

**Bahrain leadership greets Sri Lanka**

**TDT** | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his country's Independence Day.

HRH Prince Salman sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya.

**Kingdom shares grief with Congo**

**TDT** | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed sympathy and solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Congo following the Rubaya mine collapse in the east of the country, which resulted in the death, injury, and disappearance of dozens of people.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended Bahrain's condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, the Congolese government and its people, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured and safety for all.

**Easing access to renovation loans**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
**TDT** | Manama

An urgent proposal has been lodged in Parliament seeking to make it easier for beneficiaries of the Mazaya Housing Programme to secure renovation loans, by allowing a joint mortgage over the property title deed between Eskan Bank and the bank that financed the main loan.

The sponsors say Mazaya beneficiaries are being turned away when they apply for renovation finance because the title deed is already mortgaged in favour of the financing bank.

They argue the answer is to apply a joint mortgage system for the deed, a method they say is already used in other Eskan Bank housing finance products.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Khalid Buanaq, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Saloom, Hisham Al Awadhi and Mohammed Al Ma'arifi.

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# Strategic growth

Bahrain and Kuwait aim to strengthen ties and create shared opportunities

**TDT** | Manama

It is important to strengthen the strategic partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait to create opportunities that benefit both nations and their peoples.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised this during his meeting with the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The meeting took place as part of HRH Prince Salman's official visit to Kuwait.

HRH Prince Salman also met with the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

## Relations

He affirmed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries, underpinned by longstanding historical ties that continue to advance under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HH Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Royal Highness conveyed the greetings of HM the King to HH the Amir of Kuwait, along with his best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of Kuwait.

In turn, HH Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber conveyed his greetings to HM King Hamad and expressed his wishes for the Kingdom's continued progress and prosperity.

## Collaboration

HRH Prince Salman commended the advancement of Bahrain-Kuwait relations and multilateral collaboration, affirming the Kingdom's commitment to furthering the partnership across all levels.

Avenues to advance cooperation and issues of common



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister arrives in the Kingdom following an official visit to Kuwait



His Royal Highness with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with the Kuwait Amir, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

interest were discussed during the meeting.

HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad was also in attendance.

## Efforts

Both countries also reaffirmed efforts to advancing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in

## Threatening' aircraft carrier

# US warplane shoots down Iranian drone in Arabian Sea

**AFP** | Washington

A US stealth warplane shot down an Iranian drone that "aggressively" approached an American aircraft carrier as it sailed in the Arabian Sea yesterday, a US military spokesman said.

The incident occurred with the carrier about 500 miles (800 kilometers) from Iran's coast, and came on the same day that

American forces responded to Iranian boats that threatened to board a US-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

"An F-35C fighter jet from Abraham Lincoln shot down the Iranian drone in self-defense and to protect the aircraft carrier and personnel on board," US Central Command spokesman Captain Tim Hawkins said in a statement.

## Measures

The shootdown took place after the Shahed-139 drone "continued to fly toward the ship despite de-escalatory measures taken by US forces," Hawkins said.

He also confirmed a separate incident that occurred later Tuesday in which two Iranian boats and a drone approached the US-flagged ship M/V Stena Imperative "at high speeds and

threatened to board and seize the tanker."

An American destroyer - the USS McFaul - responded with support from the US Air Force and escorted the tanker, which is now "proceeding safely," Hawkins added.

US President Donald Trump has threatened military action against Iran and sent a flotilla of warships to the Middle East

following anti-government protests in Iran that were met with a deadly crackdown last month.

Trump has said he is hopeful Washington will "work something out" with Tehran, but also warned that "bad things would happen" if a deal was not reached, while Iran insists it wants diplomacy while promising a decisive response to any aggression.

**HRH Prince Salman attends Husain Ali Yateem biography launch**

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, outlined Bahrain's history across trade and industry, during which the Kingdom has achieved continued successes that have strengthened its regional and global standing. He emphasised that Bahraini business families represent a key foundation of the Kingdom's national progress and comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he attended yesterday the launch of the biography of Husain Ali Yateem and the inauguration of its accompanying exhibition. Husain is one of the leading figures in the Kingdom's commercial sector, referencing his significant contributions that have played a prominent role in supporting the national economy. The biography documents key milestones in Husain Ali Yateem's business career and his contributions to Bahrain's commercial sector. The launch event coincides with the release of two books detailing the life of Husain Ali Yateem. The books titled "Husain Ali Yateem: The Brighton Student, The Sage of Manama", and "Husain Ali Yateem: The Three Palm Trees, A Biography of Transformations", highlight his role in the economic transformations of Bahrain and the region, leading to social changes over the past century.

# The Supreme Council for Environment Leads National Oil Spill Response Exercise



TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), in collaboration with Bapco Refining — a subsidiary of Bapco Energies, Gulf Petrochemicals Industries Company (GPIC), and Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) — has successfully conducted 'Jahezya 2', a comprehensive oil spill response exercise at Bapco Refining's Sitra Wharf.

The exercise was carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of oil spill response plans and capabilities across all participating entities.

It aimed to strengthen operational readiness and enhance coordination between the Supreme Council for Environment and key participants in managing marine environmental incidents and safeguarding Bahrain's coastal ecosystems.

## Plan

Commenting on the execution of 'Jahezya 2', Amna Hamad Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive Officer of the Supreme Council for Environment, said: "The exercise is part of a comprehensive national plan to elevate preparedness and enhance the efficiency of oil spill response. This exercise supports the continuous development of the Kingdom's emergency contingency plans, with regular drills conducted to measure effectiveness and ensure that all parties are equipped to deliver a swift, coordinated, and effective response to environmental emergencies."

"Supervised by the SCE and conducted in coordination with the National Committee for Civil Emergency Management, the exercise simulated an oil spill scenario at Sitra Wharf, enabling stakeholders to assess re-



United for a comprehensive oil spill response exercise at Bapco Refining's Sitra Wharf



commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship.

## Participation

Eng. Yasser Abdulrahim Al Abbasi, Chief Executive Officer of GPIC, stated: "GPIC's participation in the joint oil spill response exercise 'Jahezya 2' reflects our steadfast commitment to supporting national efforts to protect Bahrain's marine and coastal environment. We remain dedicated to enhancing our practices to align with the highest international environmental standards."

Mr. Ali Al Baqali, Chief Executive Officer of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), expressed pride in Alba's participation in 'Jahezya 2', stating: "Since Alba's early operations in the 1970s, and with our long-standing reliance on maritime logistics through the Sitra marine terminal, protecting Bahrain's coastal and marine environment has been a core pillar of our sustainability ethos, and an integral part of our national responsibility."

porting protocols, containment strategies, and site rehabilitation procedures," Al Rumaihi added.

She also highlighted the SCE's commitment to strengthening national preparedness and enhancing technical and human capabilities in responding to oil spill incidents.

She also praised the robust collaboration between government and industrial partners, which is vital to safeguarding Bahrain's marine environment.

Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, Acting Managing Director of Bapco Energies and Chief Exec-

utive Officer of Bapco Refining stated: "The successful execution of 'Jahezya 2' represents a significant milestone in advancing the national environmental emergency management capabilities. This initiative is aligned with Bapco Refining's commitment to sustainability, operational resilience, and the protection of Bahrain's coastal and marine ecosystems."

"The exercise exemplifies a strong model of national collaboration, uniting the Supreme Council for Environment, Bapco Refining, GPIC, and Alba within an

integrated operational framework. Such cooperation is essential for strengthening technical and field readiness, enhancing interoperability, and upholding the highest standards of marine and coastal protection," Dr. Jawahery added.

## Priority

Dr. Jawahery also highlighted that regular response drills remain a top priority for Bapco Refining, as they reinforce communication, operational integration, and the reliability of national emergency infrastructure. The exercise was designed

with comprehensive objectives to validate emergency plans, improve coordination among organizations, and ensure full compliance with Bahrain's national oil spill response regulations, thereby enhancing overall preparedness and operational response capabilities.

He expressed his appreciation to the participating entities, highlighting that the collaborative efforts significantly enhances the efficiency and overall effectiveness of environmental emergency response, contributing to the Kingdom's ongoing

**Manager awarded over BD33,000 in unpaid wages and benefits**

**Rehab Mphammad**  
TDT | Manama

In February 2015, an office manager joined a private company under a one-year fixed-term employment contract with a monthly salary of BD 1,850, consisting of a BD 1,250 basic salary and BD 600 allowances.

Over time, the manager faced delays in receiving some of his entitlements, including the BD840 salary for August 2024, as well as wages for the period from September 2024 until August 5, 2025, the date his contract ended.

Due to the company's failure to pay these dues, the manager filed a lawsuit, appointing his lawyer, Abdulla Al Hubail, to represent him before the court.

The First High Labor Court reviewed the documents and evidence proving the company's obligations to the employee.

The lawsuit included claims for unpaid wages, annual leave compensation, end-of-service gratuity, and the issuance of a certificate of experience confirming his period of service.

# Relief measures

**Proposal calls for Ramadan vouchers, discounts, and one-month pause on government fees**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Ramadan support for low- and middle-income families has been put to Parliament in an urgent proposal calling for digital food vouchers, organised shop discounts and a one-month pause on selected government charges.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Muneer Seroor, Hanan Fardan, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Najeeb Al Kawari and Ahmed Salman Al Ahmed.

It says household bills rise

each Ramadan as spending on food, social duties and day-to-day needs increases, while pay stays the same and regular monthly payments still fall due.

In an explanatory note, the MPs argue that families are not asking for permanent waivers.

They want help aimed at the month itself, and a short spell of room to manage budgets without adding long-term costs to the public purse.

Under the plan, eligible households would receive digital Ramadan vouchers for essential goods, to be used on



MP Muneer Seroor

core food shopping during the month.

It also calls for government coordination with malls and retailers to run organised discounts on a defined list of basic items throughout Ramadan.

A further part of the proposal seeks a one-month deferral of deductions and a waiver of non-essential government fees, with no fines or interest.

Examples given include housing instalments, municipal fees and public parking charges.

The MPs also propose free entry for families in need to some government-run events during Ramadan, including selected ex-

hibitions and cultural or leisure activities.

Eligibility would be based on the formal classifications used by the relevant authorities for low- and middle-income groups.

The explanatory note says Ramadan's fixed timetable leaves little room for slow-moving lawmaking, and that the extra strain on household spending returns each year.

It argues the measures are time-limited, can be put in place through existing government systems, and are designed to avoid permanent budget liabilities.

## BD25,750 stolen from disabled man by nurse

**Hearing set for Feb 10**

**Rehab Mohammad**  
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has scheduled Feb-

ruary 10, 2026, for the hearing in the case of a nurse accused of exploiting the circumstances of a disabled man and unlawfully transferring large sums from his bank account.

According to the case de-

tails, the nurse, who was em- ployed by the victim, allegedly took his mobile phone without his knowledge during 2025 and used the "Benefit" banking application linked to his account.

She reportedly exploited the victim's electronic verification code to transfer funds in installments to her account in Bahrain, before

transferring the full amount to her account in her home country in Asia. Out of the total sum, BD3,500 was returned, while the remaining BD25,750 was not.

