



Royal leadership

directives, visions

hailed by LMRA



H.E. Nibras Mohammed Talib

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received cables of congratulations from His Excellency Nibras Mohammed Talib, CEO of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, on Bahrain's achievement in maintaining its Tier 1 status ranking by the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report for the eighth consecutive year.

Bahrain greetings

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Chinese President Xi Jinping on his country's National Day.

HRH Prince Salman sent a similar cable to Prime Minister Li Qiang.

Change in 3D

marine survey

area scheduled

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The Ministry of Interior announced that the Coast Guard has indicated a change in the area designated for the 3D marine survey being conducted by Bapco Energies within Bahrain's territorial waters.

The updated area will be in effect from October 1, until December 1, in line with the approved project schedule.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Dignity Shield

Eighth consecutive Tier-1 ranking underscores a system built on law, enforcement, and worker protection

- Eighth straight Tier-1 ranking
- Region's first referral and protection centres
- Strong labour and wage safeguards

Mahir Haneef

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has reaffirmed its global standing in human rights by maintaining its Tier-1 status in the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for the eighth consecutive year - a distinction recognising the Kingdom's comprehensive and institutional approach to combating trafficking in persons.

The report, which monitors 188 countries, awards Tier-1 status to nations that fully meet standards for victim protection. Since 2018, Bahrain has stood alongside advanced economies for its sustained compliance and integrated response mechanisms.

Law and prevention

A strong legislative base underpins this record. Law No. (1) of 2008 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Law No. 36 of 2012 regulating the private-sector labour market form the core of Bahrain's framework, complemented by adherence to international conventions such



as the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols.

Protection network

At the institutional level, Bahrain created the Expatriate Protection Centre in 2015 - the first comprehensive facility of its kind in the Middle East - offering preventive, legal, and shelter services to victims. Two years later came the National Referral Mechanism, the region's first, designed to coordinate early identification and reintegration efforts across government bodies.

Oversight and justice

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority established the Preventive Monitoring Directorate to detect workplace exploitation before it occurs, while



The U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report ranks 188 countries, and Bahrain remains the only GCC nation to sustain Tier-1 status for eight consecutive years.

the Wages Protection System and mandatory IBAN accounts for all expatriate workers reinforce transparency and help

prevent wage disputes. A specialised Public Prosecution and Court handle trafficking cases, supported by a Victim Support Fund and an Office for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses.

Partnership and capacity

Through the 'Working Together' initiative with the International Organization for Migration, Bahrain continues to raise awareness among employers and workers. The Regional Centre for Training in Combating Trafficking in Persons further strengthens prevention by building skills among frontline officials in both public and private sectors.

This enduring Tier-1 ranking reflects an institutional system built on law, prevention, protec-

tion, and partnership - a model that keeps Bahrain among the world's most consistent performers in defending human dignity.

Chargé d'Affaires Elizabeth Litchfield of the U.S. Embassy in Manama commended Bahrain for once again earning Tier 1 status in the U.S. Department of State's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report - its eighth consecutive year at the highest ranking. She noted that this accomplishment highlights Bahrain's sustained dedication and leadership in the effort to end human trafficking, adding that the embassy looks forward to building on its strong partnership with the Government of Bahrain and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority to further advance these vital efforts.

Energy Excellence



Showcasing Bahrain's energy leadership, Bapco Energies Group CEO Mark Thomas presents a memento to H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment, during his visit to the Bapco Energies stand after inaugurating the International Downstream Conference & Exhibition 2025, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. (Picture by Anchalo Bensiger)

Triumph for human dignity and justice

He also acknowledged the contributions of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, the Supreme Judicial Council, and the Public Prosecution in reinforcing the rule of law.

Company owner
sent to jail for
withholding VAT

● Fined BD195,000

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The High Criminal Court yesterday jailed a company owner for three years for withholding VAT he had collected, ordered repayment of BD65,102.068 with a matching fine, and fined the company's registration BD195,306.204.

The case began with a complaint from the National Bureau for Revenue that the defendant filed VAT returns while keeping the tax taken from customers.

Checks by the Bureau showed the company was registered for VAT and that returns were lodged without paying over the sums collected.

Inquiry

The Public Prosecution opened an inquiry on receipt of the complaint.

It placed a travel ban on the defendant, took statements from NBR staff and examined records and invoices tied to the transactions.

When questioned and shown the file, the defendant admitted the charge.

The Prosecution sent both the individual and the commercial registration (as the legal person) to the First High Criminal Court, which delivered the verdict.

Crypto crime

Court convicts defendant for processing more than BD75,000 'dirty money'

● Six years in jail, fined BD105,000 in international fraud case

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has convicted a defendant of laundering more than BD75,000 obtained through international fraud schemes.

The court sentenced the defendant to six years in prison and fined him BD105,000, in addition to confiscating BD75,299 from his assets.

According to the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, the case began after a report from the National Financial

Intelligence Center revealed the defendant's involvement in an organized criminal network.

He received funds from multiple victims of fraudulent investment schemes into his two bank accounts, then transferred them to his account on the CoinMENA platform to purchase cryptocurrency (USDT).

He later moved the funds to his account on Binance.com (outside Bahrain) before dis-

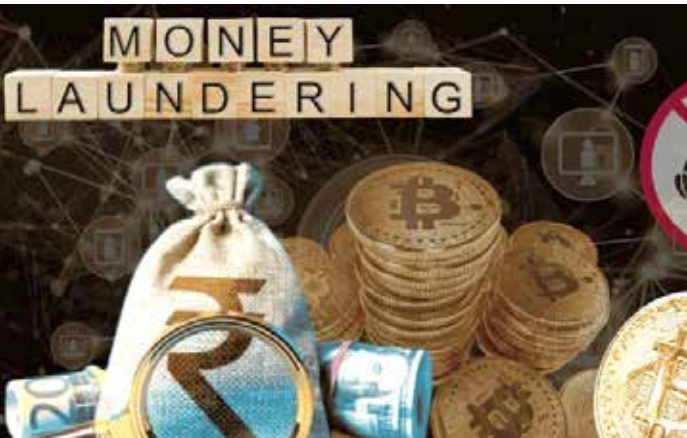


Image used for illustrative purposes only

The victims had been deceived by fraudsters posing as representatives of various investment companies, luring them with promises of high returns.

tributing them to several electronic wallets provided by the criminal network, taking a commission for himself.

Investigations showed that the victims had been deceived by fraudsters posing as representatives of various investment companies, luring them with promises of high returns.

Illicit proceeds

Once the victims transferred their money to the defendant's

bank accounts, he knowingly processed and moved the illicit proceeds abroad, following instructions from the network's leaders.

The Public Prosecution confirmed that, in light of the court's ruling, further legal measures and international judicial cooperation requests are being pursued to hold all accomplices accountable and recover the illicit funds.

Three convicted
in BD38,000 drug
money laundering



● Five-year jail term, BD100,000 fine for each defendant

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has convicted three defendants of laundering more than BD38,000 derived from cultivating and trafficking narcotic substances.

It sentenced each defendant to five years in prison and fined them BD100,000, in addition to confiscating BD38,769 from their funds and assets.

The first and third defendants were also ordered to be deported permanently after serving their sentences.

The case began after the Public Prosecution received a report from the Anti-Narcot-

ics Directorate indicating the defendants' involvement in cultivating and trafficking drugs.

Investigations

Rarallel financial investigations were launched by the Prosecution and tasked the National Financial Intelligence Center with tracing the illicit proceeds.

Investigations revealed that the defendants had acquired more than BD38,000 from drug trafficking and engaged in money laundering activities, including cash withdrawals, currency exchanges, and overseas transfers, in order to conceal the illicit origin of the funds and give them a legitimate appearance.

Based on the collected evidence and technical reports, the defendants were referred to the criminal court, which issued the above conviction and sentences.

Al-Dhaen: Tier 1 a Duty

MP says ranking proves Bahrain's human rights system works in practice

● MP hails eighth Tier 1 ranking

● Credits vision of His Majesty, HRH Crown Prince

● Calls achievement a renewed responsibility

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama



MP Dr Maryam Al-Dhaen

endorsement and a national responsibility.

She said the ranking affirms international confidence in Bahrain's system for safeguarding rights and dignity, describing it as "an integrated framework of prevention, protection,

and justice."

Al-Dhaen noted that Bahrain's rights model includes the region's first Labour Protection Centre for expatriate workers, the National Referral System for victims, the Wage Protection System, and specialised prosecution, court, and victims' fund.

She credited the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the vision of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for embedding human dignity at the core of national policy.

The MP said the milestone "is not an endpoint but a renewed national duty" to keep Bahrain at the forefront of justice and human rights.

Bahrain-US ties



During the meeting, both sides affirmed the depth of the longstanding friendship, cooperation, and strategic ties between Bahrain and the US across various fields. They praised the mutual commitment of the two friendly countries to strengthening bilateral cooperation frameworks in a way that serves common interests and reflects the strength of their existing partnership.

Inspection visit



In line with the directive of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the Ministry of Labour to present three job opportunities to every registered job seeker before the end of this year, His Excellency Yusuf bin Abdulhussein Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs and Acting Minister of Labour, conducted an inspection tour at the Ministry's Employment Services Centre to review the workflow and the organizational procedures in place. During the tour, the Minister met with a number of job seekers registered with the Ministry and listened to their feedback regarding the employment procedures, with the aim of improving and developing the quality of services provided. He noted that the Ministry takes all feedback into account as a basis for enhancing mechanisms to complete employment processes smoothly and efficiently.



Al Naseem project

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, visited Diyar Al Muharraq to view the Al Naseem project on completion of villa construction. The visit was at the invitation of Abdulhakim Yaqoob Al Khayyat, Chairman of Diyar Al Muharraq Company. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah was accompanied by senior officials including H.E. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, President of the Electricity and Water Authority; H.E. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture; H.E. Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works; H.E. Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs; H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; and H.E. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).



14,000th tree planted

In implementation of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to expand afforestation across Bahrain's governorates as part of the National Afforestation Plan, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, planted the 14,000th tree, marking the completion of the afforestation works on Muharraq Ring Road. The planting ceremony was attended by ministers and senior officials. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah emphasised that the Kingdom's afforestation initiatives embody a comprehensive national vision that aims to enhance environmental security and achieve balance between economic development and the preservation of natural resources, in line with the Kingdom's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

Bahrain-Italy trade rises to \$791mIn

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Trade between Bahrain and Italy reached \$791 million in 2024, up 20 per cent on 2020. More than 130 Italian firms now operate in the kingdom.

Racing Force anchors the industrial link. The Bell Racing Helmets plant in Sakhir opened in 2015 with \$13 million.

Output

In November 2024, it added 12,000 square metres, doubling output, and the group announced an OMP facility for racing safety gear.

About 70 per cent of Formula 1 drivers use helmets made in Bahrain.

Consumer brands have followed the money.

Nadh Holding brought La Romana Gelato, founded in Rimini in 1947, to Bahrain with up to \$5 million of investment and plans to expand into other Gulf markets from a Bahrain base.

Energy and technology ties run through partnerships.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Eni has worked with Bahrain on exploration, production and technical exchange. Firms active in metals and petrochemicals have added projects.

Technology and services companies have grown their footprint, helped by rules that allow 100 per cent foreign ownership of companies and real estate in most sectors.

Demands

Trade flows in 2024 show where demand sits.

Aluminium fluoride led imports from Italy at \$31 million despite a 30 per cent fall on the

year.

Leather handbags accounted for about 4 per cent of imports. Large-capacity passenger cars rose by 92 per cent compared with 2023.

On the export side, unwrought aluminium to Italy totalled \$145 million.

Exports

Aluminium alloys made up roughly 43 per cent of exports, and large-diameter non-alloy aluminium wire rose by 3,662 per cent.

Scope for further trade is mapped out by the International

Trade Centre with Export Bahrain.

Potential Bahraini exports to Italy include direct reduced iron, aluminium wire and agglomerated iron ores.

