netanyahu said.

"It will happen -- there is a date," he vowed without saying when he plans to send troops into the last city in Gaza yet to face a ground invasion.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel had not shared with Washington "any date for an operation" in Rafah.

Netanyahu reiterated that message yesterday during a visit to a military base, saying: "No force in the world will stop us."

US officials renewed their objections to a Rafah operation, following a phone call last week between President Joe Biden and Netanyahu.

"We have made clear to Israel that we think a full-scale military invasion of Rafah would have an enormously harmful effect on those civilians and that it would ultimately hurt Israel's security," said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

Israel has invited tenders for 40,000 large tents, according to a document on the defence ministry website -- part of its preparations to evacuate Rafah ahead of an offensive, a government source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

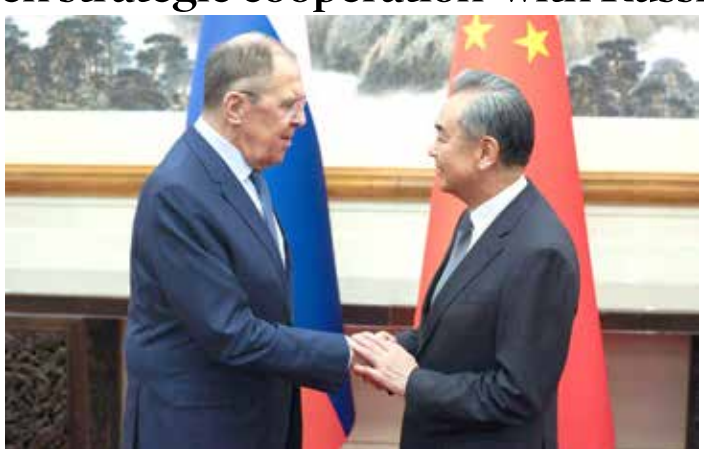
China to 'strengthen strategic cooperation' with Russia as Lavrov visits

AFP | Beijing

China's top diplomat said yesterday that Beijing would strengthen strategic cooperation with Moscow and that the two must stand on the side of "fairness and justice" as he met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

phone number change to +91 Lavrov arrived in China for a two-day official visit on Monday, with the two countries looking to strengthen diplomatic ties as Russia's war in Ukraine grinds on.

Russia and China have in recent years ramped up contacts, and their strategic partnership has only grown closer since the invasion of Ukraine.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meeting his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing (file photo)

But analysts say China holds the upper hand in the relationship with Russia, with its sway growing as Moscow's international isolation deepens.

And in meetings yesterday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi promised: "China will support Russia's stable development under the leadership of (Vladimir) Putin."

"Beijing and Moscow will continue to strengthen strategic cooperation on the world stage and provide each other with strong support," Wang said, according to the RIA Novosti news agency.

Study lists world's 'forever chemical' hotspots



A banner bearing the message "Poison", is seen atop a structure at Arkema chemical plant

AFP | Sydney

Dangerous concentrations of long-lingering "forever chemicals" have been found in surface and groundwater worldwide, according to a study released yesterday that showed Australia, the United States and Europe as hotspots.

A paper published in the journal Nature Geoscience analysed data from 45,000 water samples globally and found a "substantial fraction" had levels of PFAS -- per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances -- above recommended levels.

Found in everyday products such as non-stick frying pans, food packaging and waterproof clothing, the substances have been linked to serious health conditions including cancer and birth defects.

They have been found everywhere from turtle eggs to Antarctic snow, but the latest study showed they were prevalent in surface water and groundwater used by humans for drinking.

Son of Spanish actor goes on trial over Thai island murder

AFP | Bangkok

The murder trial of a famous Spanish actor's son opened yesterday on a popular Thai tourist island, where he will face charges of killing another foreigner.

Chef Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, 29, pleaded not guilty at a hearing in November to the murder of 44-year-old Colombian plastic surgeon Edwin Arrieta Arteaga on the nearby Koh Pha Ngan island.

The trial opened yesterday on the honeymoon isle of Koh Samui, with scores of Spanish reporters flying in -- despite being barred from the tiny courtroom.

Sancho's father, well-known Spanish actor Rodolfo Sancho, arrived at court shortly after 8:30 am (0130 GMT).



A policeman stands outside the Koh Samui Provincial Court

"He is fine," he said, declining to answer any further questions.

Lawyer Juan Gonzalo Ospina Serrano, representing Arrieta's family, said outside court ahead of the trial they hoped that "Thai law will be forceful, that the truth can be told".

"We hope that the family can close this painful stage of their life and that they can begin their mourning," he said.

Sancho has been in pre-trial detention in Thailand since August, after police said he had admitted to the murder.

Under Thai law, premeditated murder convictions carry the death penalty. However, Arrieta's family previously said they would not seek the death penalty.

Sancho has admitted to hiding Arrieta's body -- which carries up to a year in jail -- but he denies the second charge of destroying the Colombian's passport.

Sancho's lawyer Apichart Srinual confirmed that his client would appear in court, but declined to answer reporters' questions.

The Thai public prosecutor who filed the case against Sancho also declined to speak to the media at the court.

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

How did @Alexandre de Moraes become the dictator of Brazil? He has Lula on a leash

@elonmusk

02



Excellent choice for the appointment of Vice Admiral David Johnston as CDF. Congratulations. I worked with the CDF designate over many years, starting when the VADM was head of Border Protection Command. Thanks also to General Campbell for his service.

@ScoMo30

03



Our hearts are with all who are suffering at a time of pain for many Muslim communities. As diplomats, we will continue to do all we can to improve the heartbreaking conditions many face, to fight against dehumanization, and to advance peace.