The victim's son testified that his father noticed large transfers from his account between September and October 2025,

prompting the family to investigate the matter.

The defendant admitted taking the phone and using the application to execute the transfers, taking advantage of the victim's disabled condition, and acknowledged that she did not return the remaining funds.

## Bahrain set to light up for Mid-Sha'ban festivities

**Ghadeer Alkumaish**  
TDT | Manama

With the arrival of the fifteenth night of Sha'ban, yesterday the streets of several areas in Bahrain come alive with lights and a festive atmosphere, as Shia Muslims commemorate the birth of Imam Mohammed bin Hassan Al-Askari, known as Al-Mahdi.

Shia communities across Bahrain mark this special night with a combination of religious devotion and joyful celebrations.

Streets are decorated; social and recreational activities are organized particularly for children and free food is distributed to express happiness and reverence for the blessed occasion.

Celebrations are prominent in areas including Barbar, Sitra, Al-Ma'ameer, Nuwaiderat, Bani Jamra, and other villages, and similar festivities take place in Gulf regions such as Al-Ahsa and Qatif.

"Gerga'oon" celebration began yesterday evening after Maghrib prayer and continued until around midnight.

Everyone wears traditional clothing, for both children and adults. As the sun sets on the fifteenth night of Sha'ban, children gather in groups, roaming the streets with Gerga'oon bags hanging around their necks, chanting traditional songs and folk rhymes.

They go door-to-door collecting nuts, sweets, money, and toys, highlighting the cultural and social heritage of the occasion.

Adults, meanwhile, spend the



A combination of religious devotion and joyful celebrations

night in matams and mosques, engaging in prayers, supplications, and religious gatherings.

### Joy

One child expressed his excitement, saying, "I wait for Gerga'oon so I can get a lot of money," reflecting the joy children experience from the abun-

dance of treats, gifts, and games. In some villages, additional entertainment such as horse riding is organized, adding to the festive spirit of the night.

The mid-Sha'ban night remains, for Shia Muslims, an occasion that combines worship with celebration, reflecting hope and social solidarity.

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## Focus on Jidhafs Market issues

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Jidhafs Market emerged as a central focus of parliamentary debate, reflecting broader concerns over traditional markets, livelihoods, and urban regulation.

The issue was raised during the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Representatives, held as part of the fourth ordinary annual term of the sixth legislative session.

MP Mamdouh Al Saleh raised strong objections to the continuation of measures affecting vendors in Jidhafs Market, warning that enforcement actions taken in the absence of realistic alternatives risked harming long established traders.

He described the market as one of the Kingdom's oldest commercial centres, suffering from structural deterioration and poor service conditions, including limited parking, inadequate sanitation, and weak ventilation.

Al Saleh stressed that vendors had not been offered practical substitute locations, calling on the government to conduct a detailed field study and site visit before proceeding further.

He further emphasised the market's social and economic importance, noting its ability to attract visitors from Bahrain and across the Gulf.

## Bahrain to host world's first International Date Observatory

Neethu V  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to take the global spotlight in agriculture and food security with the launch of the world's first International Date Observatory, a pioneering initiative that will make the Kingdom a hub for data, research, and trade insights on the date sector.

The Shura Council on Monday approved a draft law ratifying the agreement between Bahrain and the International Date Council, officially designating the Kingdom as the permanent home of the observatory.

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, His Excellency Wael Al Mubarak, said the observatory will collect, analyse, and publish data on date production and markets worldwide. "All data will be collected on the ground here in Bahrain, giving the Kingdom global exposure," he said.

The observatory is a first of its kind in the world with a centralised hub for date-related research, trade analysis, and policy guidance.

# Visa delays

MP warns prolonged processing times creating 'worsening social and humanitarian crisis'

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

In response to the government's claim that most family-joining visa applications for the spouses of Bahrainis are completed within five days, MP Jalal Kadhem told Parliament yesterday that some citizens were waiting months to bring in wives and children from a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

Kadhem said the delays had become "a worsening social and humanitarian crisis" and called for urgent action to protect citizens' rights and keep Bahraini families together.

He said the volume of complaints had turned MPs' offices into "service and follow-up offices", adding: "Our core role is oversight and legislation, not acting as a substitute for the government bodies concerned."



MP Jalal Kadhem

Kadhem said MPS were receiving daily calls and messages from citizens asking about the fate of their requests "in the absence of official replies or because of unjustified delays by some competent authorities".

Kadhem said he had submitted formal requests to the Ministry of Interior after meeting Bahraini families married to citizens of an Arab country, but that the files were still pending more than a year and three

months later.

He said the paperwork was complete and backed by documents issued by state bodies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the courts and accredited embassies.

### Memoranda

The lawmaker said government memoranda had stated that processing should not take more than five days in normal cases, with any extra time linked to administrative checks, but argued that 'the reality today shows a real and growing hardship for citizens'.

His remarks came after the government sent Parliament a written reply on an urgent proposal he submitted calling for faster visa and residency services for the spouses of Bahraini men and Bahraini women.

# MPs delay vote on debts and deportation bill

By two weeks

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

MPs voted yesterday to postpone for two weeks a draft Penal Code amendment that could hold up the deportation of convicted foreigners until unpaid debts are taken into account.

The proposal would amend Article 64 bis of the Penal Code issued by Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976.

Courts can currently order a convicted foreigner to be deported permanently or for a set period of at least three years.

### Rights

The draft would keep that power but add that creditors' rights, under the Implementation Law in Civil and Commercial Matters, must be taken into account before the deportation order is carried out.

The debate comes as MPS already have another route in play that is focused on debt recovery rather than criminal penalties.

On 5 November 2024, Parliament approved a proposal to add a new paragraph to Article 40 of the Civil and Commercial Implementation Law and referred it to the government to be drafted as a bill, a step presented in committee papers as offering wider safeguards for creditors through the law that governs debt collection.



**“Criminal deportation orders are carried out without the judge looking at civil debt rulings, leaving a gap that creditors feel once a debtor is removed.”**

— AHMED QARATA, PARLIAMENT'S SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER

It also argued that creditor safeguards already exist without linking them to deportation.

The government pointed to rules in the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law and the enforcement law that allow courts to issue urgent travel bans when there is a risk a debtor will flee.

Those same rules, it said, make clear that a travel-ban order does not stop a final deportation order from being enforced, nor does it limit the authorities' power to end residency or order a foreigner to leave.

### Rejection

On the floor yesterday, Ahmed Qarata challenged the committee's stance, saying it had "not got it right" in calling for rejection.

He argued that criminal deportation orders are carried out without the judge looking at civil debt rulings, leaving a gap that creditors feel once a debtor is removed.

Ahmed Qarata raised doubts about creditors' chances of recovery once a debtor returns home.



The authority had allocated more than BD1 million to facilitate the transition to the new system, despite existing financial pressures on the pension funds.

responsiveness to the situation and issued directives to expedite the disbursement of entitlements, particularly those relating to deceased beneficiaries.

## Where tradition meets metalwork

Ghadeer Alkumais  
TDT | Manama

"I loved this craft, and when you truly love what you do, passion turns into excellence," says Mousa Al-Sayegh, one of the Centre's notable artisans who has been working with metals for 15 years.



Al Quorasheia, a traditional coffee pot to the iconic Bahraini dallah, known as the "Al Quorasheia dallah" a traditional coffee pot which eventually inspired him to craft other metal items.

He recalls that the early days were challenging, but with dedication and practice, even the most difficult stages cutting, welding, and engraving became manageable.

Mousa works with both yellow and red copper, creating pieces that reflect his

skill and creativity.

In an interview with The Daily Tribune, he explained that prices range from BD300 up to BD1,500, reflecting the rising cost of raw materials and the extensive time required sometimes up to three weeks to complete a dallah.

### Majlis

He emphasized that crafting a dallah is far more demanding than other metal pieces, and that most buyers are enthusiasts, heritage collectors, or owners of majlis (traditional gathering rooms).

Al-Sayegh's journey began in jewelry making with his father, but he later chose to follow a related path in metalwork, establishing himself as a master of traditional Bahraini craftsmanship.

His story is a testament to how passion and dedication can turn a beloved craft into true excellence.

## MP pushes for faster pension payments

Fair treatment for fishermen and mosque rehabilitation discussed

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

MP Eman Showaiter delivered a comprehensive parliamentary intervention focusing on delayed pension payments, the regulation of fishermen's shelters, and longstanding obstacles to the renovation of historic mosques.

The remarks were made during the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Representatives, held as part of the fourth ordinary annual term of the sixth legislative term.



The lawmaker addresses regulation of fishermen's shelters following structural removals aimed at safeguarding livelihoods

Addressing social insurance matters, Showaiter spoke in support of proposals calling for the acceleration of pension payments, retirement rewards, and outstanding entitlements owed to retirees.

She referred to multiple complaints received from beneficiaries regarding prolonged delays resulting from the implementation of a new electronic system, which had led to procedural bottlenecks affecting retirees and,

more critically, the families of deceased contributors.

She noted that the concerns had been raised directly with the Chief Executive of the Social Insurance Organisation, Sahar Al Noaimi, who demonstrated

# Faith and culture unite

Thousands of Filipino devotees celebrate beloved 2026 Feast of the Sto. Niño at Sacred Heart Church

TDT | Manama

**M**ore than 2,000 devotees gathered for one of the most anticipated religious celebrations of the Filipino Catholic community in Bahrain, the Feast of the Sto. Niño at the Sacred Heart Church.

For Lorily N. Agustin, faith is best lived and celebrated with family.

The 50-year-old Office Manager at the Property Management Division of Dream Group recently attended the event, together with her husband, Carlo Jose Agustin, and their eight-year-old daughter, Regina Caily Agustin.

#### Worshippers

The Agustin family was among worshippers who brought their Santo Niño images to the Mass, where they were blessed as a sign of faith and devotion.

The gathering reflected both the strong faith of the Filipino community and its vibrant presence in Manama, bringing together families and friends in prayer, thanksgiving, and shared devotion.

The celebration opened with a Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Anthony Almazan, OFM Cap., Spiritual Director of Katolikong Pinoy sa Bahrain.

#### Devotion

After the Mass, devotees demonstrated their devotion



The gathering showcases Filipino faith and unity, bringing families together in prayer and thanksgiving



through vibrant parades, lively dances, and heartfelt prayers, filling the celebration with bright costumes, smiling faces, and a shared sense of hope and joy.

People of all ages participated actively, making the event a truly inclusive gathering that fostered both faith and fellowship within the community.

The Hermano and Hermana for this year are Mr. King and

Ms. Gabie, together with Ms. Cielo Teresita Layson and Ms. Lolita Cruz.

#### Gratitude

The Katolikong Pinoy sa Bahrain (KPSB) extended its heartfelt gratitude to them, as well as to all donors and supporters whose generosity made this year's celebration possible.

The community also acknowledged the invaluable service of

previous Hermano and Hermanas — Mr. Marlon and Mrs. Ednalin Gumarang (represented by Mr. Herman and Mrs. Alma Valenzona), Mr. Renne Subido and Mrs. Puralyn Fiel, Engr. Vic John Potot, Ms. Edel Alviz, and Ms. Margie Cristobal, along with all 2025 supporters.

