

February fuel prices approved

TDT | Manama

The Fuel Price Determination and Monitoring Committee at the Ministry of Oil and Environment announced the approved fuel prices for the local market in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the month of February 2026, effective today.

According to the decision, the price of Super (98) gasoline has been set at BD0.265 per liter, Premium (95) gasoline at BD0.235 per liter, and Good (91) gasoline at BD0.218 per liter.

Diesel fuel is priced at BD0.200 per liter, with continued support provided to Bahraini fishermen as part of ongoing efforts to support vital sectors and enhance the sustainability of activities related to food security.

The announcement comes as part of the Committee's periodic monitoring of fuel prices in response to global energy market changes.

The decision aims to strike a balance between meeting local market needs and maintaining economic stability, in coordination with the Ministry of Oil and Environment and relevant authorities.

Causeway toll fees updated

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The King Fahd Causeway Authority has announced an update to toll fees, effective February 18, 2026.

The move comes as part of ongoing efforts to enhance services and improve the crossing experience for travelers between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

According to details shared via the authority's official X account, one-way tolls will be 35 riyals for cars and motorcycles, 55 riyals for minibuses, 70 riyals for large buses, and 7 riyals per ton for trucks.

The authority confirmed that fees for people with disabilities, students, and frequent daily travelers will remain unchanged.

Bridge users are encouraged to utilise the available digital services and to follow official channels for the latest updates on crossing procedures and toll fees.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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HRH Prince Salman pledges stronger ties with Bermuda

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the shared commitment to enhancing cooperation with Bermuda to promote growth and prosperity and achieve common aspirations.

He also emphasised the importance of continuing to advance joint coordination to create future opportunities in the interests of both nations.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with the Honourable E. David Burt, JP, MP, Premier of Bermuda, at Gudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, important announcements were made regarding cooperation between the two countries.



HRH Prince Salman receives the Premier of Bermuda, in the presence of H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

One of the key decisions included granting Bermuda sovereignty over the data of subscribers in cloud computing centres located in Bahrain, strengthening digital and data governance

ties between the two jurisdictions.

In addition, Bermuda was granted partner status for maritime-air freight services operating in the Kingdom, reflecting a commitment to enhancing trade and transport collaboration.

The meeting also confirmed that holders of Bermudian passports will be granted entry visas

upon arrival in Bahrain, easing travel and promoting closer bilateral engagement between the two nations.

Avenues to advance cooperation, the latest regional and international developments, and issues of common interest, were discussed.

His Royal Highness and the Premier of Bermuda toured the Prime Minister's Office, where the Premier Burt was briefed on the Office's workstreams, plans and projects.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, along with several senior officials, also attended the meeting.

Royal support

HRH Prince Salman highlights Bahrain's sporting success at Bapco Energies Championship

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed that Bahrain's successes in hosting international championships are the result of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's unwavering support and the tireless efforts of the national workforce.

He made the remarks while attending the closing ceremony of the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship at the Royal Golf Club yesterday.

HRH Prince Salman described the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship as one of the region's most prominent international golf tournaments, highlighting Bahrain's growing capabilities in sports, tourism, and event management.

Participation

The Championship saw participation from 138 elite players representing 28 countries, underscoring the Kingdom's appeal as a premier international sporting destination.

His Royal Highness also acknowledged the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, for their continuous support of youth and sports initiatives.

Certificates of appreciation



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister attends the closing ceremony



“The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship highlights Bahrain's growing capabilities in sports, tourism, and event management.”

— HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER



were presented to these leaders, along with key organisations including Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Bapco Energies Group, Royal Golf Club, Tamkeen, Gulf Air Group, the National Bank of Bahrain, and Royal Bahrain Hospital, for their outstanding contributions to the success of the tournament.

Trophy

During the ceremony, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister presented the championship trophy to Germany's Freddy Schott and the second-place trophy to Scotland's Calum Hill.

He also praised the Championship's organisers, sponsors, partners, committees, and volunteers, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, Acting Managing Director of Bapco Energies and CEO of Bapco Refining, emphasised that the Championship reinforces Bahrain's standing in international sport and its ability to host prestigious events.

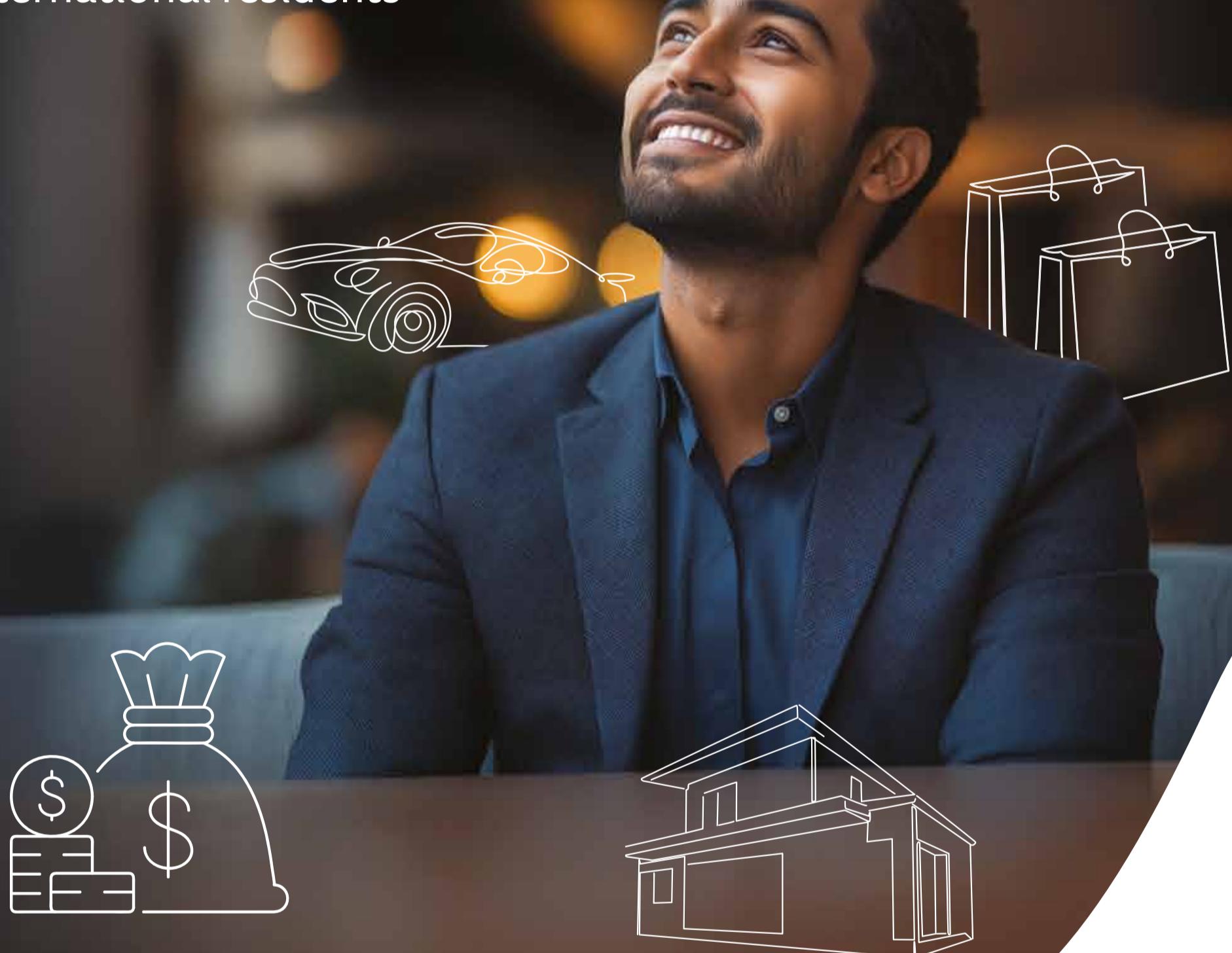
Flagship

Tom Phillips, Director of the Middle East for the DP World Tour, highlighted the high level of competition throughout the tournament and reaffirmed the Championship's role as a flagship event within the DP World Tour's International Swing, showcasing Bahrain as a leading destination for sports, tourism, and business.

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Bahrain and Qatar committed to advancing ties

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to advancing relations with the State of Qatar to mutually benefit the citizens of both countries. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received yesterday His Excellency Nasser Abdullah Al Nassr, the newly appointed Ambassador of Qatar to Bahrain, at Riffa Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister receives H.E. Qatar Ambassador Nasser Abdullah Al Nassr

strength of Bahrain-Qatar historic relations, supported by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar.

For his part, H.E. Ambassador Al Nassr expressed his appreciation for His Royal Highness's commitment to advancing Bahrain-Qatar ties and conveyed his best wishes for the Kingdom's continued progress.

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, also attended the meeting.

Transport unity

Shura Council backs GCC unified land-transport rules for smoother cross-border road haulage



H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa



Abdullah Al Nuaimi



Dalal Al Zayed



Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal

● New decree-law aims to streamline goods movement and address delays

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council approved yesterday Decree-Law No. (35) of 2025, adopting the Gulf Cooperation Council's unified land-transport rules for cross-border road haulage between member states.

The decree-law was passed by name vote and sent to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives to inform the government.

During the debate, His Excellency Dr Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Ministry of Transportation and Tele-

communications, said the sector was running on too thin a legal base, with pressure felt most at the King Fahd Causeway.

"We are facing a legislative gap in Bahrain and at the international level, particularly at the King Fahd Causeway where major challenges appear," he told members.

Traffic

He said the scale of freight traffic was clear.

"We have more than 2,300 trucks belonging to 150 companies," he said, adding that the ministry had brought in remote inspection to cut delays. "Remote inspection will help speed up procedures and make things easier."

H.E. Dr Abdullah said Bahrain moved to ratify the unified rules after neighbours started applying them.

"Saudi Arabia was the first state to ratify it, so it was neces-

“Remote inspection will help speed up procedures and make things easier.”

— H.E. DR ABDULLAH BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

sary that Saudi Arabia does not start applying it while Bahrain falls behind," he said.

Report

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee backed the decree-law in a report debated by the chamber.

Its rapporteur, Abdullah Al Nuaimi, said the step followed decisions taken by GCC leaders at their 43rd Supreme Council session and was meant to deal with delays after the date set

for work under the unified rules had passed.

The report said the hold-up risked leaving a legal gap that could disrupt cross-border traffic, especially with Saudi Arabia already applying the system, and could harm Bahraini carriers in an open regional market.

Under the decree-law, Bahrain approves the attached unified regulation, defines the "competent authority" as the body to be named by decree, and sets an exchange rate for application purposes at one Bahraini dinar to ten riyals.

Grievances

It also sets a route for grievances against decisions taken under the regulation and its executive rules, keeps existing decisions in force until those executive rules are issued, and includes an implementing article.

The attached regulation has 25 articles.

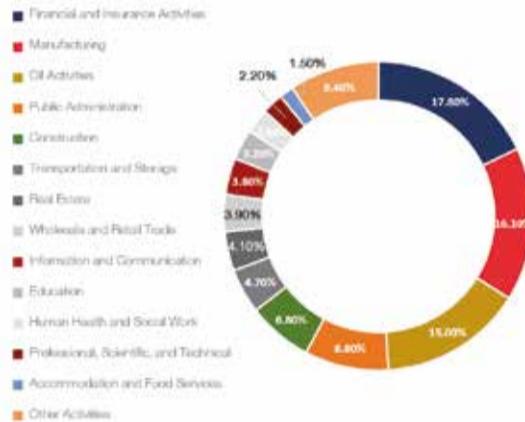
countries rose by 22 percent compared to the same period last year, increasing to \$2.15 billion. Trade with Saudi Arabia and the UAE continued to dominate, while trade with Oman recorded the fastest growth, surging by 116 percent year on year.