On the import side, openings include pharmaceuticals, cheese and gas-turbine spare parts.

Diplomatic ties

The commercial track sits on long-running diplomatic ties.

Relations began in 1973. The Italian embassy opened in Manama in 2002.

An agreement on investment protection followed in 2006, then an accord on equal treatment in port taxes and fees in 2009.

A Bahrain-Italy Joint Committee was set up in 2021, met first in Rome in 2023 and adopted a three-year plan for economic co-operation.

In January 2025, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited Bahrain and signed digital and technology agreements, including Italian sovereignty over data stored in Bahraini data centres.

BCS inaugurates Sharodutsob 2025



Distinguished guests with Bengal Cultural Society officials and members

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bengal Cultural Society (BCS), Bahrain, officially inaugurated its much-anticipated annual festival, Sharodutsob 2025, on Sunday at the Telegu Kala Samity Hall in Adliya.

The opening ceremony marked the beginning of a multi-day cultural celebration, bringing the spirit of Bengal to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The inaugural event was graced by the presence of several prominent figures, with Mr. Girish Pujari, Second Secretary to the Indian Embassy in Bahrain, serving as the esteemed Chief Guest.

He was joined by Ms. Meera Ravi, Chief Editor of Salaam Bahrain magazine, who also attended as a special guest.

The evening featured a formal inauguration ceremony and the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by addresses from the dignitaries.

The multi-day cultural celebration brings the spirit of Bengal to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Festival

Keynote speeches emphasising cultural exchange, community bonding, and the significance of the festival were delivered by Mr. Pujari and Ms. Ravi, alongside Mr. Saikat Sarkar, President of the Bengal Cultural Society.

The speakers lauded the society's consistent effort to promote Indian cultural heritage within the Gulf region.

The Sharodutsob 2025 festival, which includes various cultural performances, art showcases, and community gatherings, is scheduled to run for several days and will conclude on October 2, 2025.

ICAI Bahrain Hosts Second Technical Session on “Tools of the Future”

● Focus on innovations

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) successfully hosted its 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by its second technical session for the 2025-26 term, at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

The event, which brought together members and industry leaders, marked the formal closure of the Chapter's 2024-25 committee term before transitioning into the new administrative year.



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob with ICAI Bahrain Chapter officials and members

trative year.

The subsequent technical session was organized under the theme “Tools of the Future,” focusing on the latest innovations and technologies transforming the professional landscape and

their essential implications for modern businesses.

Discussions

The session featured insightful discussions on innovation, technology adoption, and future-ready

practices, emphasizing the critical role of Chartered Accountants in adapting to these changes.

The proceedings were enriched by the participation of the event's sponsors, including Ziagram, Tally, Neurasix,

and Aion IOS, who contributed to the dialogue on the impact of these new professional tools.

The ICAI Bahrain Chapter was honored by the gracious presence of His Excellency Vinod

K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, whose support and encouragement underscored the importance of the event to the Indian expatriate professional community.

Thanks

The Chapter extended its heartfelt thanks to all members and guests for their active participation and engagement.

Special acknowledgment was given to ZIGRAM, the Diamond Sponsor, for their continued and valuable support of the Chapter's activities.

The event concluded with the presentation of the newly formed Executive Committee for 2025-26.

NBB signs framework deal with Banco BPM

To Strengthen Bilateral Trade and Investment between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Italy

● Signed during the official visit of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has signed a landmark framework agreement with Banco BPM S.p.A., one of Italy's leading joint stock banking institutions, during the official visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, to Italy. The agreement formalises a strategic partnership aimed at supporting Italian entities seeking to establish or expand their business in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, while enabling Bahraini companies to explore commercial and investment opportunities in Italy.

Mrs. Hala Ali Husain Yateem, Chairperson of NBB, represent-



ed the Bank at the signing ceremony, which was also attended by representatives of Banco BPM and dignitaries from both countries.

On the occasion, Mrs. Yateem said, "This agreement marks an important step in advancing financial collaboration between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Italy. By combining NBB's strong presence across the Kingdom of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates with Banco BPM's institutional reach in Italy, we are helping companies and investors from both regions to pursue lucrative opportunities with greater ease and confidence. This partnership reflects NBB's commitment to form strategic alliances that support broader economic growth and investment between our nations."

The agreement reinforces NBB and Banco BPM's roles as strategic banking partners for clients expanding across the Kingdom of Bahrain and Italy, aiming to facilitate cross-border transactions and support the growth of bilateral trade and investment between both countries.

Trump announces deal with Pfizer he says will lower certain drug prices



(L/R) Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla speaks as Medicare and Medicaid Administrator Mehmet Oz and US President Donald Trump look on
AFP | Washington, United States

The Trump administration yesterday granted Pfizer a three-year reprieve on planned tariffs in a deal that would see the pharmaceutical giant voluntarily lower the prices of unspecified drugs in the United States.

US President Donald Trump, flanked by top health officials, was scant on details regarding what or how many drugs were included in the deal.

The announcements are part of Trump's efforts to strike "Most Favored Nation" pricing deals with drug manufacturers, which would see pharmaceutical companies link US prices to the lowest cost of drugs that other wealthy countries pay.

The White House also said

it would unveil a website -- called TrumpRx -- that would allow consumers to directly purchase some medications at discounted rates.

The announcement saw Pfizer's stock price rise by five percent.

Like Trump, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla heralded the deal as a great achievement, although a statement from the company was equally vague on specifics.

The company did say a "large majority" of "primary care treatments and some select specialty brands" could be offered at savings from 50 percent to 85 percent.

Trump also said Pfizer had agreed to "invest \$70 billion to reshore domestic manufacturing facilities" to the United States.

US stocks slip as government shutdown looms

AFP | London, United Kingdom

US stock markets edged lower and gold retreated from a record high on Tuesday as traders steered themselves for a possible US government shutdown.

A White House meeting Monday with congressional leaders ended without a breakthrough, raising the odds of a shutdown starting at midnight on Tuesday, Washington time (0400 GMT Wednesday).

While shutdowns are not usually painful in investor terms, markets remained cautious, analysts said.

"Usually, markets ignore shutdowns -- most last only a few days and investors seem to take a long-term view of the situation, and the short duration of most incidents has little impact on company profits," said Neil Wilson, investor strategist at Saxo.

However, Wilson warned: "It could be different this time. Deep political divisions could see this drag on. A longer shutdown could have serious consequences for stocks."

He pointed to the White House threatening mass firings while recent changes to economic policy added to uncertainty and raised the prospect of a potential recession.

Gold price surges

Gold, a safe haven investment in times of uncertainty, reached

Key figures at around 1530 GMT	
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.4% at 46,138.55 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.3% at 6,664.63
New York - Nasdaq:	▼ 0.3% at 22,520.21
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.5% at 9,350.43 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.2% at 7,895.94 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.6% at 23,880.72 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼N 0.3% at 44,932.63 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.9% at 26,855.56 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.5% at 3,882.78 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1730 from \$1.1725 on Monday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3445 from \$1.3434
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 147.97 yen from 148.68 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 87.24 pence from 87.28 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼N 1.6% at \$66.01 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.6% at \$62.43 per barrel

yet another peak above \$3,871, an ounce before falling later in the day.

Speculation is growing that it could soon hit \$4,000, having piled on almost 50 percent since the turn of the year.

"The longer-term case is still supportive of further increases in the gold price," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB trading platform.

"Dollar weakness, rising inflation expectations and the prospect of Fed rate cuts are all driving this gold rally."

There are concerns that a shutdown could delay this week's release of government statistics on the labour market,

including non-farm payrolls, which could provide clues about the Federal Reserve's next move on interest rates.

Recent indicators have supported investor expectations that the US central bank will cut borrowing costs twice more this year after reducing them this month as the labour market softens.

"A delay to the release of the Non-Farm Payrolls report this week could trigger some volatility as this report was considered the last piece of the puzzle before the October Fed rate cut," Brooks said.

"However," she added, "we do not think that it will derail a rate

cut next month."

Oil prices dropped further on fears of a glut amid talk of OPEC+ hiking output again when officials meet on Sunday.

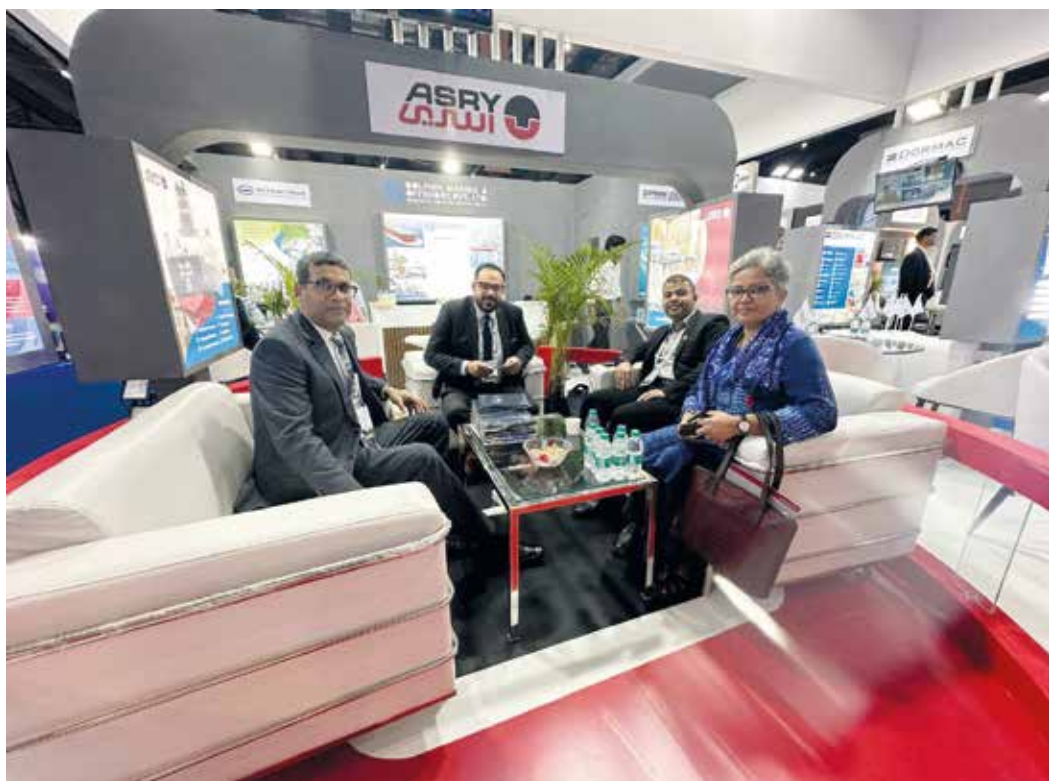
Trump's Gaza peace plan was also weighing on prices, analysts said.

Europe's leading indices rose. European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde said Tuesday US tariffs had not hit the eurozone as badly as feared, but warned: "New trade and geopolitical shocks will remain a constant feature of our environment."



The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) began in 1792 under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street, when 24 brokers signed the "Buttonwood Agreement." That simple pact to trade stocks together grew into the world's largest stock exchange, now handling trillions of dollars in market capitalization.

ASRY takes part in INMEX SMM India 2025



Manama

The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company (ASRY) took part in the 14th INMEX SMM India 2025, one of South Asia's largest specialized maritime industry exhibitions. Held in Mumbai in September 2025, the event drew wide participation from leading names in logistics and sea freight, both regional and global.

This participation formed part of ASRY's drive to strengthen its presence at global trade forums. The stand served as a meeting point for clients from across South Asia and the Far East, and as a platform to showcase its products and longstanding expertise in the maritime and industrial fields. ASRY's presence drew strong interest



from ship and marine-asset operators, representatives of companies active in the maritime field, and exhibition visitors.

During his participation, ASRY's Business Development Manager, Mohammed Sultan, said: 'Our presence here demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a strong foothold on the global stage and expanding our long-term partnerships across the maritime sector. Exhibitions such as this are a key platform for building and strengthening relationships with our customers, including owners and operators of marine assets from around the world.'