Their devotion and service to the Senior Sto. Niño continue to serve as an enduring source of inspiration for the community.

The panel of judges for the Ati-Atihan, Dinagyang, and Sinulog Street Dance competitions included Michael C. Belano, Khadlyn Ramos, Ricardo Advincula, and Cecilia V. Ancheta.

Lumad Bisidakon, a group of 27 members, emerged as the champion in all the street dance categories, followed closely by the Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) cultural group and the All Guardian Bahrain Dance Group.

The participating cultural groups offered their talents as a form of prayer while preserving and celebrating Filipino cultural heritage.

Cecilia V. Ancheta, a freelance journalist and member of the panel of judges, remarked that all the performances were impressive, effectively depicting the transition from pagan traditions to Christianity as reflected in their presentations.

## Manama Central Market's 'worsening' condition raises Parliamentary alarm



Old Manama Souq  
Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

**T**he condition of Manama Central Market has emerged as a significant point of concern in Parliament, with members warning that prolonged neglect is threatening both economic activity and the preservation of the city's cultural heritage.

During the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Representatives, held as part of the fourth ordinary annual term of the sixth legislative session, lawmakers highlighted the urgent need for measures to revitalise the market and support local merchants.

Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata described the market as facing severe infrastructural and service related deficiencies that had rendered it largely unfit for efficient operation or movement.

He pointed to the absence of essential facilities, including designated truck parking areas and unloading zones, noting that these shortcomings continued to disrupt daily commercial activity and accessibility.

Qarata stated that the market had for years suffered from persistent failures in air conditioning systems, declining standards of cleanliness, and recurring sewage problems.

#### Delayed benefits and humanitarian visa cases tackled

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

**M**PM Jalila Al Alawi delivered a wide-ranging parliamentary intervention addressing unresolved employment files, social insurance reform, humanitarian residency cases, housing pressures in the Capital Governorate, and outstanding issues related to the fisheries sector.

The remarks were made during the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Representatives, convened as part of the fourth ordinary annual term of the sixth legislative term.

Al Alawi raised concerns regarding the electronic system of the General Organisation for Social Insurance, calling for substantive technical reform to ensure the timely disbursement of entitlements, particularly pensions owed to the families of deceased contributors.

She further emphasised the need for tangible changes in the organisation's investment practices to enhance long term sustainability and service efficiency.

Addressing residency and visa procedures, Al Alawi supported proposals calling for the acceleration of visa and residency services for spouses of Bahraini men and women.

## MP calls for suspension of vendor evictions



The area is experiencing parking problems  
Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

**M**PM Mamdouh Al Saleh delivered a measured parliamentary intervention addressing municipal administration, the condition of traditional markets, and regulatory gaps related to foreign labour.

The remarks were made during the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Representatives, held as part of the fourth ordinary annual term of the sixth legislative chapter.

In addressing the proposal calling for the suspension of eviction orders against vendors



**Al Saleh cautioned that proceeding with removals without providing realistic and functional alternatives would place undue pressure on traders and disrupt livelihoods.**

in Jidhafs Market, Al Saleh stressed that the market represented one of Bahrain's long established commercial and social centres.

He noted that the area was experiencing clear deterioration in infrastructure and services, in the absence of a comprehensive redevelopment plan capable of addressing long standing challenges.

He highlighted the difficult conditions under which vendors currently operate, citing the absence of organised parking, inadequate sanitary facilities, and a lack of proper ventilation and cooling.

# Seef Properties announces opening of SALT's latest branch at Al Liwan

Manama

Seef Properties has announced the opening of a new outlet for the renowned food brand SALT at Al Liwan, one of Bahrain's most vibrant lifestyle destinations. This opening comes as part of the company's ongoing strategy to enhance its tenant mix and attract contemporary dining concepts that enrich the visitor experience and cater to the expectations of diverse audience segments.

SALT is widely recognised for introducing an innovative approach to modern dining experiences, driven by its distinctive brand identity and its ability to blend social ambience with interactive culinary concepts.

With this latest addition, Al Liwan continues to strengthen its position as a fully integrated destination that brings together retail, entertainment and a diverse range of dining experiences. The destination has successfully attracted both local and international brands that contribute to creating a lively environment reflective of Bahrain's community spirit.

Commenting on the open-



ing, Mr Duaij Al Rumaihi, Chief Commercial Officer at Seef Properties, said: "The addition of SALT to Al Liwan represents a prominent step that reflects our vision of delivering refreshed experiences that go beyond the traditional concept of shopping centres. At Seef Properties, we are keen to select brands that offer a strong presence and genuine added value, enhancing the appeal of our destinations and enriching the visitor journey, while keeping pace with the growing food and beverage sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

He added: "Since its opening, Al Liwan has successfully established itself as one of the Kingdom's leading community destinations, supported by the diversity of its offerings, its open-air design and its interactive programmes that appeal to families, youth and visitors of all ages. We look forward to continuing to attract distinctive brands and pioneering experiences that meet the aspirations of the community."

On his part, Mr Hugo Goncalves, General Manager at The Collection, said: "We are proud

to open our new outlet at Al Liwan, which marks an important milestone in our expansion journey in Bahrain. We believe that Al Liwan's strong social identity aligns seamlessly with the spirit of the SALT brand, and we look forward to delivering experiences that bring people together and transform everyday moments into memorable ones."

The opening event featured a range of interactive activities organised in collaboration with "Khosh Fikra Media", alongside a pre-launch promotional cam-

paign during which SALT shakers were distributed across Al Liwan. Holders of the shakers were invited to redeem a complimentary slider at the new outlet, creating strong en-

Mr Duaij Al Rumaihi, Chief Commercial Officer at Seef Properties

gagement and notable buzz that reflected SALT's playful character and community-focused approach.

The opening of SALT forms part of a series of new additions that Al Liwan continues to attract, reaffirming Seef Properties' commitment to developing dynamic destinations that meet community expectations and further strengthen Bahrain's position as a leading cultural and tourism hub in the region.

With a vision to challenge conventional dining norms, SALT has grown into a symbol of contemporary food culture in the Gulf. With its expanding presence across the GCC, the brand continues to redefine dining as a social and lifestyle experience, transforming everyday spaces into exceptional culinary and community-driven destinations.



## Bahrain Clear waives account opening fees

Strengthening Market Accessibility

Manama

Bahrain Clear, a fully owned subsidiary of Bahrain Bourse, announced that it has waived account opening fees for both retail and institutional investors, effective from 1st of February 2026, a strategic move that aims at strengthening market accessibility. This enhancement is part of a broader market development initiative to enhance liquidity, attract new categories of investors, and strengthen the competitiveness

of the Kingdom of Bahrain's capital market regionally and globally, in alignment with Bahrain's Vision 2030.

By eliminating these fees, Bahrain Clear continues to strengthen its role in facilitating a more accessible and efficient investment environment. This decision also aligns with Bahrain Clear's broader strategy to enhance the overall investor experience, streamline market accessibility, and reinforce Bahrain's capital market infrastructure in line with international standards and global best practices.

Commenting on

the announcement, Abdulla Abdin, Chief Operating Officer of Bahrain Clear, said: "Our aim is to remove frictional barriers to create a more accessible experience for all investors. These efforts are designed to attract new pools of investors, both locally and internationally, while supporting the development of a more vibrant, liquid, and competitive capital market ecosystem in the Kingdom of Bahrain that is attractive to both local and international investment."

Bahrain Clear is a fully owned subsidiary of Bahrain Bourse with a disclosed capital of 5 million Bahraini Dinars, and a paid-up capital of 1 million Bahraini Dinars. Bahrain Clear is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a 'Clearing, Settlement, and Depository House' offering pre and post-trade services to investors. Bahrain Clear's service offering includes related services of securities transactions depository, clearing, settlement, central registry and registration.



### Bede Wins 1st Place in Padel Tournament



Bede Bahrain secured first place at the national Corporate Padel Tournament, held from 25 to 31 January, reflecting the company's commitment to encouraging an active lifestyle. Congratulations to Bede Bahrain team on this outstanding achievement!

### UK data regulator opens probe into X over sexual AI imagery

London, United Kingdom

deepfakes.

Britain's data regulator on Tuesday launched probes into Elon Musk's X and XAI to see whether the companies complied with personal data law when it came to AI chatbot Grok's generation of sexualised

circulation of such content raises serious concerns under UK data protection law and presents a risk of significant potential harm to the public," the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said in a statement.

It marks a wider UK probe over Grok, which is facing international backlash for allowing users to create and share sexualised pictures of women and children using simple text prompts.

Contacted by AFP, X did not immediately respond.

## India greets Trump trade deal announcement with joy, caution

AFP | Mumbai, India

Indian exporters hailed yesterday US President Donald Trump's announcement of a trade deal and pledge to slash

tariffs, capping months of uncertainty, while analysts urged caution citing a lack of clarity.

Trump said the agreement

came together after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to stop buying Russian oil over the war in Ukraine, adding that he would lower levies from 25 to 18%.

The US president also said New Delhi had agreed to purchase more than \$500 billion worth of American energy, technology, agricultural, coal and

other goods.

An extra 25% toll imposed over India's Russian oil purchases was also removed, a White House official told AFP.

As Washington struck deals with most governments since Trump unveiled sweeping tariffs in April last year, India had struggled to follow suit.

# Bahraini enterprises conclude participation in Gulfood Dubai

Secures more than 8 strategic international deals

● Supported by the Labour Fund "Tamkeen"

Manama

Eleven Bahraini enterprises concluded their successful participation at Gulfood Dubai, with the support of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", where they showcased their products to a global audience. The pavilion witnessed a high turn-out of visitors, including customers and potential investors to engage with the exhibitors and learn more about Bahraini made products in addition to notable opportunities and positive outcomes that will support their growth and strengthen their expansion into regional and global markets.

The Bahraini Pavilion at Gulfood Dubai showcased 11 Bahraini enterprises specialized in food manufacturing and distribution including: Al Salwa Meat Factory, Deniz Food Packing Factory, Kazerooni Brothers, Al Muharraq Pickles and Spices Factory, The Food Supply Company, Fermendiet Food, Early Riser Food, Quba Factory, Alkamel Factory, Amalfi Foods and Awal Dairy Company.



## China to ban hidden car door handles

AFP | Beijing, China

China will ban hidden door handles on cars from next year over safety concerns, phasing out the minimalist design popularised by Tesla.

The new rules could prompt carmakers globally to rethink vehicle-door designs as China increasingly positions itself as a standards-setter in the rapidly expanding international EV market, according to analysts.

The rules, announced by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Monday, will take effect from January 1, 2027, and require door handles to have both interior and exterior mechanical releases.

Chinese car models already approved for launch will have an additional two years to achieve compliance, the ministry said.

The new regulations will apply to all vehicles but will mostly impact EVs, which are commonly designed with hidden handles, and will "improve the level of automotive safety design", the ministry added.

Safety concerns have risen in China recently over sleek, aerodynamic car doors that reduce drag but are prone to losing operability in the event of a crash.