Domestic economic activity reflected a shift towards digital payments and consumer spending. The value of point-of-sale transactions rose by 12 percent, while electronic fund transfers through the Fawri and Fawateer systems recorded strong double-digit growth. At the same time, the value of ATM withdrawals declined by 11 percent.

The report shows that financial and insurance activities are now the largest contributor to real GDP, accounting for 17.8 percent of output, ahead of manufacturing and oil activities. Manufacturing contributed 16.1 percent, while oil activities accounted for 15 percent.

Services Drive Growth

Economic Activities Contribution to Real GDP – Q3 2025



Financial and insurance activities led Bahrain's GDP contribution in the third quarter of 2025, underscoring the growing role of services in the economy.

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's economy expanded steadily in the third quarter of 2025, with growth increasingly driven by services, trade and digital activity rather than oil alone, according to a new report by the Bahrain Chamber.

Real GDP grew by four percent year on year in the third quarter, supported by a 3.1 percent rise in the non-oil economy. Real estate emerged as the fastest-growing non-oil sector, expanding by 5.4 percent, followed by financial and insurance activities at five percent and education at 4.8 percent.

The report shows that financial and insurance activities are now the largest contributor to real GDP, accounting for 17.8 percent of output, ahead of manufacturing and oil activities. Manufacturing contributed 16.1 percent, while oil activities accounted for 15 percent.

Trade momentum also strengthened during the quarter. The volume of trade between Bahrain and other GCC

and promote constructive dialogue between labour-sending and labour-receiving countries, in support of shared interests and sustained economic growth.

This is achieved through the development of balanced labour policies that respond to market needs, safeguard workers' rights, and ensure safe and supportive working environments, while keeping pace with labour market transformations, particularly emerging professions requiring advanced skills, and prioritising optimal investment in human capital and the integration of citizens into promising sectors and future jobs.

Labour Minister takes part in 8th Abu Dhabi Consultation Ministerial Meeting

Dubai

His Excellency Yousef bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), participated in the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Consultation.

It was held in Dubai, UAE from January 31 to February 1, with the participation of ministers responsible for labour affairs, alongside a number of specialised regional and international organisations.

The meeting addressed several strategic themes related to



H.E. Yousef bin Abdulhussain Khalaf with ministers responsible for labour affairs

strengthening labour cooperation frameworks among participating countries, including labour mobility, skills pathways, and productivity to support a

just transition towards the green

economy. It also explored the impact of climate change, the dimensions of temporary migrant workers in the platform

emerging labour market trends across member states.

The Abu Dhabi Consultation aims to align policies and perspectives on labour markets

Meat prices surge ahead of Ramadan

Lamb, beef, and cherished traditional dishes for flavourful Iftar meals

Ghadeer Alkumaish, Neethu Vayalakkara
TDT | Manama

With Ramadan around the corner, homes across Bahrain will soon be filled with the aroma of spices and the warmth of family gatherings, with meat taking center stage on Iftar tables.

Among the beloved dishes, salona served with fresh bread will shine as a hearty favourite, satisfying both tradition and taste.

With demand set to soar, shoppers will not only think about flavour; they will also watch prices and weigh the variety and quality of meat available this season.

Bahraini people consider lamb an essential ingredient in their cooking, especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan, using it in traditional rice dishes like Mandi, Salona, and Harees.

Vendor

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a vendor highlighted that meat prices start rising from Rajab and continue to increase until Ramadan approaches, typically climbing by 300 to 500 fils



A rich selection of meats ready to grace Iftar tables during the Holy Month of Ramadan

Bahraini people consider lamb an essential ingredient in their cooking, especially during the holy month, using it in traditional rice dishes like Mandi, Salona, and Harees.

per kilogram.

A closer look at Bahrain's meat markets shows a clear taste for freshness, with chilled lamb flying off the shelves while frozen cuts remain a less popular, budget-friendly option.

Kenyan lamb typically sells for around BD3 per kilogram, while Australian lamb has seen an earlier-than-usual price jump, now going for about BD3.2

per kilogram, up from BD2.7, as shop-pers rush to stock up ahead of Ramadan.

Choice

Traders say Australian lamb remains the preferred choice for its freshness and quality, while some Kenyan cuts offer thinner ribs with less meat.

Top-rated Pakistani beef is priced at BD2.5 per kilogram,

with boneless cuts at BD3, while Somali cattle are mostly sold for BD 65 as whole animals and weighing 13 to 15 kilograms, though they contain more fat than other varieties.

As Ramadan approaches, Bahrain's markets come alive.

Restaurants and caterers buy whole carcasses for nightly Iftar feasts, while families pick cuts that fit their size.

The buzz grows as communities stock up for Mandi, Harees, and other traditional dishes.

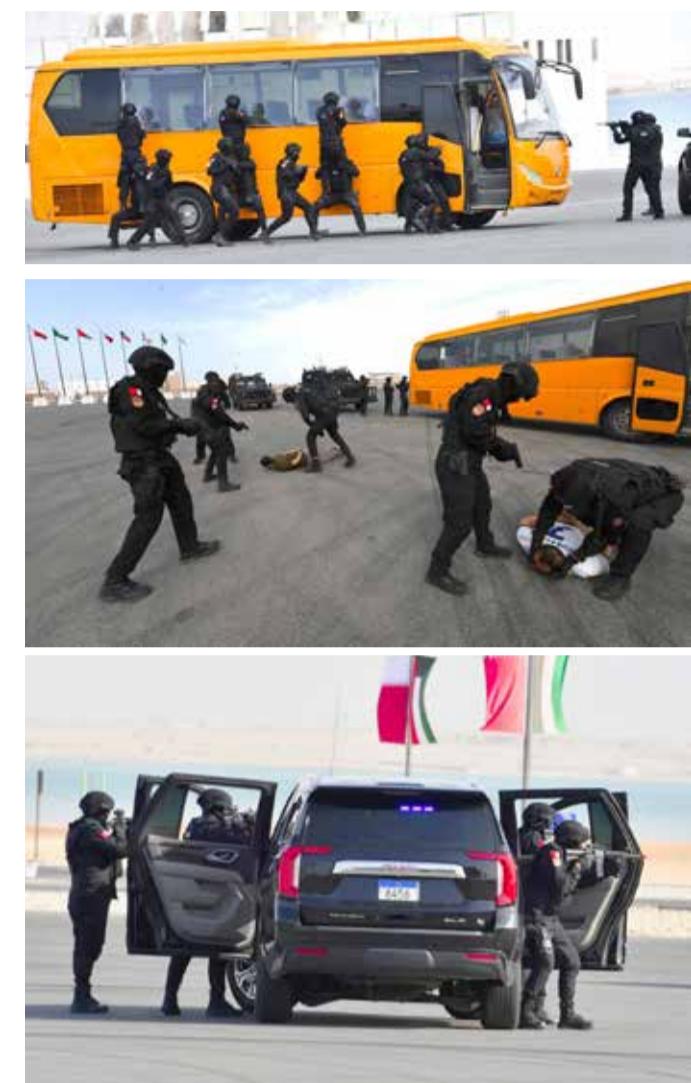
Warning

Traders warn that after Eid, demand drops fast, making leftovers harder to sell - so for now, it's the busiest and priciest season of the year.

One of the buyers told The Daily Tribune, "We eat meat twice a week during Ramadan, but after Ramadan, it might be just once a week."

This reflects how meat consumption in Bahrain peaks during the holy month and gradually returns to a more moderate pace afterward, highlighting both the cultural importance of meat in Ramadan and the practical considerations of households.

'Arabian Gulf Security 4' drills



The results of the first week of the "Arabian Gulf Security 4" exercise, in which Bahraini police forces are participating, confirmed progress in joint coordination and enhanced operational readiness among participating entities. This paves the way for moving to more advanced stages during the remaining period of the exercise, supporting efforts to strengthen security and stability in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The first phase of the exercise, currently being held in the State of Qatar, achieved outstanding results in enhancing integration among Gulf work teams and developing mechanisms for managing joint operations. This contributes to faster response times and improves field efficiency in dealing with various security scenarios within the framework of Gulf security cooperation. These drills contribute to developing operational capabilities and improving joint coordination by unifying procedures and activating communication channels. This ensures the highest levels of readiness and preparedness to handle various emergency situations efficiently and professionally.

Running with legend Derartu Tulu leads community run



Derartu Tulu motivates participants with her presence (Picture by Anchalo Bensigner)

Neethu Vayalakkara
TDT | Manama

Avenues Mall became a venue for an unforgettable run on Friday, as runners and fitness enthusiasts gathered outside Gate 6 at Avenues for a unique experience led by Ethiopian Olympic legend Derartu Tulu.

More than a community fitness event, the run offered participants the rare opportunity to share the route with one of the most influential figures in global athletics.

Organised in collaboration with Bahrain Olympic Committee, Enat Events & Publicity, the run offered participants the rare opportunity to share the route with one of the most influential figures in global athletics.

and Bahrain Road Runners, the event reflected a shared commitment to promoting sport, inspiration, and community engagement, with generous support from sponsors Berlitz, Ethiopian Airlines, Asian Paints, iWorld, Four Square, and Enat Coffee.

Legacy

Tulu led the run herself, motivating participants with her presence and legacy.

She made history as the first Black African woman to win the 10,000 metres event at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, a landmark achievement that reshaped women's long-distance

running and opened doors for generations of African athletes to follow.

The atmosphere at Avenues was charged with excitement and morning energy as runners of all levels moved alongside the legend, cheered on by spectators.

For many, the experience went beyond fitness, serving as a powerful reminder of perseverance, discipline and the unifying power of sport.

Adding to the excitement, the event concluded with a special incentive, giving participants the chance to win a free ticket to Addis Ababa, the heart of Ethiopia's rich running heritage.

ICAP Bahrain chapter organizes annual dinner and members' recognition ceremony 2026



The Chief Guest, H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa, with ICAP Bahrain chapter members, international dignitaries, professionals from allied fields and media representatives

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chapter of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) successfully concluded its flagship event, the Annual Dinner and Members' Recognition Ceremony 2026, at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Manama, Bahrain.

The event, themed "Sustainability and Innovation: How Finance and Other Professions Shape the Future," was well received and attended by ICAP members, international dignitaries, professionals from allied fields, and media representatives.

In his welcome address Mr. Muhammad Haroon Ashraf, Chairman, Bahrain Chapter

of ICAP, highlighted that Sustainability and Innovations are the basic requirements of any organisation that wants to survive, compete and retain trust and congratulated the recipients of Recognition Awards.

He also encouraged members to participate actively in Chapter initiatives, emphasizing collective engagement as the key to taking the Chapter to new heights of excellence.

The Chief Guest, H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the AAOIFI Board of Directors, highlighted the long-standing professional and brotherly ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan, particularly in the field of chartered accountancy.

He shared his personal association with Pakistani profes-

sionals dating back to 1979 and recalled his multiple visits to Pakistan, reflecting the depth of bilateral professional collaboration.