The exhibition hosted a record line-up this year with more than 250 exhibitors from 20 countries, over 700 company representatives, and about 9,000 international visitors.

Gold delivers record returns for consumers - 85% increase in price in the last 21 months

● Gold price increased by 37% in 2024

● Gold price increased by 36% in last 9 months

Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Gold has reached an unprecedented milestone by crossing USD 3,800 per ounce, marking an all-time record in the global markets. This development is particularly significant because it validates the confidence that investors, institutions, and households alike have consistently placed in gold as a hedge against uncertainty. The 36% hike in the last 9 months demonstrates gold's re-



silience and its ability to deliver consistent returns even in an environment where traditional assets are under pressure.

For Indian consumers, this is especially heartening news, as gold continues to occupy a dual role — an adornment that carries

immense cultural significance, and a safe, long-term investment that secures financial stability across generations. While consumer demand remains steady, what is noteworthy in this cycle is that institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds, and

Key Points

Gold has delivered record returns to consumers, rising by an impressive 85% in the last 21 months. This makes it one of the strongest performing assets globally.

In 2024 alone, gold prices have increased by 37%. This demonstrates its ability to grow even when other investments face challenges.

Over the past 9 months, gold has risen by 36%. This steady climb shows its resilience and reliability as an asset.

For the first time in history, gold has crossed USD 3,800 per ounce today (22K per gram AED:424.25, INR:10,670). This milestone marks an all-time institutions (Central banks), investors and households continue to trust gold as a safe-haven asset. It remains a proven hedge against uncertainty and volatility.

For Indian consumers, gold is both cultural pride and financial security. It serves as adornment while protecting wealth for generations.

Large purchases by central banks, sovereign wealth funds, and institutions have driven demand. Their participation reinforces gold's universal appeal.

Global factors point to continued momentum for gold in the future. Experts see the potential for it to reach USD 5,000 per ounce by next year.

central banks have emerged as the largest buyers of gold. Their significant participation underscores gold's unique position as an asset that transcends borders, currencies, and economic cycles.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the momentum will continue, driven by a combination of macroeconomic factors including the imposition of tariffs, weakening of the U.S. dollar, and the persistent need for safe-haven assets in volatile markets. Given these dynamics, I foresee gold advancing towards the USD 5,000 per ounce mark in the coming years. This outlook reinforces what our customers have always believed — that gold is not merely ornamental, but a strategic and enduring investment.

BENEFIT and ATME announce sponsorship of Fintech Forward 2025

Manama

As Bahrain prepares to host the upcoming edition of Fintech Forward 2025 (FF25), the Kingdom's flagship fintech forum, BENEFIT Company (BENEFIT), leading Bahrain's innovator in financial technology and electronic

financial transaction services has confirmed its participation as a gold sponsor, and ATME, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB)-licensed digital assets exchange has joined as a silver sponsor.

The third edition of Fin-Tech Forward will take place on October 8th and 9th 2025

at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB). Hosted by the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB, this year's forum will offer a dynamic platform to showcase innovation, foster collaboration, and explore emerging opportunities across the regional and global fintech landscape

As a gold sponsor, BENEFIT continues to demonstrate its leadership in shaping Bahrain's digital economy. Over the years, BENEFIT has played a pivotal role in modernising the Kingdom's payments infrastructure, driving financial inclusion, and introducing innovative solutions that make transactions

more secure, seamless, and accessible. Its achievements include pioneering Bahrain's National Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS), advancing open banking services, and developing digital products that strengthen the country's competitive edge as a fintech hub. Most recently, BENEFIT

announced that the company recorded a total volume of around 242.7 million transactions, representing a value of BHD 18.2 billion in electronic financial transactions in the first half of 2025, an 11% increase when compared to the same period in the previous year.

Inflation concerns send US consumer confidence to 5-month low

AFP | Washington, United States

US consumer confidence has slumped to its lowest level since President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs came into effect in April, according to data published Tuesday, with respondents expressing growing concern about inflation.

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index slipped 3.6 points to 94.2 in September, down from a revised 97.8 a month earlier.

This was worse than analysts expected, according to surveys of economists conducted by Dow Jones Newswires and The Wall Street Journal.

"Consumers' write-in responses showed that references to prices and inflation rose in September, regaining its top position as the main topic influencing consumers' views of the economy," Conference Board senior economist Stephanie



People walk along 42nd St. in Manhattan on July 14, 2025, in New York City.

Guichard said in a statement. month earlier, she noted. References to tariffs remained In slightly more positive news, high, but were lower than a consumers' average 12-month

inflation expectations "inched down" to 5.8% from 6.1% in August, she said, adding this was

still notably above the figure at the end of last year.

US inflation has edged higher since Trump launched his tariff policy shortly after returning to the White House, hitting both allies and adversaries with steep duties in a bid to reshape America's trade relationships.

Trump and his economic allies continue to insist that any increase in inflation will be limited in scope, and have urged the US Federal Reserve to swiftly cut rates to support the economy.

At the same time as inflation has risen, the US labor market has slumped, with just 22,000 jobs created last month, according to Labor Department data.

Against that backdrop, the Fed cut its key lending rate by a quarter%-age-point earlier this month, bringing its benchmark lending rate to between 4.00 and 4.25%.

Spotify founder Daniel Ek to give up CEO role

Stockholm, Sweden

Spotify co-founder Daniel Ek will step down as CEO on January 1 and become executive chairman, handing the reins to two of his deputies in a leadership shake-up, the music streaming giant said Tuesday.

Spotify said Gustav Soderstrom, its chief product and technology officer, and chief business officer Alex Norstrom would take over as co-CEOs.

"This change simply matches titles to how we already operate," Ek said.

"Over the last few years, I've turned over a large part of the day-to-day management and strategic direction of Spotify to Alex and Gustav," he said. The change would come into effect on January 1, 2026.

US cops pull over driverless car after illegal U-turn

Los Angeles, United States

US police thought they had their man when they watched a taxi make an illegal U-turn right in front of them -- only to discover there was no-one in the driver's seat.

Officers in San Bruno, California pulled over the Waymo driverless car on Friday night, but -- despite its flagrant law breaking -- had to let it go.



"Since there was no human driver, a ticket couldn't be issued," police in the city, south of San Francisco, said on social media.

"Our citation books don't have a box for 'robot'."

Describing the situation as "a first" for law enforcement, the police department said they had spoken to Waymo about the problem.

"Officers... contacted the

company to let them know about the 'glitch.'"

Waymo told AFP its autonomous driving system has been designed to obey the rules.

"We are looking into this situation and are committed to improving road safety through our ongoing learnings and experience," the company said.

Waymo operates fleets of driverless taxis in and around a small number of major US cities,

including San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The vehicles -- white Jaguars equipped with an array of sensors -- navigate around known cityscapes using an on-board mapping and computing system.

Despite their unnerving appearance, with an empty front seat and a steering wheel that turns on its own, the vehicles have proved popular with passengers.



A parking lot adjacent to the Freedom Tower was voted by Florida officials to be donated as the potential site for President Donald Trump's future presidential library in Miami, Florida.

Startup founder sentenced to 7 years in US fraud case

New York, United States

A federal judge sentenced former tech start-up high-flier Charlie Javice to just over seven years in prison on Monday after she was convicted of defrauding JPMorgan Chase on a \$175 million deal.

Javice, who in 2021 sold her online business Frank to the US banking giant, was found guilty by a New York jury in March of charges the enterprise was built on millions of fabricated users.

US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein sentenced Javice to 85 months in prison, a Department of Justice spokesman said.

In their complaint, US prosecutors said Javice hired an outside data scientist to create

a "synthetic data set" after a company engineer declined a request, citing concerns about illegality.

Javice had billed Frank as offering a way to simplify the process of filling out the US application for financial aid for higher education. JPMorgan was drawn to the platform as a means to market banking services to younger consumers.

Javice perpetrated "an audacious and multifaceted criminal scheme" that was "fueled by greed," said Micah Festa Ferguson of the US Attorney's office, which had sought a 12-year sentence.

While the case showed "very poor" due diligence on the part of JPMorgan, Judge Hellerstein said Javice's conduct merited punishment.

News in brief

◆ **Afghanistan's internet** and telecommunications cut has “extremely serious” rights implications, with women and girls especially affected, the UN human rights office said yesterday. Mobile phone signal and internet service in Afghanistan, ruled by the Taliban government, weakened on Monday night until connectivity was less than one percent of normal levels. “Nationwide internet shutdown by (the) Taliban has extremely serious human rights ramifications across the country,” the UN rights office said on X. The shutdown has curtailed the free flow of information crucial to everyday activities, including access to essential services from health and education to banking. “Women and girls already excluded from public life are especially affected. “We call for immediate reconnection.”

◆ **A 6.9-magnitude** quake struck off the coast of central Philippines on Tuesday evening, the US Geological Survey said, with no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The local seismology office warned of a possible “minor sea-level disturbance” and urged residents of the central islands of Leyte, Cebu and Biliran to “stay away from the beach and not to go to the coast”. The epicentre of the quake was at sea off the northern tip of Cebu island and near Bogo, a city of more than 90,000 people, according to a Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, adding it expected both damage and aftershocks.

◆ **South Africa's ambassador** to France, formerly a long-serving cabinet minister, was found dead on Tuesday outside a Paris hotel after the window of his room in the high-rise building was forced open, prosecutors said. Nkosinathi Emmanuel Nathi Mthethwa, 58, usually known as Nathi Mthethwa, had “reserved a room on the 22nd floor whose secured window had been forced open”, the office of the Paris prosecutor told AFP. The body of Mthethwa, a close associate of former South African president Jacob Zuma, was found “directly by the hotel”, it added. A source close to the case, who asked not to be named, said the ambassador had depression and his death could have been suicide. An investigation has been opened. Mthethwa had been ambassador since December 2023. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called his death “untimely” and “a moment of deep grief in which government and citizens stand beside the Mthethwa family”.



Afghanistan internet cut ‘extremely serious’ for human rights: UN

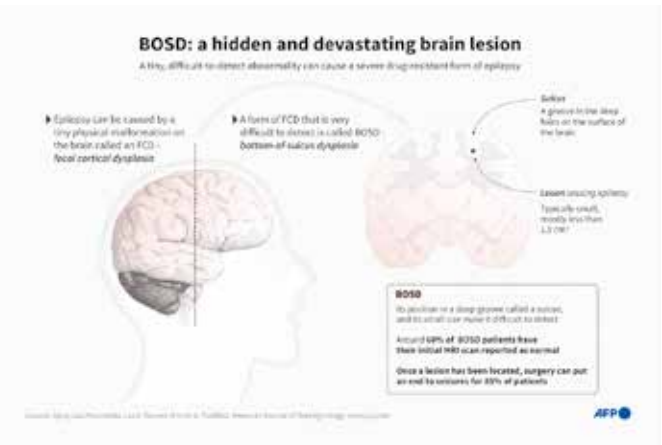
Magnitude 6.9 quake strikes off central Philippines: USGS

South African ambassador found dead outside Paris hotel



SPOTLIGHT

AI tool helps researchers treat child epilepsy



AFP | Tokyo, Japan

An artificial intelligence tool that can detect tiny, hard-to-spot brain malformations in children with epilepsy could help patients access life-changing surgery quicker, Australian researchers said on Wednesday.

It is the latest example of how AI, which can crunch vast amounts of data, is changing healthcare by assisting doctors with diagnoses.

Epilepsy has several different causes, and overall around three in 10 cases are down to structural abnormalities in the brain, experts say.

These are often missed on MRI scans -- especially the smallest lesions, sometimes hidden at the bottom of a brain fold.

A team led by Emma Macdonald-Laurs, a paediatric neurologist at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, trained an AI tool on child brain images to find lesions the size of a blueberry or smaller.

“They’re frequently missed and many children are not considered as surgical candidates,” Macdonald-Laurs told a briefing ahead of the publication of her team’s study in the journal *Epilepsia*.