@SecBlinken

04



The former president has been clear: He is proudly responsible for overturning Roe v. Wade. Congress must pass a bill to restore the protections of Roe. President Biden is ready to sign it.

@VP

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

Classifieds



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

G4S Secure Solutions Bahrain W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or ossama.ibrahim@BH.G4S.COM

DAIR SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39442773 or ADAMCNROUP73@CNMAIL.COM

KATANA BEACH JAPANESE CUISINE has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38080801 or INFO@KATANATORII.COM

FINAL CLENIG has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39554198 or MADDHA70@GMAIL.COM

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

MOHAMED HUSAIN ALI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17789022 or MOHD@STALLIO-BH.COM

ALEZZ CONTRACTING MECHANICAL SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258381 or admin@alezzco.com

MILLS CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888173 or FATHIZADE313@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED INTERIORS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

MECHANICAL CONTRACTING & SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or mcsc@mcscwll.com

Classifieds



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VACANCIES AVAILABLE

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DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

ARAD CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256338 or ACE.5391@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468574 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

NATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39693040 or NETTS@ENGINEER.BH

AL AALI MOTORS has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17556862 or hrbur@alaalibh.com

Strong Force-MGC W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36065102 or jessica@alghanah.com

WARF CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33355009 or info@warfbh.com

La ROSA HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111999 or larosahotel1977@gmail.com

BALH AL BAHRAIN FRESH SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34172324 or HAKKEEMCK@GMAIL.COM

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

Dyna Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33713871 or dyna.bh@gmail.com

SHIFA DAR KULAIB MEDICAL CENTRE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39824032 or HR.SHIFADARKULAIBMEDICALCENTER@GMAIL.COM

ABU YOUSUF ABDUL HALIM FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37275995 or JSCREATIVE6@GMAIL.COM

CAFE LACO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39469641 or HRBUALIGROUP@GMAIL.COM

RAMZAN WAY INTERIOR DECORATION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38394520 or MR8171200@GMAIL.COM

AKBAR ABDULRAHMAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or AKBARBH533@GMAIL.COM

Data Direct Bahrain Solutions W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (OPERATIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17712303 or CORP@DADABAI.COM

HOLLYWOOD BARBER STUDIO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35143004 or IRFAN.SHERU2020@GMAIL.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

Ganny Saints Paradise Resturant has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33910288 or JHUBAISHI@GMAIL.COM

Vienna motors has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36361696 or VIENNAMOTORS7@GMAIL.COM

SARA SABRY MOHAMED HASSAN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35643302 or SSABRY20190@GMAIL.COM

AL RAHA ISLAND SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33881889 or JAFFERALASFOOR77@GMAIL.COM

SUPREME FOODS BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38822055 or RABIAHWA@TANMIAH.COM

TOBA TEK AUTO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33172539 or ATEYASHABBIR@GMAIL.COM

Levante Restaurant & Coffee Shop W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291444 or V66v66@hotmail.com

EVOLVES MANAGEMENT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38495612 or IMRAN.ROYALBEDS@GMAIL.COM

THE WAVES TECHNOLOGY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33240430 or THEWAVETECH.WLL@GMAIL.COM

Dr Engine Garage has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33391113 or ALORI523@GMAIL.COM

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

PETRO WORLD CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33121878 or HABIB6280@HOTMAIL.COM

NASEEM ALBAHRAIN SWEETS - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39404886 or CBGUPTA11@GMAIL.COM

IRFAN PAKISTANI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33891776 or IRFAN.PAKISTANIRESTURENT@GMAIL.COM

GAUCHO FOODS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17693220 or LUIS.MARONESE@GAUCHOFOODS.COM

MULTANI RESTAURANT CO BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33414013 or m.fazain4550@gmail.com

FISH MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710271 or MISHAL@ALGHALIA.COM

SATIS WAY BUSINESS SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33849926 or SATISWAYBH@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN EAST WEST INTERIOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33434585 or EASTWESTCARPENTRY.BH@GMAIL.COM

PARCO PROPERTIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39242994 or AJMALVATTOLI@GMAIL.COM

SUPER GOURMET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001720 or PRINCEBURGER@GMAIL.COM

HOLAND BIRD AND PET SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33132181 or MDHANIF139@GMAIL.COM

ALHOOR CLEARANCE & PUBLIC RELATIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36059034 or KHALIEL_88@HOTMAIL.COM

ADANI TEA CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892327 or ABDULLAH33821112@GMAIL.COM

PETCO WORLD FOR PET FOOD & ACCESSORIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ANIMALS KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17689386 or INFO@PETCOWORLDBH.COM

CHEF FRIEND TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33968470 or GALAXCTICA@GMAIL.COM

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DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36094012 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

ESMAELY LENZOHM ELECTRICAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37217337 or INFO@ESMAELYLENZOHM.COM

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

ALTAWFEEK MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786828 or YASMEEN@ALTAWFEEK.NET

SEVENTIES KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34444609 or fasalutpfazal@gmail.com

A.AHMED NASS CONTRACTING CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(SHOVEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

WARF MARINE SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33355009 or info@warfbh.com

POULLAIDES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39093137 or PCCBAH@BATELCO.COM.BH

MOHAMED JALAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536956 or RASHID_BUALI@JALAL.COM

WINTER TECH TRADING AND CONTRCTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17280443 or SURESH@GLSBAHRAIN.COM

AL ROMANSIAH RESTAURANTS MANAGEMENT COMAPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347547 or M.ALMOALLEM@ALROMANSIAH.COM

ALRAHILA CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33865286 or alrahilaconstruction@gmail.com