The Guest of Honour, Mr. M. Ali Latif, Chairman, Overseas Coordination Committee (OCC), ICAP, lauded the Bahrain Chapter's Managing Committee for their dedication and tireless efforts in organizing a memorable and impactful event.

He paid tribute to the members being recognized, stating that the shields presented were not merely symbols of appreciation, but representations of years of professional integrity, perseverance, and service to the profession and community, which have elevated ICAP's global standing.

Dignity reinforced and rights upheld

Shura Council backs amendments strengthening protections for persons with disabilities

● New decree-law advances reforms while preserving existing benefits

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



H.E. Osama Al Alawi



Lina Habib Qassem



Ali Al Haddad

The Shura Council approved yesterday a decree-law amending the 2006 law on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, after its Services Committee said the changes meet constitutional and legal tests and leave existing rights and benefits unchanged.

The decree-law, Decree-Law No. (34) of 2025 amending Law No. (74) of 2006, was passed by roll-call vote and sent to the Speaker of Parliament to notify the government.

The committee said the text was issued under Article 38 of the Constitution during Parliament's recess and submitted to both chambers within the legal time limits.

Reporting for the committee, rapporteur Lina Habib Qassem

“The decree-law strengthens the legal basis for a set of procedures that accompanied its issue, including changes to the ministry’s set-up for disability services.”

— H.E. OSAMA AL ALAWI, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

said the decree-law aims to “develop the legislative framework in line with contemporary rights-based shifts” and to “reinforce the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities”.

Update

She said it also seeks to update the law to match national

“The decree-law aims to develop the legislative framework in line with contemporary rights-based shifts and to reinforce the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.”

— LINA HABIB QASSEM, COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR

policies and the government programme on empowerment and inclusion.

One change rewrites how the body in charge of disability matters is described in law.

The title “Higher Committee” is removed and replaced with a reference to “the committee established under Article 16”, with its name, composition and term of membership to be set by a decision issued by the Prime Minister.

Wording

The Services Committee said the wording leaves more scope for future changes to the set-up without needing to amend the law each time.

Social Development Minister,

His Excellency Osama Al Alawi, told the sitting the decree-law “strengthens the legal basis for a set of procedures” that accompanied its issue, including changes to the ministry’s set-up for disability services.

He said Bahrain would keep the term “persons with disabilities” in legal texts in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified under Law No. (22) of 2011, while using newer labels in organisational structures and services to support empowerment and inclusion.

Terms

Shura Council member Ali Al Haddad said the decree-law “brings the terms used in the law into line with the current set-up and removes any duplication or clash in names”, adding that it does so “without affecting the rights and benefits granted to persons with disabilities”.

The Services Committee said the amendments are limited to how bodies are arranged and coordinated, including titles and committee arrangements, and do not change the substantive provisions of the 2006 law.

Caution over fraudulent online store accounts

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Cybercrime Directorate has warned of the spread of fake store accounts on Instagram that impersonate the names and logos of well-known retailers, appearing as official accounts in order to deceive users and steal their money.

The authority explained that these accounts rely on copying the visual identity of original stores and using similar images and posts, while offering attractive promotions to gain followers’ trust.

Victims are then asked to transfer money or communicate through applications outside the platform, such as WhatsApp.

Methods

It stressed that these methods are among the most common forms of online fraud in recent times, urging users to verify official accounts through authorized websites or recognized store branches, and not to rely solely on the account name or logo.

Users were also advised to remain cautious before making purchases, review the account’s history, check genuine engagement and ratings, and report any suspicious accounts, noting that digital awareness is the first line of defense against cyber fraud.

Bahrain participates in Arab and Indian forum

New Delhi

The Kingdom of Bahrain participated in the second ministerial meeting of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum.

The meeting was co-chaired by the League of Arab States and the Republic of India and focused on strengthening cooperation and partnership between the Arab and Indian sides.

The delegation was led by His Excellency Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa, Director General of Bilateral Relations. Ambassador Ahmed Al Tarifi, Chief of the Arab and African Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also present.

H.E. Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali affirmed the Kingdom’s commitment to supporting and advancing Arab-Indian cooperation across various domains, particularly in the political, economic, investment, energy, and technological sectors, in a manner that serves shared interests and contributes to sustainable development.

He underscored the importance of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum as a key strategic platform for dialogue and coordination.

Council approval clears path for Hamala garden project

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Formal approval has been confirmed to proceed with the development of a public garden on a designated plot of land in Hamala, clearing the way for the project to move from planning to implementation.

The decision reflects the completion of administrative coordination and legal verification required to secure the land for municipal use.

The site was previously under the authority of the Ministry of Housing before being transferred to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

Registration

It has since been officially classified as a public garden, with its registration confirmed as a government owned prop-

erty allocated for municipal services.

This classification establishes the legal framework necessary for development and long term maintenance.

The proposed garden is intended to serve as a recreational and environmental outlet for residents of Hamala, responding to community needs for open public spaces within residential areas.

Objectives

Municipal officials have indicated that the project aligns with broader objectives to enhance liveability and improve access to green spaces across neighbourhoods in the Northern Governorate.

A field visit was conducted to review the current condition of the land and follow up on procedural progress. The visit confirmed that the site is suitable for development.

Halla Cafe: GCC’s only cafe run by autistic adults

TDT | Manama

We humans can be a strange lot at times, tending to shy away from what we don’t fully understand.

Autism is one such part of life that is often misunderstood or overlooked.

Halla Cafe flips that script entirely. Here, the spotlight is on ability, creativity, and inclusion.

Located in Bahrain, it is the only cafe in the GCC run by autistic young adults, giving them a space to learn, grow, and shine while serving the community.

Launched a year and a half ago, Halla Cafe takes the life-skills and employability program for autistic young adults to the next level, giving them a place to learn, grow, and shine.

What began in classrooms



Halla Cafe provides autistic young adults with a space to learn, grow, and shine while serving the community

and kitchens has evolved into a real-world environment where young adults bake, cook, make coffee, serve customers, and engage confidently with the public. Every item at Halla Cafe carries meaning.

Food, drinks, and merchandise - from sandwiches and tra-

ditional Arabic dishes to books, cups, tote bags, and decorative items - are all made, packed, and decorated by the young adults themselves and hence deeply personal, authentic, and purposeful, supporting skill-building, independence, and self-esteem.



Bahrain-Brazil cooperation

His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received Member of the Federal Senate of Brazil, Flávio Nantes Bolsonaro, in the presence of Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Legislative Affairs, Rashid Bunajma. H.E. General Shaikh Rashid welcomed the visit of the Brazilian Senator from Rio de Janeiro to the Kingdom of Bahrain, highlighting its role in strengthening cooperation and coordination between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed areas of security cooperation.

Al Salam Bank launches 'New Financing Settlement Campaign' in celebration of 20th Anniversary

Enhanced "Financing Settlement Campaign" Runs Throughout 2026

● Monthly Prizes for Full Finance Settlement

● Monthly Prizes Covering Three Installments

● More than 50 Exclusive Prizes for Social Housing Clients to Settle Three Installments

● Extra Chances to Win Under the "Everyone is a Winner" Feature

Manama

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, Al Salam Bank has announced the

launch of the "New Financing Settlement Campaign," offering eligible clients monthly opportunities to win valuable prizes throughout 2026. The campaign builds on the significant success of the

Bank's previous initiative launched in Q4 2025, which received strong engagement from clients.

Through the "New Financing Settlement Campaign," eligible clients will automatically enter a monthly draw for a chance to win a full settlement of their existing financing with the Bank, in line with the

Mr. Mohammed Buhiji, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank

prize cap specified in the terms and conditions. Additional prizes include the settlement of three-monthly installments for a number of winners, with a dedicated category for clients under Social Housing financing programs, also subject to the defined terms and conditions. As part of the Bank's commitment to offering equal opportunities to all, the campaign will feature an "Everyone is a Winner" concept. This feature offers clients who have not won additional chances in the draw to receive other prizes and benefits, which will be announced throughout the campaign period.

The launch of this campaign reaffirms Al Salam Bank's dedication to introducing meaningful initiatives that enhance the overall client experience and strengthen long-term relationships. Designed as a year-round program, the campaign

aligns with the diverse financial needs of clients, providing real opportunities to benefit from rewarding financing solutions that aim to ease their financial commitments.

To be eligible for the monthly draws, clients must have an active financing product with the Bank, whether personal, auto, or property finance, including those under Social Housing schemes. Clients must also hold an active Al Salam Bank credit card and maintain a minimum balance of BHD 50 in a Danat or Danat Plus account during the qualifying period for the Danat campaign.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Mohammed Buhiji, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: "We are proud to introduce the "New Financing Settlement Campaign" in a milestone year as we celebrate 20 years of progress and ser-



BENEFIT and Safa partner to drive Bahrain's sustainability and climate action initiatives

Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, has announced a collaboration with Safa, a voluntary carbon offsetting platform and a portfolio company of Mumtalakat.

The partnership reflects BENEFIT's ongoing drive to advance sustainability through a balanced approach that supports institutional growth while strengthening environmental responsibility, in line with the Kingdom's national sustainability priorities.

Through this collaboration, the two parties will explore opportunities to embed responsible environmental practices



across BENEFIT's operations and strategic direction, while identifying areas of joint work that further reinforce the company's ESG agenda. The partnership will also support the integration of environmental and climate considerations into day-to-day activities, helping to reduce environmental impact and enhance efficiency in resource use.

BENEFIT aims to broaden its collaborations with national entities specialising in environmental action and sustainability, while drawing on innovative solutions that support the Kingdom's transition towards a greener economy. This initiative aligns with Bahrain's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, and national efforts to achieve carbon

neutrality by 2060.

Commenting on the collaboration, Mr. Abdulwahed AlJanahi, Chief Executive of BENEFIT, said: "We are pleased to partner with Safa as part of our approach to placing sustainability at the centre of our business. This collaboration allows us to explore innovative solutions that can reduce the company's environmental footprint while strengthening its positive contribution to society and the environment. By leveraging Safa's specialised expertise in climate action and environmental sustainability, we seek to ensure our corporate strategies remain aligned with global best practices, while also nurturing a stronger culture of sustainability across the workplace, in line with the Kingdom's aspirations for a more sustainable future."

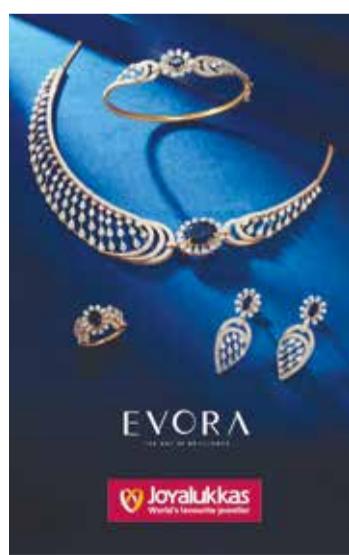
Mr. Talal Al Araifi, CEO of SAFA, commented: "We are proud to work alongside BENEFIT in a partnership that represents a significant step towards strengthening environmental and climate action across institutions. BENEFIT is recognised as one of Bahrain's leading organisations supporting sustainability and climate initiatives, and this collaboration highlights the importance of cross-sector partnerships in accelerating the adoption of impactful environmental solutions. It also enables institutions to progress towards their carbon offset goals and enhance their environmental responsibility, supporting the national economy and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals."