“The tool doesn’t replace radiologists or epilepsy doctors, but it’s like a detective that helps us put the puzzle pieces together quicker so we can offer potentially life-changing surgery,” she said.

Of the patients who took part, with conditions known as cortical dysplasia and focal epilepsy, 80 percent had previously had an MRI scan come back as normal.

When the researchers used the AI tool to analyse both MRI and another type of medical scan called a PET, its success rate was 94 percent for one test group and 91 percent for another.

Hamas reviewing Trump’s Gaza plan

The plan calls for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours



Palestinians gather to receive food portions from a charity kitchen in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip

- Trump unveiled a 20-point plan for an immediate halt to the war in Gaza
- Qatar said the group had promised to study the proposal “responsibly”
- Trump described the announcement of the plan as a “beautiful day”
- The deal would demand Hamas fully disarm, excluded from future roles
- It would also see a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

AFP | Hamas was reviewing Donald Trump’s plan for Gaza yesterday, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli military would stay in most of the territory after he gave the US president his backing.

The plan calls for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, disarmament of Hamas and gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself.

“Hamas has begun a series of consultations within its political

The plan
Gaza to become a terror-free, demilitarized zone posing no threat to neighbours.
Gaza will be rebuilt for the benefit of its people.
War ends if both sides agree; Israel halts operations and withdraws to agreed lines.
Within 72 hours of Israel's acceptance, all hostages, alive or deceased, will be returned.
Israel to release 250 life prisoners and 1,700 post-Oct 7 detainees; remains exchanged 15:1.
Hamas members disarming and pledging peace get amnesty or safe passage abroad.
Immediate full aid into Gaza: infrastructure, hospitals, bakeries, rubble clearance.
Aid distributed by UN, Red Crescent, and other neutral bodies; Rafah crossing opened.
Temporary technocratic Palestinian committee to run Gaza, supervised by a “Board of Peace” led by Trump and international leaders.
Trump's economic plan: special panel to attract investment, jobs, and redevelopment.
Special economic zone created with preferential trade terms.
No forced displacement; people free to leave or return, encouraged to rebuild Gaza.
Hamas and factions excluded from governance; all tunnels and weapons destroyed under monitors.
Regional partners to guarantee Hamas compliance and Gaza's non-threat status.
International Stabilization Force to deploy, train Palestinian police, and secure borders with Egypt and Israel.
Israel will not annex Gaza; IDF withdrawal tied to demilitarization milestones and ISF readiness.
If Hamas rejects, aid and rebuilding proceed in IDF-ISF controlled terror-free areas.
Interfaith dialogue launched to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence.
With PA reforms, conditions set for Palestinian self-determination and eventual statehood.
U.S. to lead dialogue between Israel and Palestinians for lasting peace and prosperity.

and military leaderships, both inside Palestine and abroad,” a Palestinian source said on condition of anonymity.

“The discussions could take several days due to the complexities.”

Qatar, which hosts Hamas’s exiled leadership, said the group had promised to study the proposal “responsibly”, and also said it would hold a meeting on the plan with Hamas and Turkey later on Tuesday.

“It is still too early to speak about responses, but we are truly optimistic that this plan, as we said, is a comprehensive one,” a foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said.

On Monday in Washington, Trump described the announcement of the plan as a “beautiful day -- potentially one of the greatest days ever in civilisation”.

The deal would demand Hamas fully disarm and be excluded from future roles in the government, but those who agreed to “peaceful co-existence” would be given amnesty.

It would also see a phased Is-

raeli withdrawal from Gaza, after nearly two years of war sparked by Hamas’s unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

But in a video statement posted on his Telegram channel after his joint press conference with Trump, Netanyahu said the military would stay in most of Gaza, and also said he did not agree to a Palestinian state during his talks in Washington.

“We will recover all our hostages, alive and well, while the (Israeli military) will remain in most of the Gaza Strip,” he said.

Still, Israel’s far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a member of Netanyahu’s coalition government, blasted the plan as a “resounding diplomatic failure”.

“In my estimation, it will also end in tears. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again,” he said.



The first Gaza war broke out in 1948, during the Arab-Israeli War, when Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip after fighting with Israel. Gaza then remained under Egyptian administration until the 1967 Six-Day War, when Israel captured it along with the West Bank, Sinai, and Golan Heights.

331 BC

Alexander the Great de-
feats Darius III of Persia
in the Battle of Gaugamela

1688

Prince William of
Orange accepts in-
vitation to take up
the British crown

1814

Opening of the Congress of
Vienna redraws Europe's
political map after the de-
feat of Napoleon Bonaparte

1867

Karl Marx publishes "Das Kapital"
in Berlin, describing the capitalist
system, its instability, and its
tendency toward self-destruction

UN says ready for Gaza aid surge set out in Trump plan

The United Nations said yesterday it remains ready to increase aid flows into the Gaza Strip once conditions allow, following the unveiling of US President Donald Trump's peace plan for the Palestinian territory.

The UN declared a famine in Gaza last month, blaming "systematic obstruction" of humanitarian deliveries by Israel.

Trump's wide-ranging 20-point plan, outlined Monday, says "full aid will be immediately sent into the Gaza Strip".

The proposal says the entry and distribution of aid will proceed "without interference", via the United Nations, its agencies and the Red Crescent, among others.

Qatar says meeting on Gaza plan to be held with Hamas, Turkey later Tuesday

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar said it was set to hold talks with Hamas negotiators, Egypt and Turkey yesterday to discuss US President Donald Trump's Gaza plan, adding that Hamas would study it "responsibly".

Qatar and Egypt handed the proposal to Hamas on Monday, and "the (Hamas) negotiating delegation promised to study it responsibly," foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari told a press conference.

"There will also be another meeting today, also attended by the Turkish side, with the negotiating delegation."

The head of Egyptian intelligence and his Turkish counterpart were in Doha he said, to take part in negotiations. "It is still too early to speak about responses, but we are truly optimistic that this plan, as we said, is a comprehensive one," Ansari added.

Kremlin backs Trump's Gaza plan

Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin said yesterday it supported US President Donald Trump's 20-point plan to end the war in Gaza.

"Russia always supports and welcomes any efforts by President Trump aimed at ending this ongoing tragedy," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, including AFP, on a daily briefing call. "Of course, we want this plan to be implemented and for it to help bring events in the Middle East to a peaceful conclusion," he added.

Muslim states join European powers in backing Trump Gaza plan

● Israel's Netanyahu says army 'will remain in most of Gaza'

● Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz calls Trump plan 'best chance' to end Gaza war

● China says backs all Gaza de-escalation efforts after Trump plan

● Israel far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich calls Trump Gaza plan 'resounding diplomatic failure'

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Key Muslim nations have thrown their weight behind a plan by US President Donald Trump to end the war in Gaza, even as some Palestinians decried the proposal as a "farce".

Eight Arab or Muslim-majority nations said they "welcome the role of the American president and his sincere efforts aimed at ending the war in Gaza".

In a joint statement, they said they "affirm their readiness to engage positively and constructively with the United States and the parties toward finalising the agreement and ensuring its implementation".

The countries include Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey -- which all recognise Israel, although some have turbulent relationships.

Another signatory was Qatar, which has played a key mediatory role, and Saudi Arabia, whose future normalisation with Israel is a key goal for Trump and Netanyahu.

Indonesia and Pakistan, the world's two most populous Muslim-majority countries, also signed.

However, Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian armed group fighting alongside Hamas in Gaza, called the plan "a recipe for continued aggression against the Palestinian people".

"Through this, Israel is attempting -- via the United States -- to impose what it could not achieve through war," it said.

Residents in Gaza expressed scepticism, dismissing the plan as a trick to release hostages that would not end the war.

"We as a people will not accept this farce," said Abu Mazen Nassar, 52.

Foreign backing

Several European leaders voiced support Tuesday for Trump's Gaza plan, with Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz calling it the "best chance" to end the war as he met relatives of German-Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

In Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the situation in Gaza an "ongoing

Gaza civil defence says 41 killed in Israeli attacks

Nuseirat, Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency and hospitals said yesterday that Israeli forces killed at least 41 people across the territory, including 17 near an aid distribution centre.

The Israeli military has pressed on with its offensive even as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced support for US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war.

Officials from Gaza's civil defence agency -- a rescue force operating under Ha-

mas authority -- said 17 people were shot dead by Israeli forces near an aid distribution site near the Wadi Gaza bridge in central Gaza.

Al-Awda hospital confirmed receiving 17 bodies and said 33 people were wounded.

The civil defence added that 15 more people were killed in several strikes in Gaza City, from where hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee due to Israeli air and ground assaults. Nine others were killed elsewhere in the territory, it said.

Hamas will 'pay in hell' unless it accepts plan within days: Trump

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that Hamas will face severe consequences if it does not accept within a few days his Gaza peace deal that calls for the disarmament of the Palestinian militant group.

"We have one signature that

we need, and that signature will pay in hell if they don't sign. I hope they sign for their own good and create something really great," Trump told US generals and admirals in Quantico, Virginia.

He earlier told reporters he was giving Hamas "three or four days" to respond to the proposed deal.



Protesters shout slogans against the visit to the US of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Lafayette Square in Washington, DC

Spain to probe firms tied to occupied Palestinian territories

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spain's leftist government said yesterday it will investigate companies that advertise products or services in the country that originate in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

The measure follows the approval of a decree last week that bans the promotion of such goods and services in Spain to prevent firms from benefiting from the occupation, the consumer ministry said in a statement.

The decree is part of a pack-

age of measures that includes an arms embargo on Israel aimed at halting what Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called "the genocide in Gaza".

Consumer Affairs Minister Pablo Bustinduy said earlier this year his office would use "all necessary resources" to ensure no company operating in Spain profits from the occupation.

"No firm should have its balance sheet stained with the blood of the Palestinian people," the statement quoted him as saying at an event in July.

Assailant killed after West Bank ramming attack injures two: Israeli military, medics

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said security forces killed an assailant who carried out a ramming attack in the occupied West Bank yesterday, which medics said injured two people.

Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) emergency services said it received a report of a ramming attack near the Al-Khader junction near Bethlehem at 2:25 pm (1125 GMT).

"We quickly arrived at the scene with large forces and saw two teenagers who had been hit by a vehicle," MDA said in a statement.

"A boy of about 15 was lying on the ground, semi-conscious, and the other was fully conscious," it said, adding that the teenagers were suffering from head and limb injuries and were taken to hospitals.

The two were students in a Jewish religious seminary in Jerusalem, according to the Gush Etzion regional council where the attack took place.

tragedy".

"We want this plan to be implemented and for it to help bring events in the Middle East to a peaceful conclusion," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said Beijing "supports all efforts conducive to easing tensions between Palestine and Israel".

Trump also won UK and French backing from Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President Emmanuel Macron for his plan, which includes a call for a transitional body in Gaza involving former British premier Tony Blair.

Blair, a former envoy for the diplomatic Middle East Quartet of the UN, United States, EU and Russia, called it a "bold and intelligent plan" that could bring "immediate relief" to Gaza and a "brighter and better future" if agreed.

European Council chief Antonio Costa urged all parties to "seize this moment to give peace a genuine chance", adding that the situation in Gaza was "intolerable".

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez -- who has accused Israel of committing "genocide" in Gaza -- said Madrid "welcomes the peace proposal", adding that a two-state solution was "the only one possible".

Army will remain

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli military would stay in most of Gaza, after he gave his backing to a peace plan for the Palestinian territory unveiled by US President Donald Trump.

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I welcome the announcement yesterday by @POTUS, intended to achieve a ceasefire & sustainable peace for Gaza & for the region. I further appreciate the important role of Arab & Muslim states in working to this end. It is now crucial that all parties commit to an agreement and its implementation.

@antoniooguterres

02



Today, on the auspicious occasion of Maha Ashtami, I went to Delhi's Chittaranjan Park to take part in the Durga Puja celebrations. Chittaranjan Park is known for its strong association with Bengali culture. The celebrations truly reflect the spirit of unity and cultural vibrancy in our society. Prayed for everyone's happiness and wellbeing.