One high-profile incident occurred in October, when rescuers were shown failing to open the doors of a burning Xiaomi electric vehicle in the southwestern city of Chengdu.



A woman opens the door for a Tesla Model YL electric vehicle as a customer looks inside at a showroom in Beijing

ers were shown failing to open the doors of a burning Xiaomi electric vehicle in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

The driver, reported to be under the influence of alcohol, died in the crash.

Electronic or "flush" door handles were introduced with Tesla's 2012 launch of the Model S, later becoming popular with Chinese EV brands prioritising high-tech features.

Folding into the body of the car, such door handles provide a slight boost to efficiency by reducing drag while the vehicle is in motion.

Banning the handles is part of a pattern in which "China is

increasingly acting as a rule-setter rather than a rule-taker in EV and intelligent vehicle regulation," Bill Russo, founder of Shanghai-based consultancy Automobility, told AFP.

He pointed to areas including battery safety standards and remote updating as other examples of this.

Russo said he expects the new door regulations to be "echoed" abroad, particularly in Europe, "as Chinese vehicles and platforms increasingly set the baseline for global EV design".

The new rules stipulate that all doors except the tailgate "shall be equipped with a mechanical release exterior door

handle". Other rules will improve the visibility of interior handles, including by requiring permanent graphic markings, the ministry said.

The new rules on door handles mean that "for companies like Tesla, Kia and other legacy automakers that sell their vehicles in multiple regions, they'll need to decide whether to make the change to the China product only or implement it globally," Le said.

"It's likely a pain for quite a few automakers since some of them have global designs that will need to be reconciled," he added.



China is the world's largest EV market, and its dozens of brands have growing operations abroad. Statistics published last month showed that Chinese firm BYD last year sold more EVs than Tesla, overtaking the US industry pioneer in the annual category for the first time.

## India's Adani signs helicopter deal with Italy's Leonardo

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's Adani group and Italian defence firm Leonardo have signed a deal to manufacture helicopters in India, the companies said Tuesday, responding to New Delhi's "surging military demands".

The announcement comes

just days after Adani signed a deal with Brazilian plane maker Embraer to build aircraft in India.

The agreement with Leonardo is mainly for the manufacturing of advanced TrekkerM helicopters, the companies said.

"The collaboration will deliver phased indigenisation, ro-

bust maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities, and comprehensive pilot training," the statement added.

Adani said the Indian armed forces had projected a "demand for 1,000 helicopters in the coming decade".

Leonardo Helicopters' managing director Gian Piero Cutillo

said the deal would enable India to access "the level of modern technology and operational capability it deserves".

"This landmark partnership will establish a fully integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India, addressing surging military demands and propelling the nation toward

self-reliance in helicopter production," the joint statement said.

Regional security concerns loom large for India, which is making efforts to modernise its military hardware, especially after an intense four-day clash with arch-rival Pakistan in May last year, their worst standoff

since 1999.

Both sides claimed victory, each boasting of downing the other's fighter jets.

India has also eyed with worry its northern neighbour China, especially since a deadly 2020 clash between their troops.

## News in brief

◆ **British maritime** security firm Vanguard Tech said yesterday that a US-flagged tanker was approached and challenged by Iranian gunboats in the Strait of Hormuz, before continuing on its way. The Stena Impero was approached by three pairs of small armed boats belonging to the Revolutionary Guards while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, approximately 16 nautical miles north of Oman, the company said. The gunboats hailed it by radio, ordering the captain "to stop the engines and prepare to be boarded," but the ship increased speed and maintained course, the firm added, stressing it did not enter Iranian territorial waters. "The vessel is now being escorted by a US warship," Vanguard Tech said. Earlier, the British maritime security agency UKMTO reported the incident without specifying the nationality of the ship nor of the boats that approached it.



**US tanker approached by Iranian gunboats in Strait of Hormuz**

**Israel army's Arabic-language spokesman being replaced: military source**

for what are seen as provocative uses of colloquial Arabic, koranic verses and humour in his messages. Wawaya, 36, was born in Qalansawe, an Arab city in central Israel, and volunteered with the Israeli army at 24. As a deputy to Adraee, she was previously known online as "Captain Ella", the source said. "As a child, she watched Arab media, and out of curiosity discovered the Israeli and Zionist narrative", the source said. Around 20 percent of Israel's population are Palestinians or their descendants who remained in what is now Israel after its creation in 1948.

◆ **French President** Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that he was preparing to resume dialogue with Vladimir Putin nearly four years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine but stressed Moscow was not showing any "real willingness" to negotiate a ceasefire. Macron said last year he believed Europe should reach back out to Putin, rather than leaving the United States alone to take the lead in negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine that started with Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. "It is being prepared and so discussions are taking place at a technical level,"

Macron said Tuesday in response to a question during a visit to northeastern France.

**Macron says work under way to resume contact with Putin**



### SPOTLIGHT

## Dozen people entered Egypt from Gaza on first day of Rafah opening



Ambulances carrying Palestinian patients and war-wounded people, accompanied by relatives, get ready to leave the Gaza Strip for their treatment abroad through the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt

**AFP | Rafah, Egypt**

A handful of injured Palestinians and their companions entered Egypt from Gaza on Monday, the first day of a limited reopening of the Rafah border crossing, a source on the Egyptian side of the border told AFP.

"Five injured people and seven companions" crossed the border, the source said on Tuesday.

The reopening, demanded by the United Nations and aid groups, is a key part of the second phase of US President Donald Trump's truce plan for Gaza, where humanitarian conditions remain dire after two years of war.

The number of patients al-

lowed to enter Egypt through the crossing was limited to 50 on Monday, each accompanied by two companions, according to three officials at the Egyptian border.

An Egyptian health official told AFP on Monday that three ambulances had arrived with Palestinian patients who were screened upon arrival to determine which hospital to be taken to.

AlQahera News, citing Egypt's health ministry, reported that 150 hospitals and 300 ambulances had been prepared to receive Palestinian patients.

It said 12,000 doctors and 30 rapid deployment teams had been allocated to work with those transferred.

## Erdogan visits Saudi



**Turkish President Recep** Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Riyadh yesterday, Saudi media said, his first visit in more than two years. Erdogan is set to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during the visit -- his first to the kingdom since July 2023, which was part of a Gulf trip aimed at drumming up investments. There was no official indication of what the two sides would discuss. But Turkish state-run news agency Anadolu reported that they would discuss the "deepening cooperation" between the countries, as well as regional and global developments. It added that Erdogan would then travel to Cairo on Wednesday.

# Iran president confirms talks with US after Trump's threats

**Trump hopeful that Washington will "work something out"**

● **Qatar's foreign ministry** said diplomacy with Iran was "continuing very intensively"

● **Araghchi** said Tehran had lost trust in Washington

● **Iranian officials** have acknowledged more than 3,000 deaths during the unrest

**AFP | Paris, France**



**Motorists drive past a large banner displaying an image of the victorious revolution in Tehran**

Iran's president confirmed yesterday that he had ordered the start of talks with the United States, provided they were free of threats, after his counterpart Donald Trump suggested "bad things" would happen without a deal.

There has been no official confirmation from Iran on where the talks would be held, but an Arab official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP a meeting was likely to take place in Turkey on Friday, following diplomatic interventions by Ankara, as well as Egypt, Oman and Qatar.

The US leader has spoken of potential military action and sent an aircraft carrier group to the Middle East following anti-government protests in Iran that were met with a deadly crackdown last month.

Trump has maintained he is hopeful that Washington will "work something out" with Tehran, but also warned that "bad things would happen" if a deal was not agreed.

Tehran has insisted it wants diplomacy, while promising a decisive response to any aggression.

"I have instructed my Minister of Foreign Affairs, provided that a suitable environment exists -- one free from threats and unreasonable expectations -- to pursue fair and equitable negotiations," President Masoud Pezeshkian wrote in a post on X.

He added that the talks followed requests "from friendly governments".

On Tuesday, Qatar's foreign ministry said diplomacy with Iran was "continuing very intensively", in "tandem with all our neighbours".

Earlier, a senior official from the UAE said Iran needed to reach a deal and "rebuild their relationship with the United States".

"I would like to see direct Iranian-American negotiations leading to understandings so that we don't have these issues every other day," said presidential adviser Anwar Gargash.

Iran has repeatedly stressed that any talks should remain focused solely on the nuclear issue, rejecting the possibility of negotiations over its missile programme or defence capabilities.

**'Fair and equitable deal'**

In an interview with CNN broadcast on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran had lost trust in Washington as a negotiating partner but a deal on the nuclear issue remained achievable.

"So I see the possibility of another talk if the US negotiation team follows what President Trump said: to come to a fair and equitable deal to ensure that there is no nuclear weapons," he said.

### Thousands arrested

Iranian officials have acknowledged more than 3,000 deaths during the unrest, but insist that most were members of the security forces and innocent bystanders, attributing the violence to "terrorist acts".

The Human Rights Activists News Agency, a US-based NGO, says it has confirmed 6,854 deaths, mostly protesters killed by security forces, with other rights groups warning the figure is likely far higher.

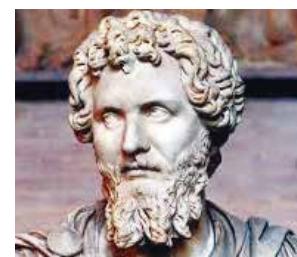
On Tuesday, the NGO said it had counted at least 50,235 arrests linked to the protests, with further detentions ongoing.



Iran has one of the largest proven oil and natural gas reserves in the world -- it holds the fourth-largest crude oil reserves and the second-largest natural gas reserves globally, making energy a key part of its economy and geopolitical role.

Roman Emperor Septimius Severus dies in Eboracum (York) in England, leaving the Roman Empire in the hands of his two quarrelsome sons, Caracalla and Geta

Coronation of Zhao Kuangyin as Emperor Taizu of the Song initiates three centuries of Song Dynasty dominance in southern China



First US Electoral College chooses George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice President

The Palestine National Congress appoints Yasser Arafat chairman of the PLO

X

TOP  
3  
TWEETS

01



Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement.

When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.

President Trump's leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. India fully supports his efforts for peace.

I look forward to working closely with him to take our partnership to unprecedented heights.

@narendramodi

02



It was an Honor to speak with Prime Minister Modi, of India, this morning... He agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela. This will help END THE WAR in Ukraine

@POTUS

03



The rule of law is a cornerstone of global peace & security. The key to friendly relations among the countries and regions of the world. And the beating heart of the UN Charter. It's time for all countries to recommit to the full respect of international law. To live up to the promises & obligations outlined in the Charter.

@antoniofuteres

# Teen swims four hours to save family lost at sea off Australia

The boy made it across four kilometres of ocean



The beach in Quindalup, Western Australia. Right, Austin Appelbee



● The youngster said he started heading for shore with just his life jacket

friends at school, and friends at my Christian youth," he said.

"I just said: 'Alright, not today, not today, not today. I have to keep on going'."

The youngster said he started heading for shore with just his life jacket but later abandoned it to swim unencumbered.

"I was very puffed out, but I couldn't feel how tired I was."

The boy said he was trying to think of happy things, at one point singing the "Thomas the Tank Engine" theme song.