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

SANTE CUISINE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36840858 or ALBURSHID87@GMAIL.COM

PAK VALLEY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34344537 or GULFROUTETRANS@GMAIL.COM

A.M.S SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38017359 or AMRITASACHINDRA@GMAIL.COM

GREENNEST SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34569303 or GREENNESTSERVICESBH@OUTLOOK.COM

KHALIFA NOOR BUILDING COMPLETION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or DARWISHBH4@GMAIL.COM

ASHISH PATHRA CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36415755 or MSAIF7479@GMAIL.COM

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BU AMRAN CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33043743 or NEELAM.INRF@GMAIL.COM

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GOOD SUGGEST CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or SHAKLAN248@GMAIL.COM

ABUZAID REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33445465 or MOHAMEDEID33445465@GMAIL.COM

SHANE BAHRAIN FOODSTUFF W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17002125 or SHANEBAHRAINCO@GMAIL.COM

RIA MOTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77907474 or REYASTHAMANNA@GMAIL.COM

ZAHRA ELBOUANANI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33510619 or ZAHRAELBOUANANI5@GMAIL.COM

DIYAR AL KWAR RESTAURANT AND GRILLS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32226545 or FAISAL.ALABBASI@GMAIL.COM

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ONE CLICK PUBLICITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35054974 or KHALEEJTOWN22@GMAIL.COM

JUST BIRYANI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39555532 or NASSERALI2011611@GMAIL.COM

AIR TECH SOLUTIONS AC MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34581212 or J.KALLERY@GMAIL.COM

PICK & SHOP MART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33708296 or PICKSHOPMART@GMAIL.COM

MAKKA ELECTRICAL REPAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39057651 or BABUSARA62@GMAIL.COM

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AIR LOCKING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36582525 or ARAHEEL985@GMAIL.COM

GLOBE TRUST SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32056065 or AYWAK908@GMAIL.COM

MACHINSER STAR SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXCUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34440766 or SH_AMNAH@HOTMAIL.COM

ASEERI ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39678422 or aseerico@batelco.com.bh

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

ALTAWFEEK MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786828 or YASMEEN@ALTAWFEEK.NET

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

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

Petroval Middle East W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17442575 or RELIANCE@BATELCO.COM.BH

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SEVEN HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500794 or MYRA@SEVENLEISURE.NET

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RED STAGE MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34515252 or REDSTAGE77@GMAIL.COM

MAHARAT LABOUR SERVICES AGENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32188824 or ZAINAB_SULAIL@HOTMAIL.COM

BEHBEHANI BROTHERS LTD. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17459999 or edo@behbehani.com.bh

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552722 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

ALMAHMOOD COMPANY LTD.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400484 or AHMED@ALMAHMOOD.CO

Uco Engineering W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36216664 or hr@bakgroup.net

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39468574 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

ALZAIN TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212444 or hrd@alzainjewellery.com

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

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AL FORAT ALUMINUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39699160 or ALAWIJ@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDAR TRAVEL has a vacancy for the occupation of RESERVATIONS CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39610619 or ALDORBOH@BATELCO.COM.BH

NATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39693040 or NETTS@ENGINEER.BH

LAZER AUTO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17711335 or HASSAN@EMAAR.BH

ARAB FINANCIAL SERVICES CO. B.S.C.CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVISOR (COMPUTER SYSTEMS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33308699 or jasim.abdulla@afs.com.bh

ALAMARAH ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666154 or ALSAWARI@HOTMAIL.COM

AKTAAF BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490999 or tod@alreemcentre.com

ALI FASHIONS FOR GENTS TAILORING AND TEXTILES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39335513 or ALIFASHIONSBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ALWAFA TOWER FOR CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37373000 or DHIYAALASFOOR@HOTMAIL.COM

BLUE BELL RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39605995 or BU.HABIB1960@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

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

HADATHA CONTRACTING & CONSTRUCTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36077703 or HADATHA.ALI@GMAIL.COM

ROYAL GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39450421 or A.MUSBAH99@GMAIL.COM

SAMEER ALHAIKI A/C & FREG. REPAIRS WORKS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39910022 or SAMEER.63@HOTMAIL.COM

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G4S Secure Solutions Bahrain W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714409 or ossama.ibrahim@BH.G4S.COM

DAIR SANDWICHES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39442773 or ADAMCNROUP73@CNMAIL.COM

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FINAL CLENIG has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39554198 or MADDHA70@GMAIL.COM

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MILLS CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888173 or FATHIZADE313@GMAIL.COM

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MECHANICAL CONTRACTING & SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or mcsc@mcscwll.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Dear Bahraini Brothers and Sisters,

We, the expatriates of Bahrain, are overwhelmed with gratitude and emotion as we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for the unwavering support and kindness you have shown us.

Your hospitality has made Bahrain a place we work and a home we cherish.Nestled in the warmth of your acceptance, we've experienced a sense of belonging beyond borders. Every smile, every gesture, and every moment shared with you has woven a tapestry of friendship that transcends cultural differences.

Embraced by your generosity, we've found a new family in Bahrain. Your open hearts have erased the boundaries that often separate us. In the spirit of unity, we've become one community – a beautiful blend of diverse backgrounds united by the shared values of loveand respect.

We sincerely appreciate the countless opportunities you've provided, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. Your commitment to creating a nurturing space for us is commendable, and we are grateful for the chance to contribute to the growth and success of Bahrain.

> Filled with gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks for being the heartbeat of Bahrain. As expatriates, we are honoured to be a part of this remarkable journey, and we look forward to contributing to this beloved land's continued success and prosperity.