@narendramodi

03



Chuck Schumer once recognized that it was disastrous to give illegal aliens rewards for breaking the law. Now he wants to shut down the government unless we... reward illegal aliens for breaking the law.

@VP

04



@POTUS has always been clear about his priorities regarding the Gaza conflict: bring the hostages home and end the war. His visionary plan for peace makes both goals attainable. It is not only bold and comprehensive, but a means to securing lasting peace in the Middle East.

@SecRubio

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

US on brink of government shutdown with funding talks stalled

A last-gasp meeting at the White House on Monday yielded no progress

- The 100-member Senate requires government funding bills to receive 60 votes
- A shutdown would see nonessential operations grind to a halt
- Republicans have proposed to extend current funding until late November

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States government was barreling towards its first shutdown in six years yesterday, with funding expiring at midnight barring a breakthrough on deadlocked negotiations between Democrats and Republicans.

A last-gasp meeting at the White House on Monday yielded no progress, with top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer saying afterward that “large differences” remained between both sides.

His party, in the minority in both chambers of Congress, is seeking to flex its rare leverage over the federal government, eight months into Donald Trump’s barnstorming second presidency that has seen entire government agencies dismantled.

The 100-member Senate requires government funding bills to receive 60 votes -- seven more than the Republicans control.

With no sign of compromise, an afternoon Senate vote was expected on a short-term funding extension already passed by the House of Representatives, although there was little hope it would succeed.

Unless Congress passes a bill before midnight to fund federal operations, the government will partially close up shop -- and plunge Washington into a fresh political crisis.

A shutdown would see non-essential operations grind to a halt, leaving hundreds of thousands of civil servants temporarily without pay, and payment of

Who is impacted

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers could be furloughed, but those considered essential would keep working.

President Donald Trump’s administration has also raised the stakes this time: it has directed agencies to consider firing staff rather than the usual practice of holding up their pay until lawmakers strike a deal.

The need to avoid a shutdown has “reached a new level of urgency,” said the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE).

AFGE President Everett Kelley urged lawmakers Monday to come to the table, stressing that “federal employees are not bargaining chips.”

Typically, many workers will be told not to report to work, except for those providing key services like air traffic control and law enforcement.

These workers, while staying on the job, are not paid until the shutdown is over -- meaning a prolonged closure could strain their finances.

Services affected

Social Security and Medicare benefits will continue, as these programs are authorized by Congress via laws that do not require annual approval.

The National Park Service (NPS) would likely also be hit. During a 2013 government shutdown, the NPS turned away millions of visitors to hundreds of parks, monuments and other sites.

But during a 2018-2019 shutdown, the Trump administration kept parks accessible to the public, even though many staff stayed home.

This resulted in damage to parks, said the National Parks Conservation Association. It called for closures if there were a shutdown, warning that NPS areas would otherwise be vulnerable and understaffed.

Length of shutdown -

It is unclear how long a shutdown could last.

Economists have warned that pressure would mount to reopen the government if a stoppage lasted for two weeks -- threatening missed paychecks as this is a typical US pay cycle.

There have been several shutdowns where operations were hit for more than one business day, including one lasting 35 days around December 2018 and January 2019, during the first Trump administration.

That shutdown, also the most recent, was the longest in US history.

The damage of a shutdown is often “more insidious,” said Max Stier, president of the Partnership for Public Service.

“It interrupts the longer-term investments that are necessary to make our government run over time.”

Economic impact

“A shutdown could reduce GDP growth by 0.2 percentage points for each week it lasts,” said economists Kathy Bostjancic and Oren Klachkin of Nationwide.

If there are layoffs this time, “the path back to a functioning government will be longer, and rockier,” cautioned High Frequency Economics’ Carl Weinberg.

This risks prolonged dysfunction, analysts said.

A shutdown would also “cut the flow” of economic data supporting policy decisions and assessments on the economic outlook, Weinberg said.

A key concern is the closely watched government report on employment, due Friday. The Department of Labor is set to pause its publication -- and others -- if a shutdown occurs.

The department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics also collects and refines data over the course of a month, and a shutdown could impair such operations.

While financial markets are not usually hit hard in a shutdown, SPI Asset Management’s Stephen Innes said the situation could get “noisier” without signals from fresh economic data.

“Markets hate uncertainty more than bad news,” he warned.

BETTER YOU KNOW

During the 2013 U.S. government shutdown, even the panda cam at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in Washington, D.C. was turned off because staff were furloughed. Millions of people who regularly watched the baby panda online suddenly lost access -- and the “panda cam shutdown” became one of the most talked-about symbols of the political stalemate.

many social safety-net benefits potentially disrupted.

Trump upped the ante Tuesday when he told reporters his administration may go beyond the usual practice of temporary furloughs and fire “a lot” of federal workers -- but he blamed Democratic demands for the looming crisis.

“It’s like they don’t change. They lost an election in a landslide, and they don’t change,” he said.

‘On vacation’

US government shutdowns are deeply unpopular, and Democrats and Republicans alike try to avoid the scenario -- while blaming the other



er camp in the event of a closure.

Republicans have proposed to extend current funding until late November, pending negotiations on a longer-term spending plan.

Democrats want to see hundreds of billions of dollars in healthcare spending restored, particularly in the Obamacare health insurance exchange

program for low-income households, which the Trump administration is likely to eliminate.

They also want to block Trump and Republicans from cutting approved funds later through the so-called “rescissions” process, as they did this summer. The process requires only a simple majority to pass.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson kicked off a pressure-cooker final day of brinkmanship ahead of the midnight deadline by accusing Democrats of weaponizing health care funding “to shut down the government and protect themselves from their radical base.”

The House has already passed a seven-week stop-gap funding measure, and Johnson has sought to force Senate Democrats’ hands by not bring-

ing his chamber back to Washington this week.

But many Democrats have shown up and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries assembled dozens of his members in front of the US Capitol to berate Republicans for being “on vacation”

as the shutdown looms.

“We’re ready, we’re willing and able to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government in a way that actually meets the needs of the American people in terms of their health, their safety and their economic well-being,” he told reporters.

“But here’s what we’re not going to do: We’re not going to support a partisan Republican spending bill that continues to gut the health care of the American people -- not now, not ever.”

The gridlocked Congress regularly runs into deadlines to agree on spending plans.

In March of this year, with the threat of another shutdown already looming, Republicans refused to engage in dialogue with Democrats over massive budget cuts and the layoffs of thousands of federal employees.

Senate Democrats reluctantly provided the votes to end the stand-off but the decision angered the party base, which is calling on Democratic leaders to stand up to

Trump tells generals US faces ‘war from within’

AFP | Quantico, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States faces a “war from within” from crime and immigration, in a darkly authoritarian speech to a rare meeting of the top US military officers.

Addressing generals and admirals summoned from around the world by Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, Republican Trump warned that the military would be involved in his crackdowns on a number of Democratic-run cities.



US military generals and senior officers wait for the arrival of US President Donald Trump

“We’re going to straighten them out one by one, and this is going to be a major part for some of the people in this room. That’s a war too -- it’s a war from within,” Trump said in front of a huge American flag in Quantico, Virginia.

Trump added that he had signed an order to set up a military quick reaction force to quell civil disturbances “because it’s the enemy from within, and we have to handle it before it gets out of control.”

Trump began his speech by

talking about the US military in general terms, saying it was “re-awakening the warrior spirit.”

But much of the extraordinary, hour-long address had a highly political tone, in a break with tradition by previous presidents who have tended to avoid overt domestic politics when addressing troops.

As the audience of officers remained silent, Trump also lashed out at the media, calling them “sleazebags.”

‘Fat generals’

Former Fox News host-turned Defense Secretary Hegseth summoned the highly unusual gathering of hundreds of officers last week before Trump then announced that he would also speak.

Striding the stage, the Pentagon chief said the military must fix “decades of decay” as he lashed out at so-called “woke” policies in the military.

Hegseth unveiled directives for US service members to get fit, cut their hair and shave their beards.

celebs



Miley Cyrus ‘blended’ her hand in cooking mishap

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Miley Cyrus was rushed to hospital after accidentally “blending” her hand while cooking dinner for her family. The 32-year-old pop star has recalled the harrowing incident in a joint interview with her mom Tish Cyrus and her sisters with her elder sibling Brandi recalling the year when Miley attempted to take charge in

Miley Cyrus

the kitchen and ended up needing stitches. Brandi told The Cut: “The one year you tried to cook [Thanks-giving dinner], you cut your finger off...” Miley then explained: “True. That was forever ago. It was a handheld blender - I blended my hand. I cook every now and then. But I wouldn’t say it’s something Mom really likes to have happen at her house because she likes to keep the kitchen clean and it just makes a bigger mess than she

would prefer. But dinners aren’t really our thing.” The blender incident happened in 2012 and a representative for the singer confirmed to Us Weekly that she’d needed stitches, saying: “She cut her finger while cooking. Had to get a few stitches. She’s doing fine.” Miley also addressed the cooking disaster on X - formerly known as Twitter - writing: “I’m all stitched up and have on a splint so I’m good. As you can

tell by my expression, didn’t feel so good. Curse u blender! [sic]” The family has been dogged by rumours of a feud after the kids fell out with their dad Billy Ray Cyrus and after he divorced Tish in 2022. Miley recently insisted the family rift is being repaired and in the interview with The Cut, she explained she still has a close bond with her mom and sisters because they are all so similar - as long as they don’t discuss politics or religion.

She said: “One thing I’ve always loved about our family is that we’re very honorable and respectful of each other’s differences; I think a lot of families get torn apart from their differences. “There are similarities between all of us - mostly Mom’s genetics. But when it comes to style, and even our ideas and our views and our opinions, all of us are really respectful toward each other and celebrate each of us having our own identity.

Ryan Reynolds swore at his wife Blake Lively rather than miss a call from Bill Murray



Ryan Reynolds and wife Blake Lively
Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Ryan Reynolds swore at his wife Blake Lively rather than miss a call from Bill Murray. The Deadpool star, 48, who has been married to Blake, 38, since 2012, described his efforts to reach Bill, 75, during an appearance in New Jersey to promote the documentary John Candy: I Like Me, relating a story about how he desperately worked to secure the actor’s involvement in the film about comedian John Candy. Ryan said he left “40 messages” for Bill before finally obtaining the actor’s phone number through “a friend of a friend of a friend”. He added: “I’ll come to you. I’ll do whatever it takes” while recalling the voicemail he left in which he asked to “pick (Bill’s) brain” about John Candy’s life. Later, while attending a formal event with Blake, his persistence appeared to pay off. He said: “I’m there with my wife and we’re about to walk in and my phone buzzes, and I look at it. “It says Bill Murray and I go,

‘Bill Murray!’” According to Ryan, actress Blake whispered: “We have to go in!” But Ryan replied: “F*** you!” before taking the call. Ryan said Bill promised to get back to him about the project. The actor admitted he continued his pursuit by leaving “another 40 messages” in what he called a “desperate” attempt to finish the film. Eventually, Ryan said he created a video message while his children interrupted him. He joked: “I said, ‘If you say no to a child like that, I don’t know what kind of monster you are’.” The strategy succeeded, with Bill returning the call “two seconds later”. Ryan recalled Bill asking: “What do you need from me for JC (John Candy)?” The actor and Blake are parents to four children – James, 10, Inez, eight, Betty, five, and Olin, two. Away from the documentary, the couple are known for light-hearted exchanges on social media and red carpets.

Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban ‘split after nearly two decades together’

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban have reportedly separated after nearly two decades together. Following months of living apart during conflicting work schedules, the 58-year-old actress and musician, 57, are said to have called it quits after marrying in 2006 and having two daughters. Sources told the Daily Mail Nicole was left “blindsided” by the split. One insider said: “Keith never sees Nicole, either she is filming or he is on tour. There was a lot of love between the two and they might not divorce, but there is a world that they both live where neither of them are in it. “Keith and Nicole have been together for decades and there is a world which they can reconcile, but the way their pairing is



Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban now, it is not a couple.” Nicole and Keith are parents to Sunday Rose, 17, and Faith Margaret, 14. The actress was previously married to Tom Cruise from

1990 until 2001, with the couple adopting two children during their relationship. Nicole and Keith were last photographed together in

May 2025 at the Academy of Country Music Awards, where they appeared affectionate on the red carpet. They were also seen in June at a soccer match in Nashville. In recent months, Nicole has been based in London while filming a sequel to Practical Magic. She has been living in a Hampstead mansion once owned by Boy George, reportedly paying \$87,288 a month for the property. According to Woman’s Day, she has become “comfortable” in the house while Keith continues his High and Alive tour across the US and Canada, scheduled to run until October.

Kendall Jenner planning to quit modelling and TV

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kendall Jenner is planning to give up her life in the spotlight and focus on designing houses. The 29 year old shot to fame on her family’s reality TV show Keeping Up With The Kardashians as a child before launching a career as a model and she now juggles her runway work with filming their latest show The Kardashians - but Kendall is adamant she’s planning to walk away from the entertainment industry because she’s prefers “the simple life”.

She told Vogue magazine: “I swear to God, I’m going to stop everything and just design homes. I’m not kidding ... “I love my space in LA, but I also really love the simple life. I like getting up every morning and throwing on a bathing suit or sweatpants and no make-up and just being free with my day ... “I think about the future a lot, but I try not to overplan because you know I’m a planner.” In the joint interview with pal

Gigi Hadid, Kendall revealed she’s currently building a new house away from Los Angeles and Gigi admitted her friend is “one of the only people that I would let design a house for me”. Despite growing up on TV, Kendall previously admitted her childhood always felt “kind of normal”.

Kendall Jenner



SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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7	6	4	3	1	9	8	2	5
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6	5	2	4	9	3	1	8	7
9	8	7	5	6	1	2	3	4
3	7	5	9	4	8	6	1	2
8	2	6	1	7	5	3	4	9
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How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
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66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

Across
1- Kuwaiti bigwig; 5- Dish of raw vegetables; 10- Quote; 14- South American country, famous for Macchu Picchu; 15- Roomy dress cut; 16- Mine finds; 17- Oklahoma city; 18- Rings of a chain; 19- Mismatch; 20- Curved letters; 22- Rudimentary component; 24- Couch; 27- Slips; 28- Newspaper printings; 32- I cannot ___ lie; 35- Droop, sink; 36- Disinfectant brand; 38- Every 24 hours; 40- Very, in Versailles; 42- In shape; 44- Hourly rate; 45- Furry swimmer; 47- Dressed to the ___; 49- Hurried; 50- “The Crucible” setting; 52- College grounds; 54- Dues; 56- Tart; 57- Danced to the accordion, perhaps; 60- Titled; 64- Weak, as an excuse; 65- Clock faces; 68- ___ chance; 69- Warts and all; 70- Available; 71- Provo’s state; 72- Fast jets, for short; 73- Like untended yards; 74- Exchange for money;

Down
1- Duel tool; 2- Department store department; 3- Eye part; 4- Least polite; 5- Mule of song; 6- Clay today; 7- ___ dancing is popular with cowboys; 8- Slender part of the leg; 9- Barren place; 10- Cabbage salad; 11- Wrinkle remover; 12- Trial; 13- WNW’s reverse; 21- Dirty; 23- TV horse; 25- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 26- Baseball Hall of Famer Cap; 28- This, in Tijuana; 29- Pub pastime; 30- ___ Kick Out of You; 31- ___ boom; 33- Perjurers; 34- Aquarium buildup; 37- Horne and Olin; 39- Cravings; 41- Altruistic; 43- Audition tape; 46- Smell bad; 48- Twirled; 51- Lea; 53- Seventh planet; 55- River that flows through Paris; 57- Make the grade; 58- Exclude; 59- Go with; 61- Speck of dust; 62- And others: Abbr.; 63- Wonka’s creator; 64- Vegas opening; 66- Boy; 67- Engage in espionage;

Yesterday's solution

B	I	T	E	S		E	T	A	S		V	I	E
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ROZAK SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33362735 or TAYYABMAYO965@GMAIL.COM

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STAY & RELAX REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 33442806 or HASSANCHOUDRY50@GMAIL.COM

RAWO INTERIOR DECORATION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35025016 or SAIDJUNED54@GMAIL.COM

POWER TECH DEVELOPMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39279042 or gm@powertechdevelopment.com

JAGWINDER PUBLIC RELATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33046925 or MOMINCH3303@GMAIL.COM

PARADISE STEEL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38784951 or paradisesteel.bh@gmail.com

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

COGHIN CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33676709 or RAJUJOSET71@GMAIL.COM

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

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

SHAKNOVA SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35068024 or JELASERVICES.BH@GMAIL.COM

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

Mandi Land Restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17240012 or AWALI@BATELCO.COM.BH

Holz Carpentry has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33315552 or HOLZCARPENTRY@GMAIL.COM

al fanar restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33303494 or FANARBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

SILK AND SHINE SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36410369 or HAFIZRASHIDS223431@GMAIL.COM

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of SENIOR SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aannass.net

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

top men tailoring has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17827979 or pollyne@topmenbh.com

SHAWQI ABDULRAHIM CONSTRUCTION EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344742 or AL.BANNA99@HOTMAIL.COM

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

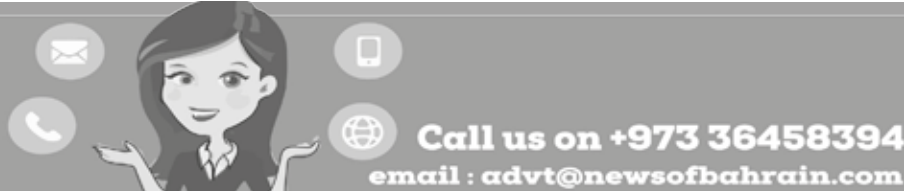
VISWA KARMA INTERIORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36470385 or jangir0091ram@gmail.com

ARABIA WHEEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33661272 or BILAL@SAKEBPREOWNEDCARS.COM

WOOD ARTS WONDER has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39604520 or WOODARTSWONDER@GMAIL.COM

MISTER BROWN BAKERY NAD COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33027552 or ZAMZAMMAKI.ALBONI@YAHOO.COM

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

FALAK MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33925604 or FALAKSHAIRKHAN04@GMAIL.COM

SALMIYA TOWERS GENERAL TRADING BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33371333 or ALIALI3332010@GMAIL.COM

Westin Hotel Bahrain City Centre has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38858574 or ccb.government@maf.ae

REFRESHMENT TRADING CO. OF BAHRAIN (COCA has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17401621 or rtc.123@hotmail.com

ALMEABAD ELECTRICAL SERVICES EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456287 or MES.MUHARRAQ@GMAIL.COM

SHIATSU PROFESSIONAL MESSAGE CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17243350 or MOHAMED@ALMAJIDGROUP.COM

AL-METLA SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39635505 or ZAYEA2018@GMAIL.COM

BMMI bsc has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17739535 or ahe1al@bmmi.com.bh

ALADLIYA CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39602882 or alseddiqi12@outlook.com

TARIQ GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33301113 or TARIQ-JEE684@GMAIL.COM

abu shabib auto services has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34434066 or SADEQ-SHABEEB@HOTMAIL.COM

911 STATIONARY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310077 or MAJEEDTHANAL@GMAIL.COM

HK REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33735454 or HAMAD.JASSIM911@GMAIL.COM

GULF ANTIQUES FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830032 or JASIM@ALABBASIGROUP.NET

BAREAQ ALLAMAAN MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33030276 or M2_0@HOTMAIL.COM

BLACK STAR ABAYAT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36134567 or FARUK-KHAN3406@GMAIL.COM

Al Rayah For Safety Items WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822228 or RASHEED@SECURICORE.BH

MODERN VILLAGE GATE ALUMINUM has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39779098 or alqaryafurniture@gmail.com

noon cafe has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39681440 or AL_AMEERA25@HOTMAIL.COM

Arkan Itihad Development Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMS-BAHRAIN.COM

SRISOUKYA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77992300 or INFO@SRISOUKYA.COM

JAFAR ALFARSANI MAINTENANCE & CONT EST has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551122 or SADDLE.HORN@HOTMAIL.COM

FRESH WORLD CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39077388 or MOHAMEDALTAWADI48@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED ALBARWANI PETROLEUM SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELL PULLER (OIL AND GAS WELLS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564715 or ali.hussain@mbpetroleum.com

REZLIVE ENTERTAINMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33261484 or FAHADBASHIR109@GMAIL.COM

JEWELLERY FALAWH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34441960 or mahmoodalazi@yahoo.com

JANNATHUL KHULOOD SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39657146 or KHADIJAALKHAN18@GMAIL.COM

ALBADO CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17403340 or albadocentre@gmail.com

TAIBA DAIRY MANFACTURE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36622995 or ASED_BARBARY@YAHOO.COM

Uniontech computers and technology has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35424041 or MS.USMANO@GMAIL.COM

PATRICKS SHOES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33909481 or QHTAN2036@GMAIL.COM

UM QASIM MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33249093 or AJAIBRIAZE@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN STEEL CONTRACTING AND FABRICATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17263841 or SAIFULKHAN36@YMAIL.COM

GOOD LOOK HOME DECORATION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34441981 or PUREMIND.BH@GMAIL.COM

BASALIAN CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35583901 or YAYA_GHULAM@YAHOO.COM

DEBESS LOUNGE W.L.L W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33663841 or SUJITH.S123@HOTMAIL.COM

ALMANARTAIN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590097 or ALSHAAB@BATELCO.COMM.BH

M S ORISSA CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33144568 or KAMALAHMED33144@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

EXPEDITE COMBINED SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37587589 or RASHED.NEWAZI81@GMAIL.COM

CRYSTAL PALACE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

ATHERLAND CONTRACTING CO. WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39722232 or almohin111@hotmail.com

ATHERLAND CONTRACTING CO. WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39722232 or almohin111@hotmail.com

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

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

DESIGN TRACK PRINTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PASTER (ADVERTISEMENT POSTERS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33352368 or PRIYASUBIN.BH@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN ALI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39830867 or host555@gmail.com

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

REALVALUECONTRACTING.COM

MC 6 CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402050 or operation@mcsix.me

LAKSHY ADVISORY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35959418 or VVR.APS@GMAIL.COM

UNION WORLD BUILDING has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT STOREKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636622 or hr@eraprojects.net

SOL TECHNICAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33506190 or INFO@SOLTECHNICAL.COM

KOH KAE SNACKS CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36046078 or 784372327@qq.com

M B T FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38753153 or MALIKYASIRAWAN354@GMAIL.COM

AL SHARIF GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35495060 or SAJIDAMJAD786@GMAIL.COM

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

PRO KLEEN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36845820 or PAD-AM1739@GMAIL.COM

ADEL & SADIQ SONS OF JAFFAR STORES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232646 or admin@adel-sadiq.com

Eye craft design and decor has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17440032 or abdulla.kazim1@gmail.com

ESMAELY LENZOHM ELECTRICAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830330 or info@esmaelylenzohm.com

TAWZEATY TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36690049 or MOHAM-MEDRAFFI23@GMAIL.COM

ECHORIDGE CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33770166 or SHAHIDRA000763@GMAIL.COM

LI AJL AEYUNIK RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32000071 or ALASWADAMNA@GMAIL.COM

Ansar Gallery W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140000 or PR@AG-BH.COM

ANAND BHAVAN RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39460468 or ANANDPURANIK25@YAHOO.COM

NESTO SUPERMARKET & DEPARTMENT STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39151200 or WESTERNBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

AL MEHAR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35141212 or AVENTENSTAR.BH@GMAIL.COM

REHMAT for Sweets and Baklava has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35641047 or rehmetweet@yahoo.com

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

DIORA THAI MASSAGE & SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36190073 or ALEYAH1981@GMAIL.COM