A celebration of radiance: Joyalukkas launches Brilliance Diamond Jewellery show

Manama

Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller with a legacy spanning over 70 years, recently unveiled the grand edition of its popular 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show', marked by the launch of a distinctive new diamond collection from Pride Diamonds – Evora. The showcase was launched simultaneously across 11 countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, USA, UK, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia, reflecting Joyalukkas' global design vision and deep cultural resonance.

The exclusive showcase presents a stunning array of exquisitely crafted, naturally sourced diamond and gemstone jewellery, highlighting the brand's



in Bab Al Bahrain Joyalukkas showroom until 7 February.

A SPECTRUM OF SPARKLE: EVENT HIGHLIGHTS & OFFERS

The Joyalukkas Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show is a celebration of fine craftsmanship and contemporary elegance, showcasing a stunning range of naturally sourced diamond and gemstone jewellery.

The event offers an immersive experience, allowing attendees to explore the newly launched Evora collection, celebrated for its fluid diamond movement and contemporary elegance. Customers across locations were actively engaged as part of the launch celebrations, making the showcase a shared moment of joy, tradition and modern expression.

Enhancing the experience were special offers designed to make acquisition seamless and rewarding. Customers enjoyed a cashback of BD 25 on all diamond jewellery purchases worth BD 600 and above, valid until 7 February 2026. Further adding value, Joyalukkas extended 100%

value on diamond exchange and 0% deduction on 916 old gold exchange, reaffirming its commitment to trust, transparency and customer confidence.

AN EXCLUSIVE AFFAIR: VIP GUESTS & BRAND VISION

The launch events were graced by the presence of VIP guests, customers and dignitaries, who came together to celebrate the brilliance of the new collections. Attendees experienced the refined silhouettes

of Evora, engaging closely with masterfully crafted pieces in an atmosphere of luxury and sophistication.

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, John Paul Alukkas, CEO, Joyalukkas Jewelry, International operation said,

"The Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show reflects our enduring promise of bringing exceptional quality and timeless design to our patrons. With a collection like Evora, distinctive new diamond collection from Pride Diamonds, we celebrate contemporary individuality.

More than a showcase, this was an invitation for our customers across the world to be part of a meaningful experience that celebrates life's most radiant moments."

A LEGACY OF TRUST & GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

The successful conclusion of the Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show further reinforces Joyalukkas's position as a global leader in the jewellery retail space. With over 190 showrooms across 12 countries, the brand continues to be built on the core values of trust, artistry and excellence.

With its multi-country launch and strong customer participation, the Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show stands as a celebration of modern elegance anchored in a seven-decade legacy – an expression of jewellery artistry where every creation tells a story of craftsmanship, culture and aspiration.

India budget pledges record infrastructure and defence boost

New Delhi plans to spend \$133 billion on infrastructure and \$85 billion on defence

● Data centres, artificial intelligence, and the mining and processing of rare earths will also receive government support

● Plans for seven high-speed rail corridors linking some of India's most important cities

● Government targets debt-to-GDP of 55.6%; fiscal deficit of 4.3% in 2026-27

● Tax holiday till 2047 to any foreign company that provides cloud services to customers globally by using data centre services from India

AFP | New Delhi, India

India will spend a record amount on infrastructure and defence, the finance minister said in her national budget speech on Sunday, with plans for high-speed rail, submarines and fighter jets.



India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (L) poses with ministry officials before leaving to present the annual budget to the parliament at the Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi

New Delhi plans to spend \$133 billion on infrastructure and \$85 billion on defence, a respective rise of around nine

and 15 percent compared to last year's budget.

Data centres, artificial intelligence, and the mining and processing of rare earths will also receive government support, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told parliament.

She said public spending on infrastructure had increased dramatically from around \$21 billion (2 trillion rupees) in 2014-15 and that it was now at an "all-time high".

'Best interest'

Defence minister Rajnath Singh described the spending as "unprecedented" and said it would help equip India's armed forces with fighter jets, drones, ships, submarines and other critical hardware.

"It is in the best interest of the nation," he added.

New Delhi is in the midst of negotiating defence contracts with domestic and international suppliers, including France, the United States and Germany.

The world's most populous country sees massive infrastructure spending as key to sustaining its high growth rate by boosting domestic manufacturing and creating millions of new jobs.

"India is not content with simply being the fastest-growing economy," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after the budget.

"India wants to become the world's third-largest economy.

This year's budget presents an ambitious roadmap to give new momentum to" domestic manufacturing and self-reliance.

Sectors including textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics and chemicals are primary targets to boost exports, Sitharaman said.

She promised the development of business parks for textiles and chemicals and said \$5 billion would be spent on boosting domestic electronics manufacturing.

'Confident steps'

It is the first budget since US President Donald Trump imposed 50 percent tariffs on most Indian imports in August.

New Delhi and Washington are in the process of negotiating a long-delayed trade agreement.

But relations have soured over India's purchases of Russian oil, which Washington says is helping bankroll Moscow's war in Ukraine.

New Delhi signed a major trade deal with the European Union last month, with many crediting Trump's tariffs for helping finalise the deal.

"Today, we face an external environment in which trade and multilateralism are imperilled, and access to resources and supply chains are disrupted," Sitharaman said in parliament.

aman said in parliament.

"India will continue to take confident steps towards 'Vikas Bharat' (developed India) by balancing ambition with inclusion".

The budget touted plans for seven high-speed rail corridors linking some of India's most important cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai.

It also puts forward a scheme to build "rare earth corridors" in four mineral-rich states in southern and eastern India.

"I propose to provide a tax holiday till 2047 to any foreign company that provides cloud services to customers globally by using data centre services from India," Sitharaman said in her speech.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

The first Union Budget of independent India was presented on 26 November 1947 by Finance Minister R. K. Shanmukham Chetty – it planned to spend Rs 197.29 crore against expected revenue of Rs 171.15 crore, resulting in a modest deficit to help the newly independent country get started.

Kareena Kapoor Khan Inaugurates Malabar Gold & Diamonds' New Flagship Showroom in Abu Dhabi at Hamdan Street

Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 5th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 420 showrooms across 14 countries, has unveiled its flagship new concept showroom in Abu Dhabi at Hamdan Street. The showroom was formally inaugurated by Bollywood actress and Brand Ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kareena Kapoor Khan, in the presence of Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Nishad AK, Malabar Group Executive Director; Mr. Faisal AK, Head of Manufacturing at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Ameer CMC, Director of Finance & Admin at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Sakkeer P, Head of Merchandising & SCM (Gold) at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Shaji Kakkodi, Malabar Group Chief Digital Officer, other senior management team members, customers, and well-wishers. Kareena Kapoor Khan's much anticipated appearance drew large crowds to Hamdan Street, reaffirming its stature as one of Abu Dhabi's most strategic and prominent jewellery desti-



nations.

The newly launched outlet marks Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 17th showroom in the Abu Dhabi-Al Ain region and its 3rd showroom on Hamdan Street, further strengthening the brand's footprint in one of the city's most important jewellery hubs. Designed as the brand's flagship showroom in Abu Dhabi, the space reflects Malabar Gold & Diamonds' evolved retail philosophy, offering a refined and immersive jewellery shopping experience through contemporary design, personalized

service, and an extensive portfolio of exquisite collections.

Spanning 4,000+ sq.ft, the new showroom at Hamdan street houses over 30,000 meticulously crafted designs across 18K & 22K gold, diamond, and precious gemstone jewellery, featuring Malabar Gold & Diamonds' exclusive brands including Mine, Era, Viraaz, Precia, Ethnix, and Divine. The collections span bridal, traditional, contemporary, and everyday jewellery, curated to resonate with global design sensibilities while catering to the diverse tastes of Abu

Dhabi's discerning customers.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. M.P Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said,

"The launch of our flagship concept showroom on Hamdan Street marks a key milestone in Malabar Gold & Diamonds' growth in Abu Dhabi and the UAE. Guided by trust, transparency, and craftsmanship, each new showroom reflects our vision to elevate jewellery retail through innovation, ethical practices, and customer-first values. Abu Dhabi has been central to our global expansion,

and this flagship reaffirms our commitment to sustainable growth and exceptional value as we progress toward becoming the world's no. 1 jewellery retailer."

Designed to cater to the discerning tastes of jewellery connoisseurs, the new showroom has been thoughtfully equipped with exclusive amenities, including customised jewellery designing facility that allows customers to bring their dream creations to life, along with an exclusive customer lounge designed for a comfortable and personalised shopping experience.

Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group, commented,

"The strong response to our new Hamdan Street flagship is truly encouraging. It reflects the trust customers place in Malabar Gold & Diamonds—for our design excellence as well as our commitment to ethical sourcing, transparent pricing, and sustainable practices. With 17 world-class showrooms, Abu Dhabi remains a vital market for us, and this successful launch reinforces our belief that long-term growth is built on integrity, responsibility, and customer confidence."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds currently operates 17 showrooms across Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. In Abu Dhabi, the showrooms are located at: Al Wahda mall, Mushrif Mall, Mussafah Capital Mall & Shabia, Mazayid Mall, Dalma Mall, Madinat Zayed Shopping Centre, Al Dhannah Mall, Hamdan Street (3 showrooms). In Al Ain, the brand has 3 showrooms.

Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said, "Malabar Gold & Diamonds began its Abu Dhabi journey in 2010, and the emirate has since become one of our most important international markets. Its diverse customer base and strong preference for quality and trust make it central to our regional strategy. Our new showroom has been designed around evolving customer expectations and having Kareena Kapoor Khan inaugurate it adds to the significance of the occasion. The Hamdan Street opening also marks our 70th showroom in the UAE, a major milestone in our expansion. As our largest market outside India, the UAE offers immense potential, and we remain committed to growing sustainably and responsibly".

News in brief

◆ **US House Speaker** Mike Johnson expressed confidence Sunday that he has the votes to end by Tuesday a partial government shutdown triggered by the Trump administration's violent immigration sweeps in Minneapolis. The government entered the shutdown Saturday as a funding deadline passed without Congress approving a 2026 budget. The impact so far appears to have been minimal. The House is due to begin acting on the emergency Monday as it returns from recess to a snowbound Washington, addressing a Senate-backed deal to reopen the government. "Let's say I'm confident that we'll do it at least by Tuesday," Johnson said on NBC's "Meet the Press." The funding lapse followed a breakdown in negotiations driven by Democratic anger over the killing of two protesters in Minneapolis by federal immigration agents, which derailed talks over new money for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



US House speaker sees swift end to government shutdown

Trump says he welcomes Chinese investment in Venezuelan oil

leader Nicolas Maduro. Venezuela sits on the world's largest proven oil reserves and reformed laws this week to open the sector up to private and foreign investment. China had been the dominant buyer of Venezuelan oil under Maduro, whose January 3 capture by US forces drew condemnation from China's foreign ministry and made uncertain Beijing's future with Caracas. "China is welcome to come in and would make a great deal on oil. We welcome China," Trump told reporters Saturday on Air Force One. He noted Venezuela's Interim President Delcy Rodriguez on Friday agreed to an energy cooperation deal with India.