Selfless giving, extraordinary acts of kindness, and an overall sense of community define Bahrain. Each day, we are inspired by the collective spirit that unites us – a spirit that forms the backbone of this incredible nation.

Opening our hearts to Bahrain has been a transformative journey. Every corner of this nation holds a special place in our hearts, from the bustling souks to the serene beaches.

As we navigate our lives here, we carry the warmth of your embrace, making every step a celebration of unity.

Filled with gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks for being the heartbeat of Bahrain. As expatriates, we are honoured to be a part of this remarkable journey, and we look forward to contributing to this beloved land's continued success and prosperity. Forever bound by the shared experiences and memories we create, let's stand united –a diverse tapestry woven with the threads of love, respect, and appreciation.

Thank you, BAHRAIN.
With love
Thomas Abraham

Rainwater Harvesting

Dear Editor

I am writing to highlight the potential of rainwater harvesting as a solution to Bahrain's water scarcity issues. With increasing concerns about water availability, it is crucial to explore alternative methods to supplement our water supply.

Bahrain experiences limited rainfall throughout the year, but the rain that does fall is often wasted as runoff. Rainwater harvesting presents an opportunity to capture and store this precious resource for various purposes, including irrigation, landscaping, and even drinking water with proper treatment.

Implementing rainwater harvesting systems in Bahrain could help alleviate pressure on our freshwater sources, reduce reliance on costly desalination processes, and promote sustainability in water management.

I urge policymakers and local authorities to prioritize the promotion and implementation of rainwater harvesting initiatives across Bahrain. By investing in rainwater harvesting infrastructure and raising awareness among the public, we can work towards a more sustainable and resilient water future for Bahrain.

Sincerely
Salman Al Ameri

Emergency and Hotline Numbers

- Emergency Services, Fire, Police, and Ambulance - 999
- Report a traffic incident - 199
- Food quality helpline at Health Ministry - 39427743
- Consumer protection, Central Bank of Bahrain - 17547789
- Consumer service claims at Ministry of Industry and Commerce – 17007003
- Complaints to Interior Ministry - 80008008
- Expat Protection Centre and National
- Anti-trafficking number- 995
- Labour disputes or complaints- 175 52643 and 17873777
- Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs - 17399764

PICTURE OF THE DAY





We would love to hear from you.

If you have anything you'd like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at mail@newsofbahrain.com

Sudoku Puzzles

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

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



WHAT'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA



It's still too early for Bahrain to ditch stamped visas for expatriates. Too many face airport hassles with unstamped visas, causing delays and stress. Even major countries like the UK and the US use traditional stamps for smoother travel. Let's urge Bahrain to offer stamped visas for a small fee, ensuring seamless journeys for all travellers, writes The Daily Tribune's chairman and managing editor P UNNIKRISHNAN.

TOP COMMENTS

oksana_konyshevska
Very true. I think idea of e visa is briant but execution was wrong. What is the point of having evisa if employee has to carry printed copy of the visa?

stingerz316
Other countries need to keep up. Bahrain proved its tech advancement during Covid era. Go Bahrain Go !!

angel_b4
You can additionally show your CPR card, this shows that you are residing in Bahrain.

sumitguptavfx
@angel_b4 CPR is not the valid document outside Bahrain. I faced same challenges in Dubai transit and finally have to show the printed copy of visa.

leorohit17
Yes i support this. We should get visas stamped to avoid any hassles back in our countries.

sasujones
Seriously. I'm an American married to a Saudi, we go to Bahrain tons of times. My passport book gets so many stamps I have to go pay for additional pages in the book.

VIRAL NEWS ONLINE



Missing dog turns up nine months later - and 2,000 miles from home



Terrier mix Mishka went missing from San Diego in mid-July last year and her owners' social media pleas for information failed to deliver any leads.

Fast forward nearly nine months and just before Easter, authorities in suburban Detroit, Michigan, responded to a call about a stray dog.

Police in Harper Woods picked the pooch up and contacted animal welfare group The Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

They soon discovered three-year-old Mishka had been chipped with information about her owner, who lives in San Diego, on the US west coast.

Mehrad Houman and his family were planning to travel to Minnesota when they got the call about Mishka being found.

Once the flight landed, he drove 10 hours to Michigan for an emotional reunion.

Djokovic cruises in Monte Carlo after Alcaraz withdraws injured

Novak Djokovic breezes past Roman Safiullin, reflects on reclaiming world no.1 title and facing age

- **Alcaraz forced to withdraw due to forearm injury**
- **De Minaur and Hurkacz among players advancing to second round**

AFP | Monte Carlo



Novak Djokovic plays a backhand return to Roman Safiullin

World number one Novak Djokovic flew past Roman Safiullin in straight sets at the Monte Carlo Masters yesterday, after third seed Carlos Alcaraz announced his withdrawal from the event due to injury.

After receiving a bye in the first round, Djokovic was imperious on the main Rainier III court as he won 6-1, 6-2 against the unseeded Russian.

"I am very pleased... I think even the games that I lost I had break points in those games. It is a really great first match at the start of the clay season," said Djokovic.

The Serb needed just one hour and 10 minutes to make a return to winning ways in his first match since a shock early exit at Indian Wells to Italian Luca Nardi.

The 36-year-old became the oldest world no.1 in the history of the ATP rankings when he took to the court in Monte Carlo, surpassing Roger Federer's record.

"It is nice, it is great," said the 24-time Grand Slam winner.

"I met (Rohan) Bopanna yesterday, who is the oldest doubles no.1 in history. He said we had a combined age of 80, but he does contribute to the 80 more than I do. But it is fun."