"At this time, you know, the waves are massive, and I have no life jacket on. So anyway, I just keep swimming. I do breaststroke. I do freestyle. Survival backstroke."

**'Brave fella'**

When he reached the beach, the teen said he called emergency services and asked them to deploy boats, helicopters and planes, telling them: "My family is out at sea."

He had gone out kayaking and paddle-boarding on the water Friday afternoon with his family.

But the waves soon grew, flipping their boards and filling their kayak with water as they were dragged further out into the ocean.

"I was really scared," the young teen told reporters.

"I was just thinking in my head, like thinking I was going to make it through. But I was also thinking about all my

he's not going to make it with a life jacket on, so he ditched it,

and he swam the next two hours without a life jacket.

"I thought, mate, that is incredible," said Bresland, describing the boy's efforts as "superhuman".

Police inspector James Bradley said the boy's actions "cannot be praised highly enough".

"His determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings," he told the ABC.

The boy's mother, named in local media as Joanne, has also been praised for keeping her family alive during hours out at sea with her other son, 12-year-old Beau, and eight-year-old daughter Grace.

The boy's mother, named in local media as Joanne, has also been praised for keeping her family alive during hours out at sea with her other son, 12-year-old Beau, and eight-year-old daughter Grace.

"One of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make was to say to Austin: 'Try and get to shore and get some help, this could get really serious really quickly,'" the mother was quoted as saying.

"As the sun went down I thought: 'Something's gone terribly wrong here', and my fear was that Austin didn't make it," she said.

"Everything goes through your head."

A 13-year-old boy recounted yesterday how he swam for four hours through choppy waters off western Australia to get help for his family in afeat hailed by rescuers as "superhuman".

The boy, named in local media as Austin Appelbee, made it across four kilometres (2.5 miles) of ocean to raise the alarm after his mother and two younger siblings were swept out to sea.

He had gone out kayaking and paddle-boarding on the water Friday afternoon with his family.

But the waves soon grew, flipping their boards and filling their kayak with water as they were dragged further out into the ocean.

"I was really scared," the young teen told reporters.

"I was just thinking in my head, like thinking I was going to make it through. But I was also thinking about all my

he's not going to make it with a life jacket on, so he ditched it,

## China's BYD designing new model for India

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

China's BYD, the world's top electric car-maker, is preparing a new model for India as it looks to continue its rapid growth overseas, executive vice president Stella Li said yesterday.

Engineers at BYD's headquarters in Shenzhen, southern China, are working on the design,

she said, although the launch date remains unclear.

"India is a market for us but we need to put more effort," Li said at the World Government Summit in Dubai.

BYD, which began life as a battery company, sold 2.26 million electric vehicles last year, overtaking Elon Musk's Tesla as

the world's top manufacturer.

The Chinese company now plans to "introduce a different model fitted for India", Li said, without giving further details.

"My team is working on that, but there is still some work to do," she said. She denied a report that BYD is planning a car assembly plant in India.



## Ten men charged in France over rape of drugged five-year-old

AFP | Lille, France

their judgment or control their actions".

Following an investigation, the 10 men were charged between February last year and last month.

One of the main suspects killed himself while being held in pretrial detention in June last year, the prosecutor's office said, without providing further details on his identity.

The father has been indicted for "incestuous sexual assault" and "complicity in aggravated rapes and sexual assaults against his son", the prosecutor's office said.

He too was allegedly raped and assaulted during the same party, Lille prosecutor Samuel Finielz said.

The child is being looked after by his mother, from whom the father had separated before the alleged abuse.

The local Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace newspaper reported that at least one of the men -- a 30-year-old truck driver who was charged in January -- was not accused of being a participant but someone who received a video and did not report it to the authorities.

## Four out of every 10 cancer cases are preventable: WHO

AFP | Paris, France

Nearly four out of every 10 cancer cases could be prevented if people avoided a range of risk factors including smoking, drinking, air pollution and certain infections, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

New research published on the eve of World Cancer Day estimated that 38 percent of all new cancer cases globally in 2022 -- 7.1 million -- were linked to preventable causes.

The large team of researchers, which included the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, looked at 30 factors that increase the risk of getting cancer.

Tobacco was the leading offender, responsible for 15 percent of all new cancer cases, followed by cancer-causing infections with 10 percent and drinking alcohol with three percent, according to the study published in the journal Nature Medicine.

Other risk factors included being overweight, a lack of exercise, UV radiation and being exposed to threats such as asbestos while working.

"This is the first global analysis to show how much cancer risk comes from causes we can prevent," senior study author Andre Ilbawi, the WHO's team lead for cancer control, said in a statement.

Almost half of all the preventable cases were lung, stomach or cervical cancer.

Lung cancer was linked to smoking and air pollution, while stomach cancer was largely linked to a bacteria called Helicobacter pylori.



Representative image

Cervical cancer cases were overwhelmingly caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), which vaccines are effective against.

Men were far more likely to get preventable cancer, with 45 percent of new cases compared to 30 percent for women.

And nearly a quarter of all preventable cancer cases among men were from smoking, compared to 11 percent for women.

To address the problem, the researchers called for countries to adopt strong tobacco control measures and alcohol regulation, and to vaccinate against common infections such as HPV, improve air quality and ensure safer workplaces, healthy diets and exercise.

"If we want to reduce the cancer burden we also need to reduce the noncommunicable disease (NCD) burden -- it is indisputable that tobacco, alcohol, ultra-processed food and air quality are major drivers of multiple kinds of cancer," said Katie Dain, CEO of the NCD Alliance.

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

**Capital Governor Praises Kanoo Family's Role in National Development**

His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, commended the Kanoo family for their historic contributions to Bahrain's economic and charitable sectors. Receiving Mr. Tariq Abdul Latif Kanoo and Dr. Faisal Khalid Kanoo, the Governor described the Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group as a pioneering model for strategic public-private partnerships. The meeting focused on the Governorate's programs for youth empowerment, volunteerism, and sustainable community development. Both parties explored collaborative avenues to enhance services for citizens and residents through joint development projects.

**Muharraq Governor Visits RCSI Bahrain to Strengthen Strategic Partnerships**

His Excellency Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Governor of Muharraq, visited the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Bahrain to review the university's contributions to healthcare, education, and sustainability. Accompanied by dignitaries and Bahrain Red Crescent Society Secretary-General Mubarak Al-Hadi, the visit reinforced a 2022 memorandum aimed at tackling health and environmental challenges. University President Professor Sameer Otoom highlighted RCSI Bahrain's significant national impact, noting that the institution contributes \$91 million annually to the economy. Key projects presented included a new solar energy initiative, the Bahrain Oncology Center research hub, and a campus expansion project.

**Shura Council Committee Discusses New Law to Regulate Health Tourism**

The Shura Council's Services Committee, chaired by H.E. Dr. Jamila Mohammed Redha Al Salman, has reviewed a proposed law aimed at regulating health tourism in Bahrain. The legislation seeks to establish a comprehensive framework to coordinate institutional efforts, impose quality standards on health providers, and enhance transparency. A key feature of the proposal is the introduction of a specialized health tourism visa, designed to streamline procedures, attract foreign investment, and solidify the Kingdom's status as a regional healthcare hub. The draft law, consisting of ten articles, emphasizes global professional standards and sectoral competitiveness.

**Special Investigation Unit Receives Turkish Human Rights Delegation**

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) hosted a high-level delegation from the Human Rights and Equality Foundation of the Republic of Turkey at its headquarters today. The visit is part of an official mission to the Kingdom of Bahrain aimed at understanding the functions of national human rights bodies and exploring avenues for international cooperation. During the meeting, SIU officials provided a comprehensive overview of the unit's specialized competencies. Discussions focused on the SIU's critical role in upholding justice, ensuring legal accountability, and maintaining human rights standards within the Kingdom's legal framework.

**Bahrain Airport Company Launches Annual Safety Week**

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) has launched its annual Safety Week under the theme "Human Factors in Aviation Safety." Held at the Mövenpick Hotel, the initiative aligns with regulatory requirements for airport accreditation and aims to instill a robust safety culture across all operations. Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Janahi, Acting CEO of BAC, emphasized that human performance—including awareness and decision-making—is as critical as technology and infrastructure. He noted that the event fosters shared responsibility and positive professional behavior among the airport's workforce. The opening session featured technical presentations on operational challenges and risk management by the Airport Safety Team and the Arab Petroleum Supply Company (APSCO).

**SCW and Bahrain Association of Banks Discuss Women's Empowerment in Finance**

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) held a high-level meeting with the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) to bolster strategic cooperation within the financial and banking sectors. The session focused on aligning joint efforts to support Bahraini women and expand their professional contributions to the Kingdom's economy. During the meeting, both parties reviewed a range of specialized initiatives and programs designed to enhance female participation in leadership and technical roles. Discussions emphasized the importance of continuous capability-building to ensure Bahraini women remain competitive and influential in the rapidly evolving banking landscape.

**PAACT Launches 20th Anniversary Celebrations with 'Winter Surprise'**

The Palakkad Arts and Cultural Theatre (PAACT) officially kicked off its 20th-anniversary celebrations with a 'Winter Surprise' event held in Sakhir. This program marks the beginning of a year-long series of cultural and social activities planned for the landmark jubilee. The event was presided over by President Mr. Ashok Kumar and inaugurated by Chief Coordinator Ms. Jyothi Menon. In her address, Ms. Menon described the 20-year milestone as a significant achievement, praising PAACT's sustained contributions to Bahrain's artistic and literary landscapes. General Secretary Mr. Sivadas Nair delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the strong emotional bond within the PAACT family. The program was supported by Rajas Productions and coordinated by a team including Ladies Wing President Ms. Sajitha Satheesh and Secretary Ms. Usha Suresh. Assistant Secretary Mr. Ravi concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

**Stay connected**

with the latest community events, diplomatic meetings, and local gatherings across Bahrain.

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# CAMPUS

## RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and Muharraq Governorate Highlight Collaboration on Community and Sustainability

Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medical University of Bahrain welcomed to its campus His Excellency Mr Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, Governor of Muharraq, accompanied by His Excellency Brigadier General Jassim Mohammed Al Ghattam, Deputy Governor of Muharraq, and a distinguished delegation of community leaders and prominent figures from the Muharraq Governorate, alongside Mr Mubarak Al Hadi, Secretary General of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society.

The delegation was received by Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, together with members of the University's senior leadership and academic team. The visit reflected the importance of continued cooperation between academic institutions and national stakeholders in support of the Kingdom of Bahrain's priorities across education, healthcare, sustainability, and community wellbeing.

The engagement is built on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2022 between RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and the Muharraq Governorate, which aims to encourage community participation in addressing health and environmental challenges and to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across social, health, and

economic dimensions.

During the visit, Mr Mohamed Abdulla, Head of Estates and Support Services, presented key institutional initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These included the University's solar farm, supporting environmental sustainability; the development of a new academic building to enhance teaching and learning capacity; the establishment of a research centre at the Bahrain Oncology Centre; and the Healthy University framework, which promotes

wellbeing across the campus and the wider community. The delegation also received an overview of the University's support for Bahraini students through nationally supported scholarship pathways, alongside community engagement initiatives, including charitable partnerships, student volunteering in collaboration with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society and the impact of public health initiatives and children's educational programmes such as the Diabetes Mobile Unit.