◆ **Indonesia will** restore access to Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok after the billionaire's social media platform X promised to comply with the country's laws, a government official said yesterday. Grok has faced a global backlash after it emerged that its image creation feature allowed users to sexualise pictures of women and children using simple text prompts. Malaysia and the Philippines followed Indonesia in temporarily blocking access to the tool, which is integrated into X, over concerns about AI-generated sexual deepfakes. Alexander Sabar, a senior official in Indonesia's communication and digital ministry, said access was being restored "conditionally" after X Corp gave "a written commitment containing concrete steps for service improvement and prevention of misuse". Sabar said in a statement the ministry would continue to supervise and evaluate Grok and that it would take "corrective actions", including another suspension, if violations were found.

Indonesia says it will restore access to Musk's Grok chatbot

SPOTLIGHT

New Epstein accuser claims sexual encounter with ex-prince Andrew: report

AFP | London, United Kingdom

A second Jeffrey Epstein accuser has alleged the late US sex offender sent her to Britain for a sexual encounter with former prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the BBC reported.

A US lawyer for the woman told the broadcaster late Saturday the alleged encounter occurred at the ousted royal's residence on the Windsor estate, west of London, in 2010 when she was in her 20s.

The latest account emerged after the US Justice Department released a huge new batch of documents on the Epstein case, including photographs of Andrew kneeling over a woman lying on the floor.



This undated photo at an undisclosed location released by the US Justice Department as part of the Jeffrey Epstein files shows British former prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor kneeling over a woman lying on the floor.

immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

Andrew could not be reached for comment but has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing linked to Epstein.

The claim comes more than a decade after sexual assault accusations against the ex-Duke of York by another Epstein accuser, Virginia Giuffre, first emerged publicly.

Giuffre, a US and Australian citizen who took her own life last year, has alleged she was trafficked to have sex with Andrew three times, including twice when she was 17.

After she launched a lawsuit against him, he paid her a multi-million-pound settlement in 2022 without making any admission of guilt.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said the disgraced royal should accept requests to testify before the US Congress about Epstein's crimes.

Brad Edwards, from the Florida legal firm Edwards Henderson, said that after spending the night with Andrew, the woman said she was given a tour of Buckingham Palace.

He added there were communications between his client and the former prince before the alleged encounter and that he is now considering filing a civil lawsuit on her behalf.

The lawyer, who reportedly represents more than 200 survivors of Epstein abuse, did not

Iran says progress made towards US talks despite attack jitters

US President Donald Trump confirmed the two sides were talking

● Washington has deployed warships led by the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier

● Tehran has said it is ready for nuclear talks if its missiles and defence capabilities are not on the agenda

AFP | Paris, France

Iran's top security official said Saturday that progress had been made towards negotiations with the United States, even as the Islamic republic's army chief warned Washington against launching military strikes.

US President Donald Trump confirmed the two sides were talking, while keeping the threat of an attack in the foreground.

Washington has deployed warships led by the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier off Iran's shores, after Trump threatened to intervene in the wake of Tehran's deadly crackdown on anti-government protests.

"Contrary to the hype of the contrived media war, structural arrangements for negotiations are progressing," said Ali Larijani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

He was speaking a day after the Kremlin said he held talks in Moscow with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Saturday a broader conflict would hurt both Iran and the United States.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has never sought, and in no way seeks, war and it is firmly convinced that a war would be in the interest of neither Iran, nor the United States, nor the region," he said in a call with Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, according to the Iranian presidency.

Later Saturday, Trump confirmed that there was a dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

"(Iran is) talking to us, and we'll see if we can do something, otherwise we'll see what happens... we have a big fleet heading out there," he told Fox News.

"They are negotiating," he added.

Qatar's foreign ministry said its premier Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who also serves as foreign minister, held talks in Tehran with Larijani on Saturday to try to "de-escalate tensions in the region".

Fears of conflict

The arrival of the US flotilla has raised fears of a direct confrontation with Iran, which has warned it would respond with missile strikes on US bases, ships and allies -- notably Israel -- in the event of an attack.

Trump has said he believes Iran will make a deal over its



Iranian nationals arrive in Turkey through the Razi-Kapiköy border crossing, north-eastern Turkey

Iran protester Erfan Soltani released on bail: lawyer

Tehran, Iran

Iranian protester Erfan Soltani has been released on bail, his lawyer told AFP, after the United States warned he was due to be executed though Tehran denied he had been sentenced to death.

The 26-year-old "was re-

leased yesterday (Saturday) and received all of his belongings including his cellphone", said lawyer Amir Mousakhani, adding that a bail of "two billion tomans" (around \$12,600) was paid for his release.

Soltani was arrested on January 10 during recent nationwide protests in Iran.

He was held in a detention facility in Karaj outside Tehran, on charges of propaganda against Iran's Islamic system and acting against national security, the judiciary had said in January. The US State Department had said on its Persian-language X account that he had been sentenced to death.



18E Super Hornet attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) as it conducts routine flight operations in the Arabian Sea

ficial news agency IRNA reported. Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) would conduct "a two-day live-fire naval exercise" in the Strait of Hormuz, a key transit hub for global energy supplies.

CENTCOM warned the IRGC against "any unsafe and unprofessional behaviour near US forces", drawing a sharp response from Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

"The US military is now attempting to dictate how our Powerful Armed Forces should conduct target practice in their own turf," he wrote on X.

Naval exercise

On Friday, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said Iran's

1653

New Amsterdam becomes a city, later renamed New York City

1901

Queen Victoria's funeral takes place in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, England

1922

James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" is first published by Sylvia Beach in Paris (1,000 copies)

1943

German 6th Army surrenders after the Battle of Stalingrad in a major turning point in Europe during World War II



Peace agreements cannot hold when the root causes of conflict are left to fester. That is why prevention & peacebuilding are not optional extras – they are the first line of defence; And they are among the smartest investments we can make in lives saved & futures protected.

@antonio_guterres

02



I have received the greatly troubling news regarding an increase in tensions between Cuba and the United States of America, two neighboring countries. I echo the message of the Cuban bishops, inviting all responsible parties to promote a sincere and effective dialogue, in order to avoid violence and every action that could increase the suffering of the dear Cuban people.

@Pontifex

03



The Union Budget reflects the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. It strengthens the reform journey and charts a clear roadmap for Viksit Bharat.

@narendramodi

04



Nipah is a rare but serious disease. The two cases of Nipah virus infection reported by India in West Bengal are the third in this state since the virus was first identified in 1998. No cases have been reported in any other country linked to this outbreak. Indian authorities are following over 190 contacts, and none have developed the disease so far.

@DrTedros

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

Israel to terminate MSF work in Gaza for failing to provide Palestinian staff list

MSF said it had tried for months to engage with Israel



Israeli soldiers secure the area as a bulldozer demolishes Palestinian owned homes they say were built without a permit from the Israeli authorities in the village of Tarqumia, near the occupied West Bank city of Hebron

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel announced yesterday it was terminating Doctors Without Borders' humanitarian operations in Gaza after the charity failed to provide a list of Palestinian staff, a move MSF said was a "pretext" to obstruct aid to the war-devastated territory.

In December, Israel announced it would prevent 37 aid organisations, including MSF, from working in Gaza from March 1 for failing to submit detailed information about their Palestinian employees, drawing widespread condemnation from NGOs and the United Nations.

"The Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Anti-Semitism is moving to terminate the activities of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the Gaza Strip," the ministry said on Sunday.

The decision follows "MSF's failure to submit lists of local employees, a requirement applicable to all humanitarian organisations operating in the region", it added.

The ministry had earlier alleged that two MSF employees had links with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which the charity has vehemently denied.

On Sunday, the ministry said MSF had committed in early January to sharing the staff list, but ultimately refrained.

"Subsequently, MSF announced it does not intend to proceed with the registration process at all, contradicting its previous statements and the binding protocol," the ministry added, saying "MSF will cease its operations and depart the Gaza Strip by February 28".

No assurances

Israel says partially reopening Gaza's Rafah crossing

Rafah, Palestinian Territories

Israel partially reopened the Rafah crossing between the devastated Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, following months of appeals from aid groups, though access is limited to pedestrians.

COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry body coordinating Palestinian civilian affairs, made no mention of allowing in a long hoped-for surge of aid, and clarified that the passage of individuals through

MSF said it had tried for months to engage with Israeli authorities over the issue, but its attempts were unsuccessful.

MSF charged that the ministry's move was a "pretext to obstruct humanitarian assistance" to Gaza.

"Israeli authorities are forcing humanitarian organisations into an impossible choice between exposing staff to risk or interrupting critical medical care for people in desperate need," it said in a statement issued on Sunday.

"MSF did not hand over staff names because Israeli authorities failed to provide the concrete assurances required to guarantee our staff's safety, protect their personal data, and uphold the independence of our medical operation," it said.

Such demands by Israel will force aid organisations to pull out when "needs are overwhelming and health services are collapsing" in Gaza, it said.

"At a moment when more

the gateway in both directions was expected to begin Monday. Rafah is considered a key entry point for supplies into the devastated Palestinian territory, where humanitarian conditions remain dire after two years of war in spite of a ceasefire in place since October 10.

The crossing has been closed since Israeli forces seized control of it in May 2024 during the war with Hamas, aside from a brief and limited reopening in early 2025.

humanitarian assistance is urgently needed, it is being restricted rather than facilitated," the charity said, adding that it remained open for dialogue with Israeli authorities to maintain its services in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

MSF has long been a key provider of medical and humanitarian aid in Gaza, particularly since the war broke out in October 2023 after Hamas's attack on Israel. The charity says it currently provides at least 20 percent of hospital beds in the territory and operates around 20 health centres.



BY INVITATION

Indian Budget 2026 aims to promote prosperity at home and abroad



AMBASSADOR VINOD K JACOB

In the backdrop of estimated GDP growth of 7.4 percent (with nominal GDP growth at 8 per cent) for FY 2025-26, the Finance Minister of India, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union budget for 2026 on 1 February in New Delhi. Describing the Budget 2026 as historic, Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi asserted that it reflects the aspirations of the 140 crore (1.4 billion) Indians, strengthens the economic reforms journey and charts a clear road map for Viksit Bharat or Developed India by 2047.

Strong macroeconomic fundamentals

The budget shows that the macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong. The country's GDP has passed USD 4.13 trillion. IMF states that while India accounts for 17 percent of projected worldwide economic growth expansion, the USA sits at less than 10 percent. The fiscal deficit for 2027 is estimated at 4.3 percent of India's GDP while the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to be 55.6 percent of GDP in 2026-27, slightly lower than 56.1 percent in 2025-26.

The services sector remains the primary growth driver, expanding by 9.1 per cent. Manufacturing and construction have grown by 7 per cent. Domestic demand continues to anchor growth. India's total exports (merchandise and services) reached USD 825.3 billion in FY25, with continued momentum in FY26.

Forward looking and reform oriented

Some of the significant initiatives of the Budget 2026 include the plans to develop seven High-Speed Rail corridors between cities as 'growth connectors' to promote environmentally sustainable passenger systems, significant outlay for Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage technologies, establishing dedicated Rare Earth Corridors, launching the Bharat-VISTAAR (a multilingual AI tool to improve agriculture sector), various tax related measures to attract global investment and improve ease of doing business and the like. It is pertinent to mention that since August 2025, almost 350 new economic reform measures have been unveiled including GST simplification, notification of Labour Codes, and rationalization of mandatory Quality Control Orders. More efforts are expected focusing on deregulation and reducing compliance requirements.