But there was no sign of Djokovic feeling his age as he broke Safiullin's serve twice to race into a 4-0 lead in the first set.

Djokovic went on to break his opponent's serve five times over the course of a routine win and now faces a third-round meeting with either Lorenzo Musetti or rising French starlet Arthur Fils.

Before Djokovic took to court, Alcaraz announced he was pulling out of Monte Carlo after failing to recover from an injury to his right forearm.

> It is nice, it is great. I met (Rohan) Bopanna yesterday, who is the oldest doubles no.1 in history. He said we had a combined age of 80, but he does contribute to the 80 more than I do. But it is fun
>
> NOVAK DJOKOVIC

"I have been working in Monte Carlo and trying to recover until the last minute from an injured pronator teres (muscle) in my right arm, but it was not possible and I cannot play," Alcaraz wrote on social media.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, whose last match came in the straight sets defeat by Grigor Dimitrov in Miami last month, was due to go straight into Wednesday's second round in Monte Carlo against Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime.

He will be replaced in the draw by Italian Lorenzo Sonego, who was drafted in as a lucky loser, the ATP announced.

BETTER YOU KNOW

Djokovic became the oldest world no.1 in ATP rankings history, surpassing Roger Federer

The match against Auger-Aliassime was set to be the two-time Grand Slam winner's second ever appearance at Monte Carlo, following his withdrawal from the tournament last year and a three-set defeat in his only match of the 2022 edition.

Earlier in the day, American Sebastian Korda, the man responsible for that defeat in 2022, stormed past Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-1, 6-2 in the first round.

De Minaur dismisses Wawrinka

After a rain-hit morning causing a two-and-a-half-hour delay to the day's play, world no.11 Alex de Minaur made up for lost time with a 62-minute straight sets win over Stan Wawrinka.

The 39-year-old wild card Wawrinka, formerly ranked no.3 in the world but now down to no.79, was no match in the first round for the Australian who prevailed 6-3, 6-0.

Wawrinka, the 2014 champion in Monte Carlo and a three-time Grand Slam winner, made 28 unforced errors to De Minaur's 18 and landed just four winners to the 12 made by his opponent.

In the next round, De Minaur, who won this year's title on the hard courts in Acapulco, will face Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor.

Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut beat lucky loser Facundo Diaz Acosta 6-2, 6-4, while China's Zhang Zhizhen won in three sets against Marcos Giron of the United States.

The 10th seed Hubert Hurkacz overcame Britain's Jack Draper after nearly two and a half hours on court to reach the second round, winning 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2).

After winning a first title in two injury-hit years in Marrakesh on Sunday, Italian Matteo Berrettini's run in Monte Carlo was cut short by Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-1.

Vingegaard has collarbone operation after crash



Team Jumbo's Slovenian rider Primoz Roglic (L) crosses the finish line in first place followed by Team Jumbo-Visma's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard during the stage 17 of the 2023 La Vuelta cycling tour of Spain (file photo)

AFP | London

Two-time Tour de France champion Jonas Vingegaard had a successful collarbone operation after sustaining serious injuries in a mass fall last week, his team said yesterday.

The Danish Visma-Lease a Bike rider was hospitalised after suffering rib and collarbone fractures and sustaining lung damage in the shocking incident during the Tour of the Basque Country race.

Vingegaard, 27, who won the Tour de France in 2022 and 2023, is hoping to complete a hat-trick of victories this summer but the crash has put his participation under significant doubt.

"Jonas had a successful operation on his collarbone," said Visma on social network X.

"He will now spend the next few weeks recovering. It is not yet clear how long this will take.

"He is doing well and expresses his gratitude to everyone for their kind words over the past few days."

Remco Evenepoel also broke his collarbone in the crash on stage four of the race in northern Spain, while leader Primoz Roglic retired after he was also fell, along with several other riders, but the Slovenian did not sustain any fractures.

Visma's other star rider Wout van Aert broke his collarbone and several ribs in a high-speed mass pile up during the Around Flanders one-day race in March.

Last week Visma chief Richard Plugge said cycling needed to take action to keep riders safer.

'I represent the Barca way', insists PSG coach Luis Enrique

AFP | Paris



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #07 Kylian Mbappe (L) reacts to Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish headcoach Luis Enrique as they attend a training session (file photo)

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique has added spice to Wednesday's huge Champions League clash against Barcelona by insisting he represents more closely the values of the Catalan club than his opposite number Xavi Hernandez.

"I do, without doubt," Luis Enrique said when asked at a press conference yesterday, on the eve of the quarter-final first leg in the French capital.

"Just look at all the stats and the trophies won, and without any doubt I represent the Barca way better, although others may have different opinions."

Luis Enrique, 53, spent the last eight years of his playing career at Barcelona, notably starring under Bobby Robson in the team that beat PSG in the 1997 Cup Winners' Cup final and winning two La Liga titles under Louis van Gaal.

He later coached Barca from 2014 to 2017, leading them to Champions League glory in his first campaign and overseeing two Spanish title triumphs.

Xavi played under Luis Enrique in that side. The pair were earlier teammates at the Camp Nou.

Now 44, Xavi played over 500 games for Barca and returned as coach in late 2021. He led Barca to the Spanish title last season, but recently announced he would leave the club at the end of this campaign.

"I have to say that I don't know Xavi at all as a coach, only as a teammate and as a player because I worked with him," added Luis Enrique, who took over at PSG ahead of this season.

"I know Barca very well and I know their players but I don't know if that is an advantage or not.

"Emotionally this means a lot to me because of my experiences there."