On this occasion, His Excellency

Mr Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, Governor of Muharraq, affirmed that the partnership between the Muharraq Governorate and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain reflects a shared commitment to engaging the local community in addressing health and environmental challenges. He noted that strengthening frameworks for continued collaboration supports pathways towards sustainable development, delivering positive social, health and economic impact across the Kingdom of Bahrain, and expressed his pride in the University's vital role in advancing these efforts.

Mr Mubarak Al Hadi, Secretary General of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, said: "Collaboration between educational institutions and humanitarian organisations is essential to developing socially responsible and community-engaged leaders. Our partnership with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain provides meaningful opportunities for students to contribute to health and humanitarian initiatives, while supporting broader efforts to address com-

munity needs in Bahrain and beyond."

Professor Sameer Otoom highlighted: "One of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's key strategic objectives is to support initiatives that contribute to community service and development. We are proud that approximately 51% of our workforce are Bahraini professionals, alongside the provision of dedicated scholarships for Bahraini students. A 2024 PwC report estimates the University's annual contribution to the national economy at USD 91 million, with this impact expected to grow following the completion of the campus expansion."

He added, "We are honoured to welcome His Excellency Mr Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai and Mr Mubarak Al Hadi to the University, with their visit underscoring the importance of sustained institutional collaboration in advancing sustainability, community engagement, and the development of healthcare education and research. Through partnership with national stakeholders, we continue to support Bahrain's long-term development goals."

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain is committed to supporting education, healthcare, and sustainability by working collaboratively with the local community and partners across Bahrain.



Muharraq Governor and Red Crescent Society Secretary General Visit RCSI Bahrain

## Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School Celebrates Annual Sports Day 2025–26 with Grandeur and Athletic Spirit

Manama

Bahrain Indian School (BIS) commemorated its Annual Sports Day 2025–26 with vibrant energy, athletic excellence, and community spirit, marking a significant milestone in the school's commitment to holistic education and youth empowerment.

The event was graced by Mr Adnan Ebrahim, Bahrain's celebrated national badminton player, as the Chief Guest. A distinguished Arab and GCC Champion, Mr Ebrahim is also a global ambassador for the Badminton World Federation's 'I Am Badminton' integrity campaign, promoting ethics and fair play in sport across the Arab world. The programme commenced with a formal reception of the Chief Guest, followed by the Bahrain National Anthem, a felicitation ceremony, and the ceremonial lighting of the torch and torch relay. A spectacular March Past showcased discipline and teamwork, leading into inspiring addresses by the Principal, Mr Saji Jacob. The Sports Captain administered the oath, reinforcing the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and fair competition. The athletic meet was officially declared open with a balloon release, symbolising aspiration and unity.



Students from Grades 3 to 12 participated in a wide range of track and field events, including 100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m races, obstacle races, relay events, bean bag balance races, and dashes designed to encourage agility and endurance.

A colourful callisthenic display by Grades 3 to 5 added visual vibrancy and showcased coordinated physical expression.

Chief Guest Mr Ebrahim en-

couraged students to pursue

excellence, discipline, and integrity in both sports and life. Directors Mr. Himanshu Verma and Ms. Ritu Verma congratulated the winners and appreciated the students for displaying true sportsman spirit, enthusiasm, grit and great determination.



BIS's Annual Sports Day 2025–26 stood as a powerful celebration of talent, teamwork, resilience, and the enduring spirit of sportsmanship, reinforcing the school's vision of nurturing well-rounded global citizens.

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE

AERZEN BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39107091 or HUBERTUS.SCHRAGE@AERZEN.COM

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

Imperium Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33442020 or BENSEN-GEORGE@YMAIL.COM

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

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667769 or Ashrafraou29@gmail.com

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

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

KING HAMAD AMERICAN MISSION HOSPITAL N.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748885 or CATHERINE@AMH.ORG.BH

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

SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE),GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697979 or hr@7hills-group.com

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

MURSY NOOR LADIES TAILORING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37146869 or MURSY6569@gmail.com

AKBAR AHAMAD COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GRAPHIC DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36675632 or MRMJANNATUL@GMAIL.COM

AVERO SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34501443 or MOONLANDBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

PETROJANA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34688884 or LOAI@PETROJANA.COM

DECON EXPERT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33464410 or justjavaid@gmail.com

AKM CONSTRUCTION CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39474084 or MAJITH500@GMAIL.COM

ARAB SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR YARD CO. ) ASRY has a vacancy for the occupation of CRANE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or duajimalkhalifa@ASRY.NET

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

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or Government@mre.co

AL-NAMAL CONTRACTING & TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

diva hotel has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or BUAHMED101@HOTMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

4W SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or Government@mre.co

LUQMAN ALHADDAD CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BLACKSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730091 or SWEETLOQ@YAHOO.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

THE HOOK HUB STRATEGY & DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33603507 or ZALEEXMUHM@GMAIL.COM

AKRAM CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010

ANCELANSI REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

AWAL STORAGE FOR READYMIX MATERIAL AND BLOCKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700077 or ANEED\_M2@HOTMAIL.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

clean and green services has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39922434 or cleangreenbh@gmail.com

OAZA PERFUMES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39665286 or E.M.Z2009@HOTMAIL.COM

AWAL HOTELING (SHERATON BAHRAIN) COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533533 or jurrien.bongers@sheraton.com

FAINOS ADVERTISING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736777 or venusadvertising@live.com

FIN SOUL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007661 or FINSYSSOLUTIONS.BH@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

BLUE BEACH RESTAURANT & GRILLS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(KEBAB), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3331321 or M590104624@GMAIL.COM

JAHECON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1724111 or JAHECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

ALABRAAJ RESTAURANT BSC has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

YASMINA FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325071 or SJA-LI241976@GMAIL.COM

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

ALMOAYYED SCAFFOLDING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

CAAGLO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER (GARAGE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34161844 or INFO@ALZYME.COM

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

RAMO COMBINED FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36574942 or RS0926563@GMAIL.COM

panjur partha cafeteria has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33378446 or UAGB@OUTLOOK.COM

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

SARAZAAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34690477 or ADNAN.SCONSULTANCY-BH@GMAIL.COM

REGAL MAINTENANCE & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE),GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34690477 or ADNAN.SCONSULTANCY-BH@GMAIL.COM

S U K H B CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34213088 or SUKH.BH.786@GMAIL.COM

SERAX CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33697714 or NADA.SERAXCO@GMAIL.COM

ZENON CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100058 or ZENON-MANAMA@GMAIL.COM

STAR ONE PAINTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33851089 or Usmanham-eed1732@gmail.com

ANCELANSI REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020030 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

KALINGA CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34032468 or MOONSTAR.BH@GMAIL.COM

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

MAMA MANWA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39501060 or BH\_1996@ICLOUD.COM

LIGHTNING GATE SMITHERY & WELDING has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39112276 or ALADRAJ40@GMAIL.COM

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@jssbahrain.com

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

NAPCO NATIONAL COMPANY FOR GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17762222 or TONY.ABIRAMIA@NAPCOGROUP.COM

KETA JUICE & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33477665 or IBRAHIMKHALIL3645@GMAIL.COM

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

AL JAZEERA SECURITY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36945444 or info@jssbahrain.com

YASMINA FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325071 or SJA-LI241976@GMAIL.COM

TAUNSA GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33057576 or SALMANO-HAIR61@GMAIL.COM

High Atlantic Ocean Laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37771035 or farsanabahrain@gmail.com

AIMA FIX 4 U MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37247750 or SHAHID58RB2@GMAIL.COM

DESCON OF HEAD OFFICES & MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34485519 or Desconservicesco@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

SARENS NASS MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR (FORK-LIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 1725522 or yousif@anass.net

SAMI ULLAH CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37092324 or SAMIULLAHSEALBADSHAH@GMAIL.COM

ZESTINO PIZZA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33762829 or ADEEL.XEIRICH@GMAIL.COM

MIDAL CABLES B.S.C has a vacancy for the occupation of GENERAL MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832832 or EBTEHAL@MIDALCABLE.COM

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

MAI CLOTHING AND PERFUMES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39789787 or HAMODD19952009@HOTMAIL.COM

DAILY FRESH DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33194444 or FGROUP.BH@GMAIL.COM

DUST BUNNY CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-PACKER(BOXES-HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38307899 or AZIZKHAN@GMAIL.COM

OZNI INTERNATIONAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or OZNI.BH@GMAIL.COM

applicants can contact 17448936 or regal@rmswl.com

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER( CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742858 or hussain@mercurygulf.com

ARAIAB FACTORY FOR INDUSTRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36816550 or MIRALNYMHLAALDYN@GMAIL.COM

SATNAM ELECTRICAL & AIR CONDITIONING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC (AIR-CONDITIONING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35589307 or SATNAM.ACWORKSHOP@GMAIL.COM

SAAD ALNEFAIE CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER( CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33616676 or saadnefaieco.bh@gmail.com

SPOT FREE LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39528706 or MUHDIM-RAN81@GMAIL.COM

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

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

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

# Classifieds

## VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

ALHAMD 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

JUFFAIR BOULEVARD HOTEL & SUITES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475656 or HR@JUFFAIRBOULEVARD.COM

PROFESSIONAL WORLD GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39360722 or MRAAY89@GMAIL.COM

TASNEEM DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURE has a vacancy for the occupation of AGRICULTURE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590078 or HANI.ALNOSAIF@GMAIL.COM

ENERGOPROJEKT ENTEL A.D. BEOGRAD BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (SITE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38090384 or gsavic@ep-entel.com

MOHAD PERVEZ COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMADPARVEZ00900@GMAIL.COM

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

ABU FARES PAPER INDUSTRIES WORKSHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886420 or HEBA.FARES235@GMAIL.COM

AHMED FATHY CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33332561 or FATI-MAOFFICE2014@GMAIL.COM

AFLAA ALSARI VEGETABLES AND FRUITS W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34515011 or FR6699@GMAIL.COM

AIZAZ CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33424410 or ABDULRAHMAN10511@GMAIL.COM

SUCCESS GUIDE SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66701118 or mohammedsayednabil@gmail.com

AL ZAKARIA ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39217931 or AZAMZAKARIA@HOTMAIL.COM

First Choice Cleaning Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36491411 or choicefirst82@gmail.com

AIMZ EDUCATION SUPPORT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33319736 or ATPILLA1963@GMAIL.COM

ABAR ALI RESTURENT. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33320115 or abdullah@ajawadsarhan@gmail.com

VAL TECH CAR PARKING COMPANY - FOREIGN BRANCH COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33320115 or abdullah@valtech.com.kw

MACHENITOR WATER BOTTELING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33319933 or NAFIS.ALMAN- SOORI@GMAIL.COM

Almoayed Air Conditioning W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayedcg.com

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

SEA MECH CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39098982 or SAMYTHANNENDRAN@GMAIL.COM

JASIM ALKULAIB CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77131005 or hr@alkulaibgroup.com