The budget has been inspired by three 'kartavyas' or duties of the Government of India, namely, (a) accelerating and sustaining economic growth, by enhancing productivity and competitiveness, and building resilience to volatile global dynamics, (b) fulfilling the aspirations of people and building their capacity, making them strong partners in India's path to prosperity, and (c) ensuring that every family, community, region and sector has access to resources, amenities and opportunities for meaningful participation. Also significantly, the budget is also focused on the youth.

International cooperation

India's Union Budget comes in the wake of a series of important developments in India's external engagement like the India-EU FTA, India-Arab League cooperation, India-GCC engagement besides the active bilateral commercial and trade links between India and countries around the world, in particular in the GCC area. The clear and unmistakable message is the commitment of India to multilateral cooperation and pursuing close ties with all economic partners around the world. This augurs well for India-Bahrain bilateral relations, especially as we celebrate the 55th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. Equally significant is the Kingdom of Bahrain's presidency of the GCC and its participation in the UN Security Council for the two year term that started in January 2026. India strongly supports Bahrain's role and looks forward to working together for taking the bilateral relations forward.

The author is Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain since August 2023. The views presented in the article are personal.)

Deputy PM Reaffirms Bahrain-US Strategic Partnership



His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, highlighted the historic and strategic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States during a meeting with the newly appointed US Ambassador, H.E. Stephanie Lynn Hallett, at Gudaibiya Palace. The Deputy PM emphasized that bilateral ties continue to grow under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President Donald Trump. Ambassador Hallett expressed her gratitude for the warm reception and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to advancing the strategic partnership to achieve common goals.

Prime Minister of Bermuda Welcomed in Bahrain



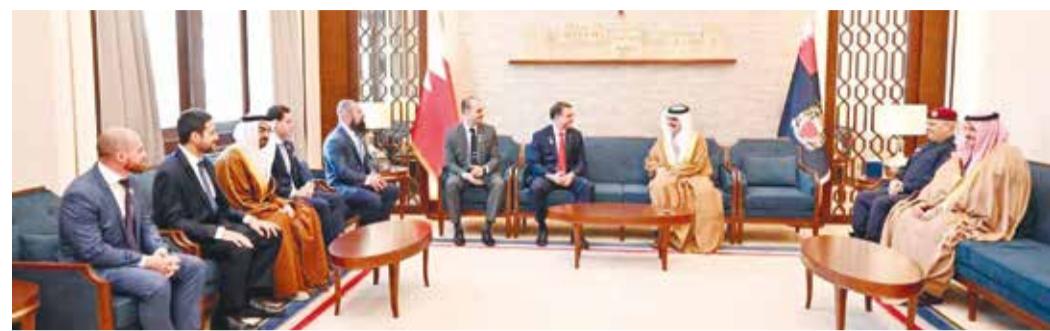
Bermuda's Prime Minister, H.E. Edward David Burt, was welcomed by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, upon his arrival in Bahrain. The Prime Minister, leading a high-level delegation, was received at Bahrain International Airport. The visit underscores the growing relations between the two countries and aims to enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

TECA BAHRAIN CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE MILESTONE



The Thrissur Engineering College Alumni (TECA) Bahrain Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary, "Silver Jubilee," with a grand event at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam. The celebration was attended by over a thousand guests, including alumni, families, and community leaders. The Chief Guest, Sushanth Kurunthil (CEO, Kerala IT Parks), praised TECA members for their vital role in Bahrain's industrial growth over the last quarter-century. The evening featured a vibrant musical performance by playback singers Swetha Ashok, Sreejish Subramanian, and Bharath Sajikumar, alongside a cultural dance by Sarangi Sasidhar. Long-standing members were honored for their 25 years of service in Bahrain. Led by President Biju Anto and General Secretary Rajesh Pushkaran, the event highlighted the strong bond and professional excellence of the TECA community in the Kingdom.

Interior Minister Discusses Security Cooperation with Brazilian Official



Bahrain's Minister of Interior, H.E. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, received Mr. Flavio Nantes Bolsonaro, Chairman of the Brazilian Senate's Security Committee, to discuss bilateral cooperation. The Minister highlighted that Bahrain's security stability is guided by the visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He emphasized the importance of community partnerships in maintaining national safety. The meeting, attended by Chief of Police Lt. Gen. Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, focused on developing joint security work and addressing evolving global challenges.

Bahrain and Saudi National Guard Discuss Military Cooperation



His Excellency Lieutenant General Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the National Guard, received a delegation from the Saudi Ministry of National Guard today at the Sakhir Headquarters. The meeting, attended by Brigadier General Sheikh Salman bin Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, focused on strengthening the strategic military partnership between the two kingdoms. The Chief of Staff welcomed the Saudi delegation, led by Colonel Abdullah bin Masaed Al-Otaibi, and conveyed greetings from National Guard President H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa.

City Centre Bahrain Visits Abdullah Kanoo Oncology Unit



City Centre Bahrain, in collaboration with the "Smile" initiative and Enteract Marketing, organised a humanitarian visit to the Abdullah Khalil Kanoo Paediatric Oncology Unit at Salmaniya Medical Complex. The initiative aimed to provide psychological and social support to children undergoing cancer treatment and their families. During the visit, the delegation distributed gifts to young patients to uplift their spirits and alleviate the emotional strain of their treatment journey. Mr. Raymond Zaarour, Director of City Centre Bahrain, stated that the visit reflects the mall's commitment to creating a positive community impact beyond retail. Mr. Sabah Al Zayani, Chairman of the Future Society for Youth, praised the partnership for bringing hope to families and thanked the medical teams at Salmaniya for their dedicated care.



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campus

American University of Bahrain Concludes MISTI Program in Collaboration with BBK

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) has concluded the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), powered by Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK). The program aimed to enhance applied learning and technological innovation among higher education students while linking academic knowledge with real world challenges within the industrial sector.

The MISTI program, which was hosted by AUBH for the fourth consecutive year, concluded with a closing event attended by representatives from BBK. During the event, 33 students from 9 public and private universities across the Kingdom of Bahrain presented their projects and research findings developed throughout the program.

Delivered under the theme "Smart Safety and Reliability Systems," the four-week program enabled multidisciplinary student teams to develop proof of concept solutions based on the integration of sensors, edge computing, and artificial intelligence technologies. The projects were designed to support operational safety and risk prediction in industrial environments, in alignment with the program's applied and innovation driven objectives.

Throughout the program, students addressed real safety and reliability challenges within the oil refining sector. Project work



focused on applying artificial intelligence to predictive maintenance models to anticipate potential equipment failures, intelligent real time detection of abnormal conditions based on sensor and environmental data, and the use of computer vision technologies to enhance compliance with safety procedures. During the first week, students defined problem scopes

and designed their projects with guidance from MIT graduate students and faculty from AUBH. The second week focused on developing prototypes that combine software solutions with technical components, followed by a third week dedicated to testing, validation, and further development. The program concluded in the fourth week with final project presentations,

submission of reports, and discussions on scalability and potential pathways for practical implementation.

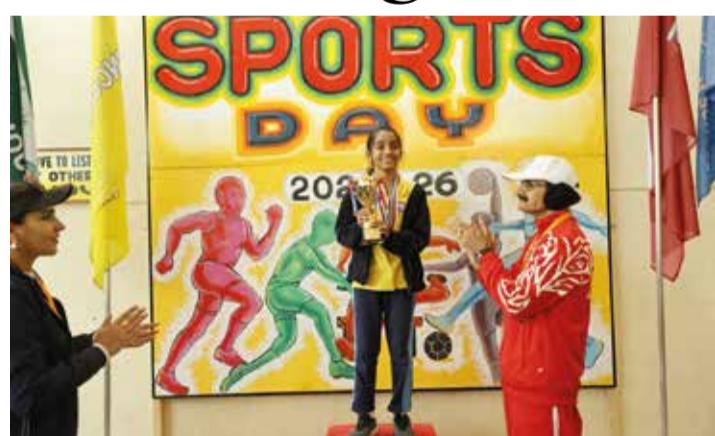
Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the American University of Bahrain, expressed her sincere appreciation to BBK for its support and sponsorship of the MISTI program: "We are proud to conclude the MISTI program in collabora-

tion with MIT. The program achieved tangible outcomes by engaging students in the development of practical proof of concept solutions to real industrial challenges, strengthening collaboration between academia and industry, and enriching the student learning experience through applied, team-based work in an environment that mirrors industrial practice. This

approach supports our vision of preparing graduates to contribute effectively to innovation and digital transformation."

Mr. Yaser Alsharifi, BBK Group Chief Executive, stated: "At BBK, we are proud to continue our long-standing partnership with AUBH and MIT through our sponsorship of this leading program, reflecting our commitment to fostering innovation and advancing the adoption of advanced technologies across the industrial sector. The program offered students valuable hands-on exposure to real-world operational challenges, enabling them to develop promising AI-driven prototypes that address critical safety and reliability priorities. We remain dedicated to strengthening our collaboration with the education sector to support national talent development and contribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain's broader innovation and sustainability objectives."

Sports day at NMS Bahrain (KG to Grade VI): A Joyful Closing Ceremony Celebrating Young Champions



Manama

The New Millennium School, Bahrain, witnessed enthusiastic and zealous participation of students from KG to Grade VI during the Sports Days conducted on 17th and 24th January 2026, culminating in a vibrant Closing Ceremony of the Annual Sports Meet 2025–2026. The event marked the successful conclusion of days filled with energy, excitement and true sporting spirit. The Annual Sports Meet, which commenced in December 2025, was a grand celebration of enthusiasm, teamwork and the boundless potential of young learners.

The young athletes from KG to Grade VI showcased not only their physical abilities but also the values of discipline, cooperation and sportsmanship. Throughout the Sports Meet, students actively participated in a variety of fun-filled and age-appropriate events such as flat races, relay races, obstacle races, balancing races, sack races and other novelty games. Their infectious enthusiasm and determination brought life to the playground, creating an atmosphere of joy and healthy competition.

Adding to the excitement, Parents' and Grandparents' races were also conducted, fostering a spirit of togetherness and strengthening the bond between the school and families. Their spirited participation was met with loud cheers and applause, followed by a memento presentation to the winners.

The Closing Ceremony featured the prize distribution, where winners and participants were applauded for their commendable performances. Medals and certificates were awarded, boosting the confidence and motivation of the students.

Shaiqa Jaseen of Grade 6F and Rishikesh Aravind of Grade 6C emerged as the Individual Champions in the Grades 5 and 6 category, earning special ap-

preciation for their outstanding achievements. The excitement on the children's faces reflected the true spirit of participation and achievement.

Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma congratulated the young sports stars and emphasized the importance of sports in building confidence, resilience and teamwork from an early age. He appreciated the dedication of the teachers and the Physical Education Department for their meticulous planning and flawless execution of the Sports Meet.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Ms. Geetha Pillai lauded the school's efforts



in nurturing holistic development and encouraging students to balance academics with physical fitness. They highlighted that such events play a crucial role in shaping confident, disciplined and responsible individuals.

