

Bahraini enterprises conclude participation in Gulfood Dubai

Secures more than 8 strategic international deals

Supported by the Labour Fund “Tamkeen”

Manama

Eleven Bahrain enterprises concluded their successful participation at Gulf Food 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 Bah-



raini 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, Fermentiet Food, Early Riser Food, Quba Factory, Alkamel Factory, Amalfi Foods and Awal Dairy Company.

During the event, more than eight strategic deals were successfully signed with international companies from the GCC, India, Lebanon, Mauritania, Canada and Sri Lanka. The event also facilitated the development of strategic business relationships with global firms, while providing exposure to cutting-edge innovations, advanced solutions, and the rapidly evolving global trends shaping the food and beverage sector.

This participation emphasizes the importance of the support

Tamkeen provides to Bahraini enterprises to showcase their products and services abroad through various exhibitions and events, enabling them to develop and grow beyond Bahrain and gain access to investment and export opportunities.

Tamkeen's support for the Bahrain Pavilion at Gulfood Dubai aligns with its strategic priorities, which focus on areas with the highest impact on the economy and Bahrainis. It also reflects Tamkeen's role in shaping career pathways through programs that connect skills with opportunities in the labor market, adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and financing, and implementing programs that enhance the Fund's efficiency and effectiveness by developing internal mechanisms and continuously strengthening governance.

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 rescu-



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.

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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.

Musk merges xAI into SpaceX in bid to build space data centers

San Francisco, United States

Elon Musk has announced that his rocket company SpaceX will take over his artificial intelligence outfit xAI, as he seeks to raise billions of dollars for his science fiction-worthy outer space projects.

Musk wrote on the SpaceX website Monday that the merger further entwining his business interests would create “the most ambitious, vertically-integrated innovation engine on (and off) Earth”.

He cited capabilities in “AI, rockets, space-based internet, direct-to-mobile device communications and the world's foremost real-time informa-

tion and free speech platform”.

SpaceX has set the pace in the space launch market, offering reusable rockets that vastly reduce the cost of putting satellites into orbit and itself owning the largest satellite constellation, Starlink.

The company is set for a stock market listing this year widely expected to be the biggest in history, with The Financial Times reporting the initial public offering (IPO) could come in June and aim to bring in \$50 billion.

Musk called SpaceX's absorption of xAI “not just the next chapter, but the next book” in what he said was the companies' “mission” to “make a sentient sun”.

Russia says India has not said it will halt oil purchases

Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin said yesterday it had not received any indication from India that it would stop buying Russian oil following the announcement of a trade deal with US President Donald Trump.

Trump said he had struck a deal to reduce tariffs on India and that Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi had promised to stop buying Russian oil over the war in Ukraine.

India's purchases of Russian oil -- discounted due to Western sanctions complicating logistics and cutting off markets -- have surged since Russia launched its full-scale military offensive on Ukraine in February 2022.

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.