GREEN STAR ASRAR AIR CONDITIONERS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33645871 or RAKHA813@GMAIL.COM

AHMED OMAR TRADING & CONTRACTING EST. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258545 or admin@ahmedomer.com

AHMED OMAR TRADING & CONTRACTING EST. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258545 or admin@ahmedomer.com

MANKARAN CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580668 or MANKARAN05@GMAIL.COM

One Laundry W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39163294 or ONELAUN-DERY@GMAIL.COM

STAR ROSE CONTRACTING AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3988023 or chshafiq581@gmail.com

SYED EISA FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33951135 or TM5308736@GMAIL.COM

ATTAA KHAN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66602131 or FKHANKHAN31@GMAIL.COM

EURASIA COSMETICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39009991 or eurasiafoodsmarket@gmail.com

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

ALJUMEIRAH GATE LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39686163 or albahjagreen@gmail.com

SAAD ALNEFAIE CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR FOR BUILDING, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33616676 or saadalnefaieco.bh@gmail.com

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345051 or info@magicshinebh.com

SAAD ALNEFAIE CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER-CONSTRUCTION, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33616676 or saadalnefaieco.bh@gmail.com

ALDAAYSI DISTRIBUTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783399 or aldaaysiholding.com

FRESH SPOT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39115638 or freshspot@gmail.com

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

ISMAEEL ALI CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38947878 or ISMAEELJANAHIBH@GMAIL.COM

MUSTACHE & BEARD SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642117 or BINTSE-HAIL@HOTMAIL.COM

HESTON MANPOWER COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17537742 or KHADIJA.HUBAIL@HESTON.NET

SOUTH GATE CONSTRUCTION AND CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77061717 or YKHALFAN@GMAIL.COM

JEREH GROUP MIDDLE EAST BAHRAIN Branch of a Foreign Company has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA CONTROL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

NOVOTEL BAHRAIN AL DANA RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77904677 or ZHONGSHU.GAN@JEREH.COM

DEVES GATE CAR WASH MANUAL has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17746466 or khald.alawadi@gulfotelbahrain.com

SEVEN CRAFT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BOAT MAINTENANCE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77177771 or 7craftacc@gmail.com

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

SEVEN CRAFT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77177771 or 7craftacc@gmail.com

ALDYAR EL HELWA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33053503 or ALBUDRALBUDR@GMAIL.COM

ALQOWS AC WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17774550 or ALKAWS@HOTMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35414424 or sagaburger@gmail.com

QAMAR AL JAZEERA INTERIOR DECORATION

32264628 or SHAHZADIQBAL7150@GMAIL.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 AAMISHSOHAIL61@GMAIL.COM

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BAHRAIN has a vacancy for the occupation of DIR. OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17610920 or alzaimoora@thesbsb.com

KABAB FUSION RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39505505 or MALAMMADI@GMAIL.COM

AYRA MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33783843 or BFCC.BUFARHAN@GMAIL.COM

QAMAR AL JAZEERA REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33858745 or QAMARALJAZEERA18@GMAIL.COM

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

CHAI HAMZAH has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33730222 or JAFFAR\_1987@HOTMAIL.COM

BLUE BERRY ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33345415 or AT23AFTAB@HOTMAIL.COM

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# Shaikh Saif secures second place at IAME Series Round 9 claiming three consecutive podiums in a row



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's young karting star Shaikh Saif bin Hassan Al Khalifa continued his impressive championship charge with another second place podium finish at Round Nine of the IAME Championship, held at the renowned Al Forsan Kart Track.

Widely regarded as the most technical circuit on the IAME Series calendar, the Al Forsan layout demands precision, control,

and consistency. Shaikh Saif rose to the challenge, driving the circuit in an exceptionally strong and mature manner, showcasing both skill and race intelligence to secure the podium result. Representing Xcel Motorsport, Shaikh Saif delivered a composed and determined performance to take his third podium in a row and his second podium of the weekend, reinforcing his status as one of the standout drivers in the championship.

The result keeps the Bahraini driver firmly in second place in the championship standings, with the final race coming up next week, setting up a thrilling conclusion to the season. Speaking after the race, Shaikh Saif said: "This one's dedicated to my team and my teammates. Thank you Xcel Motorsport for believing in me and supporting me. I'm really feeling good and can't wait for what's to come – let's go!"



With momentum building and confidence high, Shaikh Saif now turns his focus to the final round of the championship, aiming to finish the season on a high and continue Bahrain's strong presence on the international karting stage.



# San Siro prepares for last dance with Winter Olympics' opening ceremony

Legendary Milan stadium will likely host its final major international event on Friday



A general view of San Siro Stadium

One of the world's most famous stadiums is set for a last hurrah on the international stage with the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics at the San Siro on Friday.

Long considered one of the temples of football, the San Siro will introduce the Milan-Cortina Games to the world with a ceremony featuring an athletes' parade held in all four "clusters" of a sprawling Olympics being held across a vast area of northern Italy.

But the iconic old ground is on course to be replaced by a shiny new arena after a century of hosting Inter Milan and AC Milan matches.

In September the local government of Italy's economic capital approved a 197-million-euro (\$229.5 million) sale of just over 28 hectares (70 acres) of public land, on which the San Siro sits, to the two clubs.

Inter and AC Milan will abandon the iconic ground once their new stadium is built, the idea be-

ing that it be finished in time to host matches at the 2032 European Championship to be jointly held in Italy and Turkey.

The two Milan clubs -- European football royalty now both owned by American investment funds -- are planning the construction of a modern 71,500-capacity stadium to the immediate west of the current San Siro, on an area currently occupied by matchday car parking and a local park.

Once the new ground is constructed, San Siro will be almost entirely demolished to make way for new parkland, office space and entertainment facilities.

The current stadium no

longer meets European football governing body UEFA's requirements to host major events and was denied the 2027 Champions League final.

That means Friday's ceremony will likely be the last major international sporting event hosted at a stadium which is so beloved it is nicknamed "Football's La Scala" after Milan's historic opera house.

## Milanese icon

The San Siro was inaugurated with a derby match between Inter and AC Milan on September 19, 1926 and over the years it has hosted World Cup and European Championship matches, as well as dozens of fixtures for the

Italian national team.

Initially owned by AC Milan before being bought by the city in the 1930s, with Inter making it their home in 1947, the San Siro has been renovated several times, with the last major works being carried out ahead of the 1990 World Cup.

That restyling, which added a third tier to the stadium, gave the San Siro the futuristic look -- with spiralling external columns and a striking red roof -- that still catches the eye over three decades later.

The San Siro also doubles up as one of Italy's premier concert venues, where some of the world's biggest pop music stars have strutted their stuff since



Beyond football, the San Siro is a legendary concert venue. Bob Marley was the first artist to perform there in 1980, followed by icons like The Rolling Stones, Beyoncé, and Taylor Swift

reggae icon Bob Marley became the first in 1980.

From the Rolling Stones and David Bowie, right up to contemporary superstars Beyoncé and Taylor Swift, the stadium attracts massive crowds for summertime performances from international hit machines and local favourites like Grammy-winning rock band Maneskin.

The new stadium should be built as scheduled by the end of 2030, but with a final project a long way from being approved by the city, nothing is certain, especially with local elections coming next year.

Politicians on the local and national stage have repeatedly expressed anger at the idea of knocking down a symbol of Milan and in 2023 succeeded in torpedoing a previous attempt by the clubs to build a new stadium on the same site.

# Coach Gambhir under pressure as India aim for back-to-back T20 triumphs

India opens against the USA, but Pakistan's boycott has marred the group stage

● India begins T20 World Cup defence at home

AFP | New Delhi

**H**olders India will enter the T20 World Cup as firm favourites on home soil, but coach Gautam Gambhir faces intense scrutiny under the weight of expectation from a billion-plus fans.

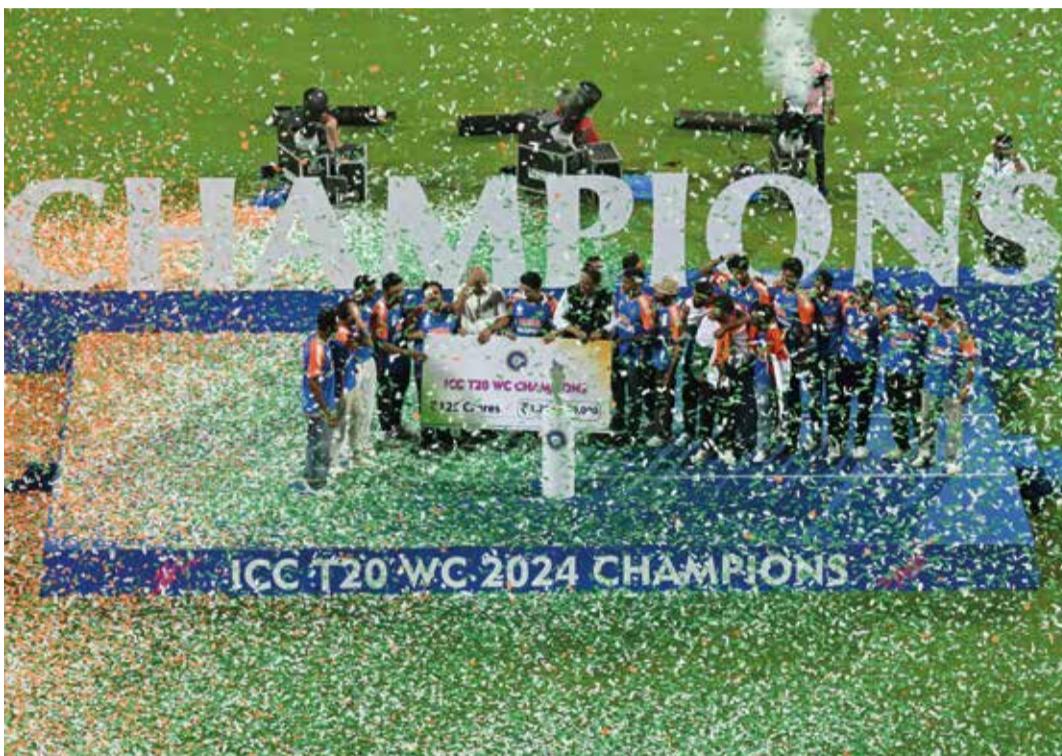
India, led by Suryakumar Yadav, will begin their campaign against the United States at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

It will round off the opening day of the tournament's 10th edition, which has been marred by a chaotic build-up.

Bangladesh last month refused to play in India, citing security concerns, and were kicked out to be replaced by Scotland.

This week the Pakistan government followed up by barring its team from playing against India in Group A on February 15 in Colombo as a protest at Bangladesh's treatment.

The boycott has robbed the group stage of the biggest rivalry and money-spinning spectacle, but leaves India in pole position to top the group.



India celebrate winning the T20 World Cup in 2024 (file photo)

Pakistan should also progress to the Super Eights in second place, barring a slip-up against the Netherlands, Namibia or the USA, who make up the five-team group.

Top-ranked India reinforced their credentials as tournament favourites with a recent 4-1 win over New Zealand -- their ninth successive T20 bilateral series

triumph. But home defeats in other formats have put Gambhir's high-profile job on the line.