The Closing Ceremony con-

cluded on a high note, leaving behind cherished memories and a renewed spirit of sportsmanship among the students. The Annual Sports Meet 2025–2026 once again reaffirmed NMS Bahrain's commitment to promoting physical well-being, character building and joyful learning experiences for its young learners.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

ZEN POINT INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66306568 or MOHAMMED239@GMAIL.COM

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

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

AL RAEEQ TOWER EXCAVATION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39000116 or MOSAWI67@HOTMAIL.COM

Golden Diyar construction has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17530670 or HWBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERV has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDING, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

TEA TIME W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36956099 or HASH2H2@GMAIL.COM

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

ZAHRA HASAN YOUSIF ALMUTAWAH has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3969442 or ZAHRAHASAN620@GMAIL.COM

TEA LANE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34343459 or IBRAHIMKHALIL3645@GMAIL.COM

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

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

ALRAHILA CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33865286 or alrahi-laconstruction@gmail.com

CAPRICON TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. BAHRAIN PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39531396 or CKMANAGEMENT.BH@GMAIL.COM

TECHNO PRO CONTRACTING SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FABRICATOR(FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35078579 or INFO@TECHNOPROBH.COM

MASALA VILLAGE RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38144438 or EBUSHEHAB@GMAIL.COM

ELECTRA PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING BAHRAIN W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785961 or ELECTRAPAB@GMAIL.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATEL.COM.BH

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

ITIBHAT CONTRACTING EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444923 or bigbossvip91@gmail.com

KRISPY KREME W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaled@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

GHADEER BUSINESS MANAGEMENT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262604 or majeed@gbm.bh

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizonintlgroup.com

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation

of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535158 or bucheeri5@gmail.com

AL RAEEQ TOWER EXCAVATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39000116 or MOSAWI67@HOTMAIL.COM

HIGHRISE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33249430 or KIANIBRAZILIAN@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hr1@macbh.com

ANALYTICA ONE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17002629 or TRAHMEE@HOTMAIL.COM

GOLD TOWN IRONING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39853626 or ABDULHAMEED6439@GMAIL.COM

ALSABAH CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17714015 or info@alsabahconstruction.com

ALAMANAH SANDWICHES & JUICE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17334088 or EBRAHIMALAMANA@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or MOHAMED.ABUALI@HAJ-HASSAN.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batco.net

HOMZONA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36687854 or KAMELO581952670@GMAIL.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICAN-FOOD.COM

DUST BUNNY CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND WRAPPING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.I221989@GMAIL.COM

KHUNJARAB CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34489050 or AFZALMARYAM338@GMAIL.COM

CLARITY SHINESHINE BAHRAIN SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35315886 or HAMIDMAQSOOD309@GMAIL.COM

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

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

ALMUTTAZ AUTO GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36477764 or YOUNIS.JANAH4@GMAIL.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRAFTSMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39444923 or bigbossvip91@gmail.com

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or ssaled@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

KING KARAK CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33496925 or HHASHIMPP@GMAIL.COM

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation

GMAIL.COM
PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

AL THABIT AUTOMATIC DOORS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-TEANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17611755 or fahad@abitidoors.com.sa

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

UM AZIZ PASTRIES has a vacancy for the occupation of PASTRY MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39604031 or HANI.KHALAF72@HOTMAIL.COM

synergo facility services has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66637663 or HESSAHESAHESSE@YAHOO.COM

AUTO ART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633886 or BUCHERY@GMAIL.COM

VITOL FINANCE (BAHRAIN) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FINANCIAL ADVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17218855 or MAA@VITOL.COM

BAHRAIN ASPHALT ESTABLISHMENT B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPEFITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or MOHAMED.ABUALI@HAJ-HASSAN.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batco.net

HOMZONA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36687854 or KAMELO581952670@GMAIL.COM

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICAN-FOOD.COM

ALNEMRAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND WRAPPING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456488 or info@alnemranh.com

SHARIF GARMENT FACTORY B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17748999 or OTHMAN@SHARIFGROUP.COM

Trafco Group B.S.C has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729000 or LAYA@TRAFCO.COM

KARAM RUBBER COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RUBBER EXTRUDING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36153550 or KARAMRUBBER@GMAIL.COM

CREATIVITY TEAM161 FOR CAR SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33225044 or KHALIDAL-SALEH.2023@GMAIL.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

COMBI SUPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39817261 or mohd.akter74@gmail.com

MODERN AGE BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39221900 or ALWAHA-HA@GMAIL.COM

ALMAFRAH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33211188 or AL_BUAINAIN_69@HOTMAIL.COM

CRYSTAL STAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3357912 or AKASH.ARSLANJUTT@GMAIL.COM

GULF TOBACCO COMPANY. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER SOFTWARE SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666544 or amani.alaradi@gmail.com

AZAD REPAIR OF ELECTRONIC W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN/ASST.(MECH.EQUIP.MAINT.), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33099463 or MDADAZ3099463@GMAIL.COM

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

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

AlHelli Express has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact

17742858 or hussain@mercurygulf.com
NASS MARINE SHIPYARD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aanass.net

GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345150 or raihan@gtcbah.com

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

PLATINUM MOTORS COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33612559 or SSSNNN700@HOTMAIL.COM

ABU ESSA FOOD DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33159335 or MOHSEN-ZAMAN90@GMAIL.COM

FLORA CONTRACTING MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623882 or accounts@florabah.com

GHAZALI INSTALLSAND MAINTAINS HEATING AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36505588 or REMO01221REMO@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220064 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

RABIE LUBNAN CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or ALI17984BH@GMAIL.COM

KHALIFA HAMAD SULTAN MOHAMED ALGHAMEM (1929) has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

RABIE LUBNAN CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or ALI17984BH@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36505588 or REMO01221REMO@GMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLASTER, suitably qualified

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

WADI ALQAMAR TECHNICAL CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33223734 or CH.MUHAMMADMUNAWAR23@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL KHALEEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaled@hotmail.com

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

OTAVA CONSULTANCY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34169404 or aroobasatta333@gmail.com

KAIR AL KHALEEJ JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33229242 or hamza.shabbir321@gmail.com

FAST FOUR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33993295 or DOCUMENTBHA9@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL KHALEEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaled@hotmail.com

LOTUS HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

SPINFLUENCE CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34142882 or SPINIWENCE.BAH@GMAIL.COM

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

MARBLE RESTORATION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

YASMINA FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325071 or SJA-LI2421976@GMAIL.COM

GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

raidan meat factory has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MEAT CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39913377 or RAIDAN.RST@GMAIL.COM

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

ALSAIGAL CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1730013 or KOKO6986@GMAIL.COM

GUARDUS SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or HRD@ALMOAYYEDCG.COM

Fasteners For Repairing Air Conditioners has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17839999 or gov.rfi@racingforce.com

ARABIAN GULF CAPITAL B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33554001 or ACCOUNTS@3Y.COM

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

GLACIER FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33161222 or SKENARAWORKSHOP.SS@GMAIL.COM

ATIF COMBINE FACILITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37586900 or ATIFRAJPOT3557@GMAIL.COM

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

ZUHA TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 7717212 or YERASHID@YAHOO.COM

GOLDEN STYLE SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39995057 or SIDILII.66@GMAIL.COM

ARAB SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR YARD CO.)ASRY has a vacancy for the occupation of ESTIMA-

TOR(COST), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or duajimalkhalifa@ASRY.NET
PUREPRO FILTERS COMPANY BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33912912 or YAMENE-BRAHIM623@GMAIL.COM

AJ 90 GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36766168 or alyasminetravels@gmail.com

MACDONALD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

M K AYAN RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213950 or abdurrahman987800@gmail.com

MCDONALDMS has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17220000 or mcd.hr@mcdbah.com

MAHBEER COMPUTER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN-COMPUTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34018910 or TABMECHANICAL@GAMIL.COM

PATWA PEARLS WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36733839 or PATWA-PEARLS@GMAIL.COM

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

SAYYAR TRADING AGENCIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290111 or OFFICE@SAYYAR.BH

MARIA TARIQ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 335968184 or MOONLANDBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

HERITAGE CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTRY WORKER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17621990 or JAFFAR.SALMAN@GMAIL.COM

SARENS NASS MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR (FORK-LIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17725522 or yousif@aa Nass.net

Arabian Gulf Electro Mechanical Services W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37767097 or RAJESH@ARABIANGULF-EMS.COM

GALAXY WAY PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVERTISING SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32306963 or AAMISHSOHALI61@GMAIL.COM

PROFESSIONAL GULF CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

Saleh Abdulla Kameshki & Sons B.S.C (c) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250627 or admin01@kameshki.com

EDGE PHONE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888675 or ABDUL-MUNEER@HOTMAIL.COM

PETS STATION LINE FOR CARE PETS has a vacancy for the occupation of ANIMALS KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36601836 or SAEEDREHMAN7180@GMAIL.COM

RAJ TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34400702 or CONFIANZABUSINESSBH@GMAIL.COM

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Bahrain Club, Al Shabab Advance in King's Cup



Bahrain Club players celebrate their qualification

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The King's Cup round of 16 got underway yesterday with dramatic victories for Bahrain Club and Al Shabab, setting the stage for an exciting quarter-final lineup.

At Shaikh Ali bin Mohamed Stadium, Bahrain Club claimed a narrow 1-0 win over Al Hidd. The breakthrough came shortly after the start of the second half, when captain Abdulla Alzayed surged down the wing and delivered a low cross into the box. Sultan Al Salatneh met it first time with an improvised side-footed volley into the far corner, leaving goalkeeper Mohamed Gharbly with no chance. The goal proved decisive as Bahrain Club held firm to book their place in the last eight.

Later at the same venue, Al Shabab produced a thrilling comeback to defeat Al Malkiya 2-1. Khaled Khalaf gave Al



Abdulrahman Ali Mohammed celebrates Al Shabab's equaliser with Ali Redha

Malkiya the lead in the 8th minute, finishing first-time after drifting into the final third. Al Shabab equalized in the 28th minute from a set-piece, as Ali Redha's cross found Abdulrahman Ali Mohammed unmarked to head in from around the penalty spot. The decisive winner came in stoppage time, when

Mujtaba Hussain picked out Daniel Omokhoa on the far post, who tapped home to complete the turnaround.

The quarter-finals continue today with Muhrraq facing Isa Town at 7pm at Khalifa Sports City, while Riffa take on Manama at Shaikh Ali bin Mohamed Stadium, also at 7pm.

Jacquet Wins Bahrain Open Singles Title

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

France's Kyrian Jacquet capped a remarkable week at the Bahrain Open Tennis Challenger 2026 yesterday, defeating Italy's Luca Nardi 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 in a thrilling singles final at the Police Officers Club in Gudaibiya. The victory, Jacquet's first of the season, took nearly three hours and was marked by long rallies and tense moments.

The 24-year-old's run to the title was built on resilience and consistency. He overcame Christopher O'Connell, Yannick Hanfmann, and Jacob Fearnley in earlier rounds, then defeated second seed Mattia Bellucci 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 in a marathon semi-final to reach his seventh Challenger final. Facing Nardi in the final,



Jacquet fires up after brilliant rally

Alcaraz sweeps past Djokovic to win 'dream' Australian Open



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (L) and runner-up Serbia's Novak Djokovic pose for photographs on the podium

● Alcaraz defeats Djokovic 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5

● Completes career Grand Slam aged just 22

AFP | Melbourne

Carlos Alcaraz swept past Novak Djokovic to win his first Australian Open yesterday and become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam, denying the Serbian great an unprecedented 25th major.

The Spaniard was imperious after a slow start in dismissing the 38-year-old, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 on Rod Laver Arena to claim a seventh Slam title and cement himself as undisputed world number one.

He becomes the youngest man in the Open era to win all four majors, adding to his two titles each from Wimbledon and the French and US Opens.