Venues announced for England Tests in New Zealand

AFP | Wellington



General view of Hagley Oval in Christchurch during a match (file photo)

New Zealand Cricket yesterday said that England's three-Test tour later this year will see matches at Christchurch, Wellington and Hamilton.

The first two of the three World Test Championship matches will be back-to back at Hagley Oval, Christchurch, from November 28 and at the Basin Reserve, Wellington, from December 6.

The third and final Test will be at Hamilton's Seddon Park beginning December 14.

There were capacity crowds for the first three days of both of New Zealand's recent home Tests against Australia and New Zealand Cricket (NZC) hope the five-day games against England will also bring in the fans in huge numbers.

"In the past there's often been a lot of talk in New Zealand about the popularity of Test cricket, without that translating into ticket sales," said NZC chief executive Scott Weenink.

Al Khaldiya go top of the table

Defending champions triumph, Riffa and Muharraq drop points in week 15 of Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

- **Riffa suffer stunning 2-4 loss to Al Shabab**
- **Muharraq held to 2-2 stalemate by Al Ahli**

TDT | Manama



Al Khaldiya's Samy Frioui, right, battles for possession with Busaiteen's Abdulmalek Bendalal

Al Khaldiya powered to the top of the table after week 15 of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

The defending champions posted a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Busaiteen in their latest clash, earning them the full three points to help them rise to first place.

Ali Al Sharqawi scored the winner for Khaldiya in the seventh minute. He fired in with a curling shot from the left edge of the box that flew into the top-right corner of the net.

His strike was enough to separate the two sides, as Khaldiya claimed their eighth win in 15 matches and improved to 30 points. They handed Busateen their sixth loss and they stayed on 15 markers.

Khaldiya were able to emerge as solo leaders after chief title rivals Riffa and Muharraq dropped points. Riffa suffered a stunning 2-4 loss to Al Shabab in their week 15 match, while Muharraq were held to a 2-2 draw by Al Ahli.

In Riffa's defeat, Shabab scored all four of their goals in the second half. Faisal Budahoom put Shabab ahead in the 53rd minute, and then Mateus Eduardo Inforsatti Araujo doubled their advantage just three minutes later.

Sayed Hashem Issa then cut the deficit for Riffa in the 67th minute, but Alyson Romeu Dantas De Andrade restored their two-goal advantage in the 85th minute. Substitute Lucas Ventura Lopes then applied the final nail in the coffin on the stroke of full time, and then Komail Al Aswad scored a second consolation for Riffa two minutes later.

Shabab posted only their fourth win of the season as they went to 17 points, while handing Riffa their third loss as they remained on 28 points—two behind the leaders.

In Muharraq's stalemate against Ahli, both teams had a chance to come away with the win but neither could hold on to their lead.

Ahli were first to strike through Joao Pedro Pereira Da Silva in the 15th minute, but Ahmed Al Sherooqi brought Muharraq back on level terms in the 35th. After the break, Muharraq went ahead with a goal on the hour-mark by Soufiane Mahrouq, while Mohammed Al Shamsi found the net five minutes from regular time to secure a share of the points.

Muharraq went to 25 in third place on the standings while Ahli rose to 22 points.

In other week 15 matches, goals from Elvis Marley Aparecido Bittncourt and Facundo Agustin Tobares helped lift Manama to a 2-1 win over Sitra, Mohammed Al Rumaihi was on target for Al Najma as they edged past East Riffa 1-0, and Hidd outclassed Al Hala 2-0.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Al Khaldiya	15	8	6	1	16	30
Riffa	15	8	4	3	7	28
Muharraq	15	6	7	2	5	25
Manama	15	6	4	5	4	22
Al Ahli	15	6	4	5	-2	22
Al Najma	15	5	4	6	2	19
Al Hala	15	6	1	8	-8	19
Al Shabab	15	4	5	6	-3	17
Sitra	15	4	5	6	-5	17
Busaiteen	15	3	6	6	-4	15
Hidd	15	4	3	8	-6	15
East Riffa	15	4	3	8	-6	15

BETTER YOU KNOW

Ali Al Sharqawi scores winner for Al Khaldiya in the seventh minute of their match against Busaiteen. Al Sharqawi fired in with a curling shot from the left edge of the box that flew into the top-right corner of the net

Barcelona beware: Old boy Dembele on a mission for PSG in Champions League clash

- **Ousmane Dembele gears up to face former club Barcelona in crucial Champions League fixture**
- **Despite scoring only one goal for PSG this season, Dembele offers versatility**

AFP | Barcelona



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward #10 Ousmane Dembele (L) fights for the ball with Marseille's French midfielder #27 Jordan Veretout

BETTER YOU KNOW

Dembele scored 40 goals in 185 appearances for Barcelona, a much better strike rate than at PSG

Most of the attention in Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League quarter-final with Barcelona tomorrow will be on Kylian Mbappe, but Ousmane Dembele is also set to have a big role to play for the French club against his former side.

Mbappe, who is expected to be coming up against Barca in a Real Madrid shirt next season, has 39 goals for PSG in this campaign. Dembele has only one.

However, the player described by newspaper Le Parisien last week as a "tearaway" offers something different, even if Barcelona are all too aware of what the 26-year-old winger can do with a ball at his feet.

The France star returned to his home country last August after six seasons in Catalonia, with PSG paying a reported 50 million euros (US$54.3m) to sign him on a five-year deal.

That relatively paltry sum in the modern transfer market for a world-class player corresponded to the amount of his release clause at cash-strapped Barca.