India were beaten 2-0 by South Africa in a Test series last year and New Zealand won an ODI series 2-1.

Gambhir, 44, replaced Rahul Dravid as coach after the T20 World Cup triumph in 2024 and

has lost 10 out of 19 Tests.

## Swashbuckling Sharma

Indian media suggested the former batsman and World Cup-winner may lose his job if India fail in the 20-team tournament.

"He should stay away from social media till the World Cup and focus on the team," India

**N**ew opener Abhishek Sharma has revitalized India's powerplay with a massive 194 strike rate, recently smashing the nation's second-fastest half-century in just 14 balls against New Zealand

batsman Ajinkya Rahane told website cricbuzz.

It will be India's first T20 World Cup since the retirements of then captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli following the final victory in Barbados in 2024.

India first won the title under Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Johannesburg in 2007 but will have to defy history to win again, with no team having previously gone back-to-back.

Abhishek Sharma has replaced Rohit in the role of fearless opener, with the swashbuckling

batsman scoring at a punishing strike rate of more than 194.

The 25-year-old left-hander is in form. He smashed India's second fastest 50, off 14 balls, against New Zealand.

Captain Suryakumar ended a batting slump with three half-centuries in the same series while Ishan Kishan's comeback has added muscle to the batting order.

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar told broadcaster JioStar that India were full of confidence.

"Even if there is a small stumble, this team knows it can recover, regroup, and continue marching towards victory," said the former India captain.

The bowling attack, led by Jasprit Bumrah, has new talent in the shape of medium-pacer Harshit Rana.

Bumrah, Rana and Arshdeep Singh form the seam attack, with Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube as the all-rounders.

"It's a luxury that we have a handful of bowlers that can bowl in every situation," bowling coach Morne Morkel said.

"Part of the thinking ... was to look at different sorts of combinations. We don't want teams to have set plans against us."

Spinner Washington Sundar and batsman Tilak Varma are recovering from injury, but both are expected to be fit.

## Mixed fortunes for Bahrain in Sharjah opener

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain's teams experienced a mixed start to the eighth Arab Women Sports Tournament yesterday in Sharjah, with moments of promise punctuated by setbacks across the kingdom's events.

In basketball, Al Hala Women fell 68-55 to Iraq's Ghaz Al Shamal in their opening Group match. Despite the loss, Bahrain's representatives stayed competitive for much of the game, keeping the scoreline close against a side strengthened by two professional players. The Bahraini champions showed energy and structure throughout but were unable to close out the contest in the final minutes.

Al Hala will look to rebound today when they face Tunisia's Al Amal at 11am, a crucial encounter against one of the tournament's favourites. Basketball remains one of the event's marquee competitions, with seven clubs from the UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, and Bahrain vying for the title.

The tournament, running from February 2 to 12, features 63 teams from 16 countries competing across nine sports. Bahrain's delegation of 65 athletes, coaches, and administrators includes four clubs: Al Hala in basketball, Riffa in shooting and archery, Budaiya in taekwondo, and Busaiteen in fencing. The event is organised by Sharjah Women's Sports under the patronage of Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi.



Seema Hassan in action for Al Hala

There were brighter moments for the kingdom as well. Ritaj Araoud secured bronze in the women's individual foil fencing event yesterday, giving Bahrain its first medal of the tournament and a boost of confidence as other disciplines get underway.

Bahrain's teams have arrived aiming to replicate their strong 2024 performance, when the kingdom topped the medal table with 13 golds among a 23-medal haul. The athletes' early showing -- close contests and podium

finishes alike -- reflects both the promise and challenges of competing at a high regional level.

Basketball, archery, and fencing all began yesterday, with shooting scheduled to start on Thursday and taekwondo next Tuesday. Other sports in the programme include athletics, table tennis, rowing, and volleyball.

Bahrain are seeking to build on a highly successful showing at the previous edition of the tournament in 2024, when they topped the medal table with 13 gold medals as part of a 23-medal haul, underlining the kingdom's growing stature in women's sport across the Arab world.

while shooting starts on Thursday and taekwondo next Tuesday. Other sports on the programme include athletics, table tennis, rowing, and volleyball.

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## Faraj wins thrilling OFMC Stableford at Awali Golf Club



TDT | Manama

**M**ohamed Sultan Faraj emerged as the winner of the OFMC Stableford competition at Awali Golf Club, capping a closely fought day of golf with a best score of 38 points.

While international stars were in action at the Bahrain Championship at the Royal Golf Club, Awali's leading players battled for honours in a contest where fine margins proved decisive.

Faraj's round included a gross 72, the lowest of the day, underscoring his consistency and control under pressure.

The tournament was sponsored by the OFMC, one of Awali Golf Club's longest-established social groups, staging its second full club competition with a wide prize pool.

The event also welcomed guests from the Royal Navy, who played the course for the first time and joined members at the prize presentation.

Prizes were presented by club captain Steve Newall, tournament director Nathan Sundaresan and OFMC president Nick Davis, with Mohamed Al Zayed finishing runner-up on 37 points after countback in a tightly packed leaderboard.

# Seven Heaven for King's Cup Holders

**Al Khaldiya, Al Ittifaq Through to Last Eight**



Ismail Abdullatif, 39, savours Al Khaldiya's big win

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

**H**TM The King's Cup round-of-16 continued yesterday with emphatic victories for holders Al Khaldiya and Al Ittifaq, bringing the quarter-final picture closer to completion.

At Khalifa Sports City, Al Khaldiya began their title defense in style. Under Tunisian head coach Lassad Al Chabbi, the league leaders put second-division side Al Hala to the sword with a 7-0 win. The scoring burst began in the third minute when Saiffeddine Bouhra capitalised on poor defending

from Al Hala, firing home from a tight angle after Anas Ouahim's run set him up. Just three minutes later, Joel Beya doubled the lead following a turnover in midfield, with Bouhra turning from scorer to provider to set up Beya for a clinical finish.

The holders continued to dominate. Nizar Al Othmani added a third in the 27th minute with a sensational long-range strike that left goalkeeper Salman Omar helpless. A subsequent handball on Hamza Alattar allowed Beya to convert a penalty in the 32nd minute, completing his brace and putting Al Khaldiya firmly in command. Al Hala were denied

a penalty of their own before haltime when a high boot from Ayman Dirani on Alattar went unpunished after a VAR review.

Before the break, Gleison Moreira made it 5-0 following a clever one-two with Ouahim, skipping past the keeper to finish. Moreira added his second in the 52nd minute, while veteran Isameel Abdullatif sealed the rout in the 80th minute with a composed strike after twisting past defenders.

Meanwhile, at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Stadium, ten-man Al Ittifaq caused an upset by defeating Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League side Sitra

2-0. Both goals were brilliantly worked team efforts, with Abdulrahman Al Ahmadi and Sangalwa finding the net as the second-division leaders dominated possession and limited the attacking opportunities of Ali Abdulkajeed's Sitra side.

With these results, six of the eight quarter-finalists have now been determined, joining Bahrain Club, Al Shabab, Muharraq, and Riffa. The last two spots will be decided today when Budaiya face Al Ahli at Khalifa Sports City, and A'ali take on Al Najma at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Stadium, with both matches kicking off at 7pm.

## Marquez fastest on opening day pre-season test



Ducati Lenovo Team's Spanish MotoGP rider Marc Marquez steers his bike

**AFP** | Sepang, Malaysia

**R**eigning world champion Marc Marquez came in fastest on the opening day of pre-season testing in Malaysia after the Spaniard clocked 1 min 57.018sec at the Sepang circuit yesterday.

The 32-year-old Ducati Lenovace, who missed the final four races of last season after suffering a collarbone injury at Indonesia's Mandalika circuit, surged top of the timesheets on his 18th lap to replace Italy's Fabio Di Giannantonio who finished a fraction behind in 1 min 57.274sec.

Maverick Vinales completed the top three after the Spaniard secured 1 min 57.295sec on his 27th lap on a clear and scorching day in Sepang.

Marquez's younger brother Alex Marquez topped the

morning session's practice, but finished the day fourth fastest.

The day belonged to his seven-time world champion sibling, who opted for short stints on track having just returned from injury.

"We did short runs, 2-3 laps to avoid extra fatigue. I knew with experience if you use too much energy having come back from an injury, you can suffer a lot," Marquez said.

"I try to take care of my physical condition because if I feel well, the speed is there," added Marquez, who added the aim is to feature at the 2026 season opener in Thailand next month.

The morning session witnessed 2021 champion Fabio Quartararo crashing and requiring a medical check, but the Frenchman was able to return for the afternoon session and finish in the top 10.

## One week to go before Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 kicks off at BIC

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

**F**ormula 1 fans are only a week away from getting the incredible opportunity to see motorsport's top flight in action in its highly anticipated 'new era', with F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 just around the corner at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East will be hosting two three-day sessions of the F1 tests starting next week – first from 11 to 13 February and then from 18 to 20 February.

With a host of transformative new regulations and an 11th team joining the grid in the upcoming 2026 FIA F1 World Championship, the six days of testing will be the first chance for F1 enthusiasts in Bahrain and around the world to witness in person the next generation of F1 cars in action ahead of the start of the new campaign.

Fans will be able to access the tests on the last two days of each three-day session, including on 12 and 13 February and then again on 19 and 20 February. Tickets cost BD10 per day for adults and BD5 per day for children.

There is also free access on both open days of the second Bahrain test on 19 and 20 February for all who purchased their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 during



BIC's Early Bird promotion. This means that fans who had bought tickets before 8 September last year will have access to both public days of the second test.

To buy tickets or to get more

information, visit the circuit's

official website [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com)

or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

BIC is also offering exclusive hospitality packages during testing, featuring the best views of the action along with incredible, five-star cuisine and beverage selection throughout the day. The hospitality lounge is located right above the F1 pit lane.

Full details on BIC's hospitality offerings are available on [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com). The packages can be booked online or by calling +973-17451086.

This year's F1 pre-season tests

will be the sixth consecutive year that Sakhir has been selected as the venue for F1's most important preparation period ahead of the new world championship. Testing was first held in Bahrain in 2009 and then again in 2014. They have since taken place in Bahrain each year from 2021.

The event will bring together all 11 F1 teams and it will be the first opportunity for fans in Bahrain and worldwide to see the brand new Cadillac F1 Team, who are set to join McLaren, Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull Racing, Williams, Haas, Racing Bulls, Aston Martin, Alpine, and Audi in motorsport's top flight.

The pre-season tests will pave the way for the start of the new season, which will kick off a couple of weeks later with the Australian Grand Prix weekend, scheduled for 6 to 8 March. F1's star drivers and teams will then

continue their battles with races in China and Japan, before returning to the Kingdom for the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 from 10 to 12 April – the fourth round of the 24-race world championship.

Tickets to the grand prix weekend are selling fast, with seats in both the Main Grandstand and Turn 1 Grandstand already 95 per cent sold. Tickets are also selling out quickly for the Beyon Grandstand, University Grandstand, and Victory Grandstand.

To buy tickets or for more information on F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026, the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, or on other events and activities at BIC, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com), call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit on social media.