At 22, he surpassed legendary countryman Rafael Nadal -- in the crowd to witness the feat -- who was 24 when he did

the same. A seventh Slam put him alongside John McEnroe and Mats Wilander and one behind Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl.

"Lifting the trophy for the first time in Australia was crazy," Alcaraz said, before writing on a TV camera lens: "Job finished. Four out of four complete."

He added: "A dream come true. I dreamt about getting an Australian Open and completing the career Grand Slam."

He paid tribute to Djokovic.

"You were talking about how I'm doing the things I am, but what you're doing is really inspiring, not only for tennis players but athletes around the world."

It was a first defeat for Djokovic in a Melbourne final, having won all 10 previously, leaving him still searching for a landmark 25th major to better Australia's Margaret Court, who was also watching on centre court.

Djokovic, striving to become the oldest man to lift a Grand Slam singles trophy, last won one at the US Open in 2023. Since then Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner have dominated.

Sesko strikes to rescue Man Utd, Villa beaten by Brentford

AFP | London

Benjamin Sesko rode to Manchester United's rescue in another thrilling 3-2 win for Michael Carrick's men over Fulham yesterday, as Aston Villa's Premier League title challenge faltered in defeat to 10-man Brentford.

A third consecutive win since Carrick took the reins at Old Trafford propelled United back into the top four at the expense of Chelsea and Liverpool.

A week on from a 3-2 win at Arsenal, it was another throwback to United's glory days during Carrick's playing career as they snatched victory in dramatic fashion after a Fulham fightback.

Casemiro opened the scoring from Bruno Fernandes' free-kick to give United the perfect start on 19 minutes.

High-octane karting round delivers thrilling action at BIKC

Rotax MAX karters step up intense battles as second half of season gets underway



● Rashid Almahroos, Rayyan Najjar, Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Rashid Hilal, and Abdulqader Qasem take victories in respective MAX classes

Manama

The Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) kicked off the second half of its 2025/2026 season over the weekend with an exciting fifth round at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Rashid Almahroos, Rayyan Najjar, Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Rashid Hilal, and Abdulqader Qasem were all triumphant in their respective competition categories.

The meeting featured plenty of high-octane, wheel-to-wheel battles along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track as the fight for wins, podiums, and cham-

pionship points continued to intensify.

The BRMC is the Kingdom's premier national karting championship, and it features competitors of various ages and nationalities racing in their very own Rotax-powered machinery.

The championship is organised and run by Bahrain International Circuit and BIKC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation and Bahrain Karting Commission.

Rashid took his victory in the Micro MAX category. Enzo Younes started the day strong by topping the practice timesheet, but Rashid took pole position in qualifying and charged to the victory in the pre-final. He then won the nine-lap final from pole in a total race time of nine minutes 14.157 seconds.

Enzo followed 2.937s behind as the runner-up, while Sami Al-bandak came third 7.773s from first place.

Rayyan captured his win in the Mini MAX class. Faisal Alnajjar was the pace-setter in practice

and he also took pole in qualifying. But in the pre-final, Rayyan emerged victorious, and then he led the final from start to finish to take the chequered flag in 8:52.810 after nine laps. Leo Saruhan followed 0.248s back, while Faisal came third 0.363s adrift.

Amongst the Junior MAX fleet, Shaikh Ahmed claimed the all-important win. Jude Andrews began the meeting by outpacing Shaikh Ahmed by a mere 0.005s in practice, but Shaikh Ahmed powered to the top in qualifying and the pre-final. He then rode his momentum into the 15-lap final where he secured a pole-to-flag victory in 13:45.907.

Leopold Juch came second 0.148s from the victor, while Ryan Suckling rounded out the podium 8.129s behind.

In a tight Senior MAX final, Hilal inherited the victory despite finishing fifth on the road after 15 laps, with all four drivers ahead of him being handed post-race penalties.



Luca Houghton had led to first with a winning time of 13:35.763, while his fellow-podium finishers Yousif Alaali and Mohammed Hilal also benefited from the penalties. Alaali was classified second overall 0.520s behind Rashid Hilal after finishing eighth on the road, while Mohammed Hilal rose to third 1.680s back after originally taking ninth.

In the DD2 MAX class, Rakan Alfayez led practice and Abdulla Sajjad took pole in qualifying, but Qasem took charge in the pre-final. He went on to win the final from pole in 13:17.436 after 15 laps, followed by Alfayez 0.232s behind and Mohammed Sajjad with a 14.030s gap.

After all the action, the winners and other top-three placers were presented their respective trophies in the podium ceremonies.

The BRMC features a total of eight rounds in its 2025/2026 calendar. Round six is scheduled for 13 February, and then the seventh and penultimate meeting will then be held on 28 March. That will pave the way for the championship finale, slated for 18 April at BIKC.

For more information on the BRMC or other events and activities at BIC or BIKC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights to bring twice the thrills to BIC today

Manama

The latest edition of the widely popular Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights takes place today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East' will once again be a hive of activity with action set to be held both along BIC's world-class, quarter-mile drag strip and at the circuit's vast vehicle dynamics area.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is a fan-favourite experience that features two of the most popular and adrenaline-pumping forms of motorsport today, and participants will be able to take part in their very own cars or motorbikes.

Speed enthusiasts can push their vehicles to their limit either down the BIC strip or around the vehicle dynamics area. There is



also the option to do both, making for a fantastic double-header over a single evening's activity.

Today's Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is scheduled to take place from 5pm to 11pm.



Both the drag racing and the drifting can be done for a single fee of BD11. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD8.

Those who would like to experience the drag or the drift as a

passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional fee of BD4.500. Registration for those wishing to join can be done on site. Spectators who would like to attend and watch the action in

the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights can also purchase their tickets online at BD2 apiece at bahraingp.com.

The BIC drag strip is highly regarded as one of the best in the world, and it is a part of the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network of the US-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

BIC's vehicle dynamics area features a specially configured layout for drifters. It is surrounded by safety barriers and is one of the largest open tarmac areas in Bahrain, ideal for an amazing display of power sliding within a secure environment.

For more information on Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's social media channels.

Schott wins maiden title in play-off at Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

Freddy Schott claims first DP World Tour title after beating Calum Hill and Patrick Reed

● Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship once again provided invaluable experience for the Kingdom's emerging golfers

● Record crowd of 13,186 – a 30% increase on last year's attendance – flocked to Royal Golf Club across the four days

Manama

Freddy Schott won his first DP World Tour title after beating Calum Hill and Patrick Reed in a play-off at the 2026 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship.

The trio were locked together at 17 under par after 72 holes after Reed shot 67 yesterday to make up a four-shot overnight deficit to Hill, who began the day two clear but had to settle for a 71 after a bogey at the difficult final hole. Schott carded 69 to join the pair.

Reed bogeyed the first play-off hole to drop out of contention and after Hill went out of bounds second time round, before sending his fourth shot into the water, he sportingly conceded without making Schott putt out for the win.

Asked to sum up his thoughts, Schott, who was presented with the trophy by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Freddy Schott is presented with the trophy by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

pened, so I'm very happy now.

"We get a ride from the 11th to the 12th, and I just said: Okay, I'm not taking a ride, I'm walking just to settle myself again, to stay in the moment. That's what I said to myself: These are moments you're here for; that's the reason why you play golf – just try to press the pedal down and go on. We hit a beauty into 12, a good birdie on 13 and just tried to scrap it around those last few holes.

"The way I feel is indescribable. I have no words for it. I'm just glad that I got it over the line, and we will see what the future holds."

Garcia had joined the leaders by that point after responding to an opening bogey with three birdies in four holes from the third and another three in succession from the ninth, as had Reed after his fifth gain of the day at the 12th.

Daniel Hillier carded six birdies in a blemish-free 66, his second six-under-par round of the week, to set the clubhouse target at 16 under as the leaders still on the course battled for supremacy.

Schott, Hill and Reed all reached 18 under with back-to-back birdies, Reed at the 13th and 14th with his rivals a hole behind.

Garcia's challenge was left hanging by a thread after a double-bogey at the par-five 14th, as he eventually finished alongside Hillier on 16 under, and Reed dropped a shot at the 16th.

Schott and Hill missed the 17th green to the left before escaping with good chips – but while Hill holed his par putt, Schott made bogey.

Reed set a new clubhouse target of 17 under but when his birdie putt at the last agonisingly stayed up on the short side, Hill had a one-shot lead down the

last. But he sent his approach to the extreme left of the green, leaving a nasty putt up the slope by the side of the green which he was unable to get close. Schott was in similar territory but closer in, allowing him to save par while Hill made bogey to set up the play-off.

Reed found the bunker with his 73rd tee shot and went from there to the edge of another, with Schott and Hill both hitting the fairway and then the heart of the green.

Schott holed for par and despite a superb effort at his up-and-down, Reed was unable to respond and dropped out of contention.

"The competition comes to an end, but it's not the end for me

I think it's just the beginning," said Alkowari. "I'm happy with the result this year. I played 20 shots better than last year, so there are improvements. Hopefully, if I'm playing next year, it will be even better. Who knows, maybe even making the cut."

Record crowds

A record crowd of 13,186 – a 30% increase on last year's attendance – flocked to Royal Golf Club across the four days, enjoying world-class golf and a festival atmosphere both on and off the course.

The Championship Village was a hive of activity throughout the week, with the 100-metre zip line and free fall proving an especially big hit with fans of all ages – perhaps the only golf event in the world with its own zip line.

Families enjoyed the dedicated kids' zone, live music, traditional Bahraini souq and wide range of food trucks, while yesterday saw children across the Kingdom take advantage of a school holiday granted by His Majesty as a mark of appreciation for their efforts.

Fans can already register their interest in attending the 2027 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship, which promises to raise the bar even further as the Kingdom continues to cement its position as a leading destination for world-class sport and entertainment.

'A dream became reality'

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Germany's Freddy Schott captured his first DP World Tour title yesterday at the BAPCO Energies Bahrain Championship 2026. The win came after a dramatic three-man playoff, where he edged out Calum Hill and Patrick Reed in a tense finale at Royal Golf Club.

Schott began the final round two shots off the lead but stayed patient as the leaderboard shifted repeatedly through a back-and-forth yesterday. While Hill, the overnight leader, mixed early birdies with costly mistakes on the front nine, Schott quietly kept himself in contention, refusing to be drawn into the chaos around him.

Speaking to TDT, Schott revealed a surprisingly calm mindset heading into the decisive day. "Honestly, not much was going through my mind," he said. "I slept really well, almost nine hours, which I didn't expect. I was just focused on doing my own thing and staying in the moment. I tried to stick with myself and keep it together out there, and I think we managed that pretty well."

Reed was eliminated at the first extra hole, leaving Hill and Schott to battle on. When Hill



Freddy Schott in action

found trouble off the tee at the second playoff hole and conceded moments later, Schott was left as the last man standing.

For the 23-year-old, the moment was almost overwhelming. "It's my first DP World Tour win, so I'm pretty much speechless," he told TDT. "I can't really put into words what it means yet. This is what I've dreamed of for so long, and today that

dream became reality. I'm just unbelievably happy."

Schott's victory, sealed with rounds of 65, 67, 70 and 69, marks a breakthrough moment in his young career and signals his arrival as a new contender on the DP World Tour. Alongside the trophy, he collected \$467,500 in prize money, capping a week that could prove transformative for the rest of his season.