FLAWLESS BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39947994 or rms.jho@gmail.com

ZEE LINE TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17474746 or ZEELINEBH@GMAIL.COM

ABDULLA KHAMIS & SONS CONTRACTING

& TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784554 or AKHAMIS@BATELCO.COM.BH

Al Mustafa Construction Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33967781 or info@alsabbaghtransport.com

EF TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36000072 or ESSAFAQIH@GMAIL.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. I. I has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

JABERI WOODEN FACTORIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400014 or hr.jwf@jaberigroup.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

VBEACH RESORT HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13303353 or ahamdand@addresshotels.com

AMUSU CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38732545 or AMUSUCONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM

HI LOOK BURGER has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33693396 or A9595967SALEM@GMAIL.COM

MAHDI ALFARDAN AUTO SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of TIRE OILER, GREASER AND REPAIRER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17690301 or mahdii@msn.com

MADARIS UNIFORMS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17684005 or director@madaristrading.com

HAWAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13666555 or raja@hawarschool.com

AL WAJAAR TEA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36160667 or FATI-MAALSHAIKH7@GMAIL.COM

MALAICA NAVEED BEST WISH CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33458832 or NAVEED-HAMEED9545@GMAIL.COM

M U D R SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213050 or MUD.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

SPIREX EVENT MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66921791 or GHULAM-MUSTAFA620822724@GMAIL.COM

malik sky construction has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33446911 or DJAVID@HOTMAIL.COM

KANNUR ONE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39874874 or ADELMAHBOOB256@GMAIL.COM

TAFCO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33502933 or Tafcobuilding@gmail.com

SKY NINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34042527 or INFO@SKY9CONTRACING.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

FIVE HAND BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111343 or ADHIMALGHALI1968@GMAIL.COM

M B T FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38753153 or MALIKYASIRAWAN354@GMAIL.COM

MVM CONTRACTING AND RECRUITMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66311099 or MVMRECRUITMENTBH@GMAIL.COM

LUCKY BIRD DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33199881 or LUCKYBSSA68338@GMAIL.COM

A.K.H REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17554861 or shams@aliventuregroup.com

ZAD AL YEMEN RESTAURANTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33125888 or MALQASHI@GMAIL.COM

PERFECT FIT TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36905323 or ABDUL_636@HOTMAIL.COM

DEEP RIVER CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34311959 or FARHAD-KHAN39071453@GMAIL.COM

KIRAN CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34406920 or FRESHLIFEENTERPRISES@GMAIL.COM

YAHYA AL KOOHEJI CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77114499 or YAK.PVCWINDOW@GMAIL.COM

NELLAI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33727328 or RAJIROJAJ3H@GMAIL.COM

786 FAST FOOD RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR AND GENERAL FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33402268 or WASEELA.GCC@GMAIL.COM

ABDUL SALAM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33877297 or QNAEEM-SHAHZAD9@GMAIL.COM

RANGOLI SWEETS AND SNACKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17271120 or RANGOLISWEETS.BH@GMAIL.COM

AL NOUREEN FASHIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33334027 or NOUREEN.FASHIONS@OUTLOOK.COM

BANADORA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217333 or mashtan.hotel@yahoo.com

RIDER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34570702 or info@riderbh.com

CREATIVE DROPS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SIGN MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39057795 or sinojk.paul@yahoo.com

RIDER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34570702 or info@riderbh.com

CITY GLASSES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GLAZIER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874492 or cityyaser@yahoo.com

ALKHULOOD SWEETS W.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17789729 or ADMIN@ALKHULOODSWEETS.COM

DONA COMPUTER has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(COMPUTER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33477005 or ADEL_95@YAHOO.COM

DINEMORE RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR KITCHEN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33977049 or AHAMED.NABEEL@GMAIL.COM

AAMIR SHAHZAD 79 MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33623680 or 0047NAWA@GMAIL.COM

JABERI WOODEN FACTORIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400014 or hr.jwf@jaberigroup.com

Al Ameen Transport has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17722778 or ALA-

MEENI@BATELCO.COM.BH
SMART SECURITY & SAFETY has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17555025 or husain.alhelli@gmail.com

GOLDEN CARE CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642844 or goldencareco.bh@gmail.com

RUBY STAR MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17641616 or AHU-JAIRI@HOTMAIL.COM

BU HAROON DECORATION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33749595 or ABDULMALIK-FIAZI@GMAIL.COM

SHAHI Garage W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GARAGE MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33612244 or SHAHIMAN@HOTMAIL.COM

HASAN RAJAB A/C & FREG. WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of A/C MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36048606 or HASSAN.MAHDI@LPDOWATER-PARK.COM

RANA TRANSPORT CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36616598 or RAORANA.AKMAL@GMAIL.COM

SMART SECURITY & SAFETY has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17555025 or husain.alhelli@gmail.com

JAGWINDER INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33423270 or ggs_clearance@hotmail.com

AL MADA TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35958240 or ALMADATRADINGCO@GMAIL.COM

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

HAFAEZ MENS SALOON COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34133722 or CHICBUBBLES13@GMAIL.COM

TITANIC GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33860711 or YASINGHULAM.97@GMAIL.COM

SULEMAN TECHNOLOGY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33114857 or MRADC2020@GMAIL.COM

RAMZAN HAMZA FOR SALE & TRADE IN WASTE SCRAP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37394429 or HAMZACHAUDARY575@GMAIL.COM

AL QASSMA REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39402131 or SKYONE@HOTMAIL.COM

Amal Jewelry Designing has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39273173 or WANA_FRIENDSHIP2008@YAHOO.COM

HI NIGHTS FASHION has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290276 or GOLDENCRYSTAL76@GMAIL.COM

Bright Future Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33681568 or brightfuturecont@gmail.com

Tandoori Tarka Restaurant W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33777328 or ABUAREEBATRADING@YAHOO.COM

Texas Chicken has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33629071 or human.resources@binrajab.co

SANA KARAK has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39822984 or E.ALSAEED68@GMAIL.COM

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Barca's Yamal eyes up PSG after Ballon d'Or miss

Yamal aims for Champions League heroics as Barca seek first cup since Messi era

● Lamine Yamal returns from a groin injury

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal almost became the youngest ever Ballon d'Or winner last week at 18, and Wednesday's Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain offers the ideal opportunity to begin stating his case for next year.

PSG star Ousmane Dembele won the award for the best player in the world but is out injured and will miss the match at the Olympic stadium, leaving runner-up Yamal the floor.

Last season it was the then 17-year-old who inspired Barcelona's charge to the semi-finals, and despite two outstanding displays against Inter Milan, Hansi Flick's side fell just short.

They missed out on facing PSG in the final, as the French side crushed Inter to claim their first Champions League trophy. Yamal pledged he would bring the cup to Barcelona, who have not won it since 2015 and the days of Lionel Messi.

Despite Yamal's quality, already immense and still increasing, Barcelona have improved without him last season.

In the 2024/25 campaign they struggled when he was absent, depending far too much on him, but they have just won five games in a row, the first four of those without the teen-

Lamine Yamal

ager.

Yamal was sidelined with a groin issue but on his return against Real Sociedad on Sunday in La Liga made an instant impact when introduced in the 58th minute.

The right winger burst into the box and crossed for Robert Lewandowski to head home the winner, little over a minute after entering the fray.

It was the perfect way to reintroduce himself, shaking the crowd out of their stupor.

“(Just) his presence on the pitch is a threat,” said Real Sociedad coach Sergio Francisco.

“He's showing every day he's the best player in the world. It's a treat to watch him.”

Yamal's impact against Real Sociedad was also a tonic for the club during a difficult week. They lost Joan Garcia and Raphinha to injury, the duo joining recently hurt duo Fermin Lopez and

Gavi on the sidelines.

Barcelona were also denied permission to return to their renovated Camp Nou home by the city council, despite hopes they could host the La Real game there.

“I'm happy to have him back, he showed it directly, his outstanding strength he has to create chances, to give the last pass. It's good to have him back,” said Flick.

'Climb to get to the top'

Despite his age, Yamal has made over 100 appearances for Barcelona, scoring

27 goals, and winning two La Liga titles since his debut at 15 in 2023.

The Spain international, who won Euro 2024 with his country the day after his

BETTER
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At just 18, Yamal has already played over 100 matches for Barcelona, scored 27 goals, and won two La Liga titles—an early career tally that even Messi did not match

17th birthday, is often compared to eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and Barcelona all-time great Lionel Messi.

Yamal inherited his iconic number 10 shirt at the start of this season, also worn by Diego Maradona and Ronaldinho among other historic Barca stars.

Only time will tell whether Yamal will be able to reproduce Messi's longevity, but thus far he has risen to meet every challenge he has faced since his debut at just 15.

The Argentine did not win the Ballon d'Or until he was 22, with Brazil great Ronaldo the youngest ever winner at 21.

Yamal may have missed out this year, but if he wins the award in 2026 or 2027, he will still claim that record, as he has done so many others.

“You have to climb to get to the top,” said Yamal on Instagram after missing out in Paris, and facing PSG may be the first rung on the ladder.

Sinner to face teenager Tien in Beijing final as Gauff battles on

● Sinner beat De Minaur in three sets

● Gauff survives Bencic test

AFP | Beijing

Jannik Sinner reached his third China Open final in a row yesterday and will face talented teenager Learner Tien as defending women's champion Coco Gauff battled on.

The world number two Sinner beat Australia's Alex de Minaur 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 and is one victory away from a second title in Beijing.

The Italian will be red-hot favourite in Wednesday's final against unseeded American Tien, 19, who beat a hobbling Daniil Medvedev.

Their semi-final went to a deciding third set but the 29-year-old Russian fell 0-4 down and was barely able to move by the end, before retiring in pain and angry.

The famously

feisty Medvedev, whose leg was strapped and had been dealing with cramps, was handed a code violation for lack of effort in the second game of the third set.

That triggered a furious response from Medvedev. “Why is every referee in the

world trying to intimidate me?” Medvedev said as he approached the chair umpire.

“I'm telling you I am giving my best effort.

“I'm not going to try to continue.”

“Thanks a lot, eh?” Medvedev spat at the chair umpire as he limped from the court.

Tien, at 19 years and nine months old, is the second-youngest man to reach the Beijing final after Rafael Nadal.

It will need something special for him to upset Sinner, whose only loss on Beijing's centre Diamond Court has been to great rival Carlos Alcaraz, who won last year's championship match in three gripping sets.

“It's a very special place for me. This court has always been amazing,” Sinner, beaten by Alcaraz in the recent US Open final, said.

“Many things were positive finding myself again here, playing the last match of the tournament, it's great,” he added.

Alcaraz is not defending his title in the Chinese capital and yesterday won the Japan Open in Tokyo.

'Really aggressive'

In the women's draw Gauff beat

YOU
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During a changeover, Switzerland's Belinda Bencic accused Coco Gauff of “mind games,” prompting Gauff to shoot back, “You're the one playing the mind games”

Belinda Bencic 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 and plays 66th-ranked Eva Lys of Germany in the quarter-finals.

“It was a tough match,” Gauff, the American second seed, said.

“I had chances in the first to close it out but overall I'm happy with how I fought. She was being really aggressive.”

There were frustrations on both sides of the court at a largely empty stadium as the players switched between one half darkened by shade and the other in the blazing sun.

There was a flashpoint between the two players during a changeover in the second set when Switzerland's 15th seed Bencic said: “Your team is chatting. I'm too old for these mind games, okay?”



Jannik Sinner

Alcaraz clinches Japan Open title

Spaniard overcomes ankle worries to beat Fritz and capture eighth title of 2025

- Alcaraz beats Fritz 6-4, 6-4
- Played entire tournament with ankle injury

AFP | Tokyo

World number one Carlos Alcaraz won his eighth title of a sensational season after beating American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 in the Japan Open final yesterday.

The Spaniard has struggled with an ankle injury this week in Tokyo but he was still too hot for the rest of the competition to handle, including world number five Fritz.