> **PSG had been interested in me for a long time. The first contact was when I was at Dortmund, but at that time my objective was to play for Barcelona**
>
> OUSMANE DEMBELE

Moving to Paris allowed the Normandy native to team up with Luis Enrique, who he said had previously wanted to sign him when Dembele was breaking through at Rennes.

"PSG had been interested in me for a long time. The first contact was when I was at Dortmund, but at that time my objective was to play for Barcelona," Dembele told sports daily L'Equipe earlier this season.

He admitted leaving Barcelona had not been an easy decision after he flourished under the management of Xavi Hernandez towards the end of his time at the Camp Nou.

"These were my two best years, with a coach who showed confidence in me. But I wanted to sign for PSG. It was more to do with Paris changing my mind than it simply being about quitting Barcelona."

And so fate has dictated that he, like Luis Enrique, will get to come up against Barcelona in this season's Champions League quarter-finals.

Dembele was in a Barcelona shirt the last time the clubs met, in the last 16 in 2021, when Mbappe scored a lethal hat-trick in the first leg in Catalonia.

Their previous encounter was the notorious last-16 tie in 2017, when a Barca side coached by Luis Enrique overturned a 4-0 deficit in the first leg to win 6-1 in the return.

A humiliated PSG exacted revenge in August of that year by signing Neymar Junior from Barcelona, paying the 222 million euros needed to activate his release clause.

Barcelona were blindsided and panicked, throwing huge money at replacements for their Brazilian superstar.

They swooped for Dembele, who at the age of 20 had just enjoyed a superb season in Germany at Borussia Dortmund. They agreed to pay 105 million euros plus add-ons for a player still far from the finished article.

That fee, and the even higher sum committed to signing Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool a few months later, heralded the start of Barcelona's serious financial problems which culminated in Lionel Messi leaving the club in 2021, for PSG.

Dembele scored 40 goals in 185 appearances for Barcelona, a much better strike rate than he has managed at PSG, where his only goal in 34 games to date came against Monaco in November.

UAE-banned Usman Khan in Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is



Multan Sultans' Usman Khan (L) plays a shot during the Pakistan Super League (file photo)

AFP | London

Hard-hitting batter Usman Khan was yesterday included in Pakistan's squad for the Twenty20 international series against New Zealand, four days after he was banned by Emirates Cricket Board.

Usman, 28, was the second highest run scorer in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) last month with 430 in seven matches, while also on the books as a player in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) league.

The Emirates Cricket Board charged him with breaching his obligations to the Board after he attended a training camp for the Pakistan national team last month after the PSL ended.

He was banned from playing cricket in the UAE for five years, missing out on the chance to qualify as a national player for the Gulf state from 2025.

> **Usman has been scoring runs for the last two-three years so he deserved selection and if there are any other issues Pakistan Cricket Board will be dealing with them**
>
> SELECTOR WAHAB RIAZ

Selector Wahab Riaz justified Usman's selection.

"Usman has been scoring runs for the last two-three years so he deserved selection and if there are any other issues Pakistan Cricket Board will be dealing with them," Riaz told media while announcing the squad.

Babar Azam will lead the 17-man squad after he replaced Shaheen Shah Afridi as captain last month.

The five-match series against New Zealand will be played in Rawalpindi (April 18, 20 and 21) and Lahore (April 25 and 27).

Reddy helps Hyderabad edge Punjab

Hyderabad's young star Nitish Kumar Reddy shines in nail-biting victory

- **Sunrisers post 182-9 thanks to Reddy's explosive 64-run knock**
- **Punjab Kings fall short by just two runs despite late heroics**
- **Pat Cummins praises Reddy's all-round performance**

AFP | Mullanpur



Nitish Kumar Reddy of Sunrisers Hyderabad in action

Sunrisers Hyderabad survived a late assault by Punjab Kings batsmen Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma to win by two runs in an IPL thriller yesterday.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, a 20-year-old batting all-rounder, pulled Hyderabad out of early trouble to guide them to 182-9 after being invited to bat first at Punjab's new home Mullanpur.

Punjab looked down and out at 114-6 but Shashank (46) and Sharma (33) put on an unbeaten stand of 66 off 27 balls to give Hyderabad a scare as Punjab ended on 180-6.

Hyderabad's Pat Cummins looked a relieved captain after left-arm quick Jaydev Unadkat just about defended 29 runs in the last over, which witnessed three dropped catches in the deep.

Cummins, who was paid $2.5 million by Hyderabad in the auction, praised Reddy for his batting, one wicket and a catch as well.

> He was awesome, fantastic debut last week. Straight to the top for the order, fantastic in the field, bowled three overs too. To get us to 180 off his bat, it was amazing
>
> PAT CUMMINS

"He was awesome, fantastic debut last week," Australia's World Cup-winning captain said.

"Straight to the top for the order, fantastic in the field, bowled three overs too. To get us to 180 off his bat, it was amazing."

Bhuvneshwar Kumar took two wickets to play a key part in Hyderabad's third win in five matches to stay fifth, above Punjab in the 10-team table.

Scorecard

Sunrisers Hyderabad 182 for 9 (Reddy 64, Samad 25, Arshdeep 4-29, Harshal 2-30) beat **Punjab Kings** 180 for 6 (Shashank 46*, Ashutosh 33*, Bhuvneshwar 2-32) by two runs

But Reddy set up victory with his 37-ball 64 laced with four fours and five sixes as he put on a key 50-run sixth-wicket stand with Abdul Samad, who hit a 12-ball 25.

Punjab quick Arshdeep Singh struck twice in the space of three balls to send back Travis Head, for 21, and Aiden Markram, for a duck, before Reddy took charge.

Reddy rebuilt the innings as he stood firm despite wickets falling around him and mixed the right dose of caution and aggression.