The US Open champion gave another breathtaking display of power and athleticism to lift the trophy in his first appearance in Japan.

He clinched victory with a cleverly disguised drop shot before strolling to the net to give Fritz a warm embrace.

“First time in Tokyo, first title here, hopefully not the last one,” said the 22-year-old.

Alcaraz injured his ankle in his opening match in Tokyo as he



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates during the award ceremony

ran for a shot, crumpling to the ground and sitting on the court for about five minutes.

He returned to play with heavy strapping on his ankle and admitted that the injury had been on his mind throughout the tournament.

“The start of the week was not really good with the ankle, and the way that I came back from that, playing a great tournament and great matches, I’m just really happy about it,” he said.

It was the Spaniard’s ninth straight final and his 10th of the

season overall.

No man since his legendary countryman Rafael Nadal in 2017 had reached 10 finals in a season.

The win gave Alcaraz a measure of revenge after losing to Fritz for the first time at the La-

BETTER
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Alcaraz sealed his championship victory with a cleverly disguised drop shot, immediately followed by a warm embrace with his defeated opponent, Taylor Fritz

“The start of the week was not really good with the ankle, and the way that I came back from that, playing a great tournament and great matches, I’m just really happy about it

CARLOS ALCARAZ

ish Fritz with a series of brutal forehands.

Fritz hit back for his first break of the match but it was too little, too late as Alcaraz clinched the championship on his next service game.

“It’s been a pleasure to be able to play here in Tokyo in front of the Japanese fans,” said Alcaraz.

“I enjoyed every single second from when I stepped on the court, less the five minutes that I was on the floor with my ankle.

“The rest of the tournament, I enjoyed every single second.”

Fritz was looking to capture his third title of the season after wins at Stuttgart and Eastbourne.

The American won the Japan Open title in 2022.

Both Alcaraz and Fritz are in the draw for the Shanghai Masters this week.

BIC to bring fun and excitement on track with back-to-back experiences this weekend



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, hosts back-to-back days of its most popular public activities this weekend as the 2025/2026 season in Sakhir continues to hot up.

Set to take place on Friday is Batelco Fitness on Track – a fun physical activity that can be enjoyed individually or with family and friends. Then, on Saturday, BIC stages its high-adrenaline Track Experiences, featuring a series of ultra-quick race cars for ultimate thrills as a driver or passenger.

To make a booking for either activity or to get more information, visit BIC’s official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Batelco Fitness on Track will be held from 6am to 10am on Friday morning, making for a bright and early start to the weekend. The activity can be done either on foot or on a bicycle, giving participants the opportunity to select their

preferred workout programme.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC’s 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children’s cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

BIC’s Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass is also available – ideal for regular participants as it grants access to all Batelco Fitness on Track events throughout the season. At the affordable price of just BD15, the pass is a great way to save money over the course of the year, with Batelco Fitness on Track being held multiple times each month, all the way through to April of 2026.

Season Passes can be purchased by contacting the BIC Hotline.

Track Experiences on Sat-



urday will then bring the action at BIC up a notch. This widely sought-after offering gives race fans a pure adrenaline rush, while navigating the challenging turns of a globally renowned Formula 1 circuit.

Saturday’s Track Experiences is scheduled to be held from 8am to 3pm. Fans will get to choose between a Renault Clio Cup and either a Radical SR1 or SR3 race car.

Those opting for the Clio Cup Experiences will get an awesome introduction into the high-octane world of motorsports, behind the wheel of a Clio Cup sports car that boasts a 1.6-litre, Turbocharged engine. The Driving Experience takes the participant onto the track behind a professional instructor in a lead-follow manner, while the Passenger Experience requires those taking part to simply buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Meanwhile, fans won’t go wrong when choosing from the SR1 and SR3 Experiences. The Radical SR1 Driving Expe-

rience is ideal for amateurs and expert racers alike, as the car’s 185bhp engine roars like no other. Interested participants must complete a Clio Cup Drive in order to take part in this activity. The Radical SR3 Passenger Experience takes fans from zero to 100kph in about 3.4 seconds, making for a memorable number of laps around BIC alongside the circuit’s expert instructors.

The cost to get behind the wheel for the Clio Cup Driver Experience is BD121, while the Clio Cup Passenger Experience is BD27,500. For the Radical SR1 Driver Experience, the cost is BD132, while the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is BD38,500.

All these plus so much more are available at BIC all throughout the 2025/2026 campaign, which continues until April of next year.

For more information on all events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official accounts on social media.

Benefit Company announced bronze sponsors of 3rd AYG



Manama

The Executive Committee of the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG) has signed a sponsorship agreement with Benefit Company, securing its position as a bronze sponsor for the event scheduled to take place from October 22 to 31, 2025, under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Yusuf Duaij, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Games, and Mr. Nezar Maroof, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communication Officer at Benefit.

On this occasion, Mr. Duaij emphasized that this agreement with a leading national company like Benefit reflects a shared commitment to supporting the sports and youth movement in the Kingdom. He noted that the bronze sponsorship will play a vital role in providing the necessary support to ensure an exceptional edition of the Games.

“We are very pleased to welcome Benefit as a key partner in the bronze sponsorship category,” said Duaij. “The support of national institutions for the Asian

Youth Games 2025 is a cornerstone for the success of this continental event and demonstrates a strong sense of national pride in supporting youth and sports. We look forward to fruitful collaboration that serves the objectives of the Games in showcasing Bahrain’s organizational capabilities.”

For his part, Mr. Maroof expressed Benefit’s pride in this partnership, affirming that supporting the Asian Youth Games aligns with the company’s corporate social responsibility to contribute to the national vision of hosting major sporting events.

“Our bronze sponsorship of the 3rd Asian Youth Games stems from our deep belief in the importance of supporting youth and sports as fundamental values for community development,” he added. “This event is not just a sports competition; it’s a platform for cultural exchange and enhancing Bahrain’s regional and global standing. We are committed to providing everything necessary to ensure the success of this event, which takes place under the gracious patronage of His Majesty the King,” Maroof concluded.

Muharraq chase ACL Two momentum

Bahrain’s champions face Esteghlal as Khaldiya host Arkadag

- Muharraq meet Esteghlal away
- Khaldiya host Arkadag in Riffa
- Both seek Group Stage boost

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s representatives in the 2025–26 AFC Champions League Two are in action tonight, with Muharraq facing Iran’s Esteghlal in Tehran and Khaldiya hosting Arkadag of Turkmenistan in Riffa. Both fixtures are part of the second round of the group stage.

ACL Two is a restructured competition featuring 32 teams from 22 member associations. It sits below the AFC Champions League Elite and above the AFC Challenge League.

Muharraq in Tehran

Muharraq take on Esteghlal



Muharraq’s Omar Saber (L) and Elliot Simoes (R) training in the Iranian capital

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Muharraq won the AFC Cup in 2008 and 2021, before ACL Two replaced it

at Shahr-e-Qods Stadium at 7pm Bahrain time. The 2008 and 2021 AFC Cup winners are competing in ACL Two for the first time under its new format. They opened strongly with a 4–0 home victory over Jordan’s Al Wehdat and sit second in Group A with three points, level with UAE’s Al Wasl, who lead on goal difference. Esteghlal and Al Wehdat remain without points.

Head coach Fernando San-

tos has named a 25-man squad for the campaign, including goalkeepers Sayed Jaffar, Ebrahim Lutfalla, and Ashraf Waheed. The outfield options feature Hussain Jameel, Waleed Al-Hayyam, Amine Bennadi, Lucas Morellato, Mohamed Al-Hardan, Facundo Tobares, Abdulwahab Al-Malood, Soufine Mahrouq, Omar Saber, Lazar Djordjevic, Abdulwahab Hanan, Ahmad Rabeea, Hussain Abdulkarim, Mohamed Al-Banna, Abdulla Al-Khalasi, Juninho, Arthur Rezende, Bruno Santos, Elliot Simoes, Gervasio Olivera, and Abdulkarim Diarra.

Khaldiya at Home

Khaldiya are back for their second consecutive campaign and host Arkadag at the Bahrain National Stadium tonight at 9:15pm. The team moved into a closed camp at Wyndham Grand Hotel after training in Riffa. They began their campaign with a goalless draw away to Qatar’s Al Ahli SC, leaving them third in Group B with a single point.

Pakistan name spin-heavy squad for home South Africa Tests



Pakistan’s Zahid Mahmood (L), Sajid Khan (C) and Noman Ali attend a practice session (file photo)

AFP | Karachi

Pakistan yesterday included five spinners and recalled paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi in an 18-man squad for the two-match Test series at home to South Africa.

Besides the deadly spin duo of Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, Pakistan named Abrar Ahmed, Faisal Akram and veteran Asif Afridi for the series starting in Lahore on October 12.

Shan Masood will captain a squad which also sees the return of fast bowler Shaheen after a year-long gap from the longest format.

“There are two newcomers in the spin department to supplement Sajid and Noman, with 38-year-old Afridi who is very experienced and the talented Akram,” said a Pakistan Cricket Board statement.

Pakistan used industrial-sized fans, along with patio heaters, to dry out and make spin-friendly pitches to beat England 2-1 at home last year.

Pakistan lost the first Test by an innings before they employed a spin-heavy attack

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Pakistan previously used industrial fans and patio heaters to prepare spin-friendly pitches, a tactic that helped them beat England 2-1 in their last home series

with Noman taking 20 and Sajid 19 wickets in the last two Tests.

Also included yesterday was uncapped wicketkeeper Rohail Nazir as back-up for regular Mohammad Rizwan.

The second Test will be played in Rawalpindi from October 20 in the series, the first for both teams in the fourth cycle of the World Test Championship (WTC).

South Africa won the WTC (2023-2025) while Pakistan finished ninth and last.

Bahrain’s Manama take on Kuwaiti giants

Do-or-die Round of 16 for Bahrainis in Arab Cup

- Manama seek to end losing streak
- Qadsia top Group B challengers
- Ahmed Salman remains key performer

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Manama Club will face Kuwait’s Qadsia today at 3pm at Rashid Bin Hamdan Hall, Al-Nasr Club in Dubai, in the Round of 16 of the 37th Arab Basketball Clubs Championship.

Manama finished fourth in Group B with three points after losing all three preliminary matches: 79–73 to Lebanon’s Antonine, 103–78 to Libya’s Al Ahly Tripoli, and 76–65 to Kuwait SC.

Against Kuwait SC, Manama led 33–32 at halftime, but Ku-



Star player Ahmed Salman in action during Manama’s previous outing

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All 16 teams from the preliminary round advance to the Round of 16

wait dominated the third quarter 28–16 and extended their lead to as many as 15 points early in the final period. Manama reduced the deficit to six late on but could not recover. Ahmed Salman led Manama with 22 points, supported by Carl Jones (12) and Hasan Nowrooz (11).

Qadsia finished their group with five points from two wins and one loss. All Round of 16 games are knockouts, meaning that the losing side will be eliminated.

Saliba signs new long-term deal at Arsenal

AFP | London

William Saliba has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

The France defender has reportedly put pen to paper on a five-year deal, which will keep him at the club until 2030. His previous contract had been due to run until 2027.

Saliba, 24, had been expected to extend his stay at the Emirates despite earlier reported interest from Real Madrid.

The centre-back joined the Gun-

ners in 2019 but had a number of loan spells before establishing himself as a regular in Mikel Arteta’s team during the 2022/23 season.

Since then Saliba has been at the heart of an Arsenal side that has finished second in each of the past three seasons in the Premier League.

“I feel at home. We have a good team, we have a good squad, we have good staff. The coach is perfect for me, so it’s the best place to be,” said Saliba.

“I enjoy every day when I have the chance to wear this shirt. I try

to give everything, and now I’ll give even more to this club and to the fans.”

Manager Arteta said: “William is loved by all the players and staff, and that speaks volumes about his character, commitment and attitude every day.

“Since joining us, William has grown so much, embraced responsibility, and has created a strong connection with our supporters and everyone at the club.”



William Saliba