Arshdeep again struck twice in an over as he sent back Samad and Reddy but Shahbaz Ahmed steered the team to a total which eventually proved enough with his unbeaten seven-ball 14.

Sam Curran and Harshal Patel took two wickets each but leaked runs.

Punjab wobbled early in their chase after Cummins took down Jonny Bairstow for a three-ball duck and soon slipped to 58-4 when Curran departed on 29.

Zimbabwe's Sikander Raza hit 28 but it was number six Shashank and number eight Sharma who took on the chase only to finish two short.

"There was always the hope that they could finish the game. Hats off to them that they brought it this close," Punjab skipper Shikhar Dhawan said after their third loss this season.

"Gives us confidence and hope for the next game. We have to do better in certain areas and improve."

World-class players set for Saudi open golf clash

TDT | Manama


A golfer in action (file photo)

The highly anticipated Saudi Open golf Tournament, presented by the Public Investment Fund, is set to showcase a stellar lineup of international golf stars.

Set to take place from April 17th to 20, this prestigious event will captivate golf enthusiasts with its world-class participants, including renowned golfer Henrik Stenson and five of his esteemed colleagues. Adding to the excitement, several notable players from the DP Tour, including four-time winner Rafa Cabrero Bello, will be present, making this tournament a true spectacle featuring both top-tier competitors and Asian Tour stars.

As the ninth edition of the tournament approaches, it takes on a new dimension by becoming a fully Asian event. The previous edition, held in December 2023, witnessed Thai star Dinwit Puriponsop claim the championship title. Dinwit, who emerged as the victor, will be seeking to defend his title in this year's tournament, which returns to the vibrant city of Riyadh.

The previous edition, presented by the Public Investment Fund, marked a significant milestone as the tournament transitioned into an all-Asian event. Dinwit's remarkable performance, finishing three shots ahead of the 2016 Open Championship winner Henrik Stenson, showcased the caliber of talent on display. Dinwit has expressed his determination to successfully defend his title as the Asian tour resumes following a five-week break in the Saudi capital.

Anticipated to build upon its past successes, the upcoming tournament promises thrilling golf action for fans eager to witness live sporting excellence. Notably, the inclusion of Andy Ogletree, Peter Ohlin, David Puig, and Eugenio Chacara, alongside Mavericks captain David Puig and his former European Ryder Cup teammate Cabrero Bello, adds further excitement to the Riyadh tour.

Among the star-studded participants, David Puig, who secured victory at the season-opening Malaysian Open, currently leads the Asian tour's order of merit. He is closely followed by John Catlin from the United States, the recent winner of the international series in Macau presented by Wen. The presence of DP World Tour stars and former European Ryder Cup players Rafa Cabrera Bello and Thorbjorn Olesen further enhances the tournament's prestige.

In line with its commitment to promoting inclusivity, Golf Saudi Arabia has invited local Saudi and Arab golfers to compete alongside international professionals, ensuring a diverse and competitive field. This blend of talent is expected to produce intense competition, especially with the return of 2016 championship winner Henrik Stenson, who finished second in last year's final round with an impressive score of 65. Stenson is determined to claim victory this time and lift the coveted trophy.

Dortmund 'hardest' team Atletico could face: Simeone


Atletico Madrid players during training

AFP | Berlin

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone hailed Champions League quarter-final opponents Borussia Dortmund as the "hardest" team his side could have drawn yesterday.

The Germans, fifth in the Bundesliga, are widely seen as the weakest team left in the competition but Atletico coach Simeone disagreed.

Atletico host Dortmund in the first leg at the Metropolitano stadium on Wednesday, bidding to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2017.

"Borussia are the hardest opponent," Simeone argued at a news conference.

"They have a lot of good qualities, they've not lost away from home in four months, and they are great on the counter-attack.

"They are very strong in both boxes, and they are the most intense team in the last eight of the competition."

Dortmund, victorious in 1997, reached the final four most recently in 2013, when they finished as runners-up to rivals Bayern Munich.

> Borussia are the hardest opponent. They have a lot of good qualities, they've not lost away from home in four months, and they are great on the counter-attack. They are very strong in both boxes, and they are the most intense team in the last eight of the competition
>
> DIEGO SIMEONE

Simeone, one victory away from 50 as a coach in the Champions League, and Atletico have never won the competition, and it is their last realistic hope of silverware this season with the team fourth in La Liga.

However Atletico defender Axel Witsel said he and his team-mates were not thinking beyond Wednesday's clash.

"We think like Cholo (Simeone), game by game, that's the most important thing, you can't think beyond that," said the Belgian international.

Cras 'almost died' in Basque Country horror crash

AFP | Madrid


TotalEnergies' Steff Cras receives medical attention after crashing

Belgian cyclist Steff Cras said he was convinced he was about to die as he flew off the road in a mass crash at the Tour of the Basque Country last week.

Cras, who rides for TotalEnergies, was one of several riders, including two-time Tour de France winner Jonas Vingegaard and 2022 Vuelta champion Remco Evenepoel, who were hospitalised after the fall on a downhill corner on April 4.

"I almost died. I realised when I saw the concrete block that I'd be dead within 20 centimetres," said Cras in an interview quoted by Belgian newspaper La Derniere Heure yesterday.

"Honestly, I was very lucky."

The 28-year-old suffered lung damage and four broken ribs in the fall. "I was scared to death because I couldn't breathe for 30 seconds," he said. "I only had one functioning lung."

He left hospital in San Sebastian on Monday and said he was due to undergo tests in a Belgian hospital yesterday, "hoping that they do not find any other injuries".

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