

BIC set for National Race Day excitement with touring cars and motorbikes tomorrow

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), hosts an exciting double-header tomorrow with the fifth round of National Race Day this 2025/2026 season. | P16

Rubio says US ready to meet Iran but must discuss missiles

THE DAILY tribune

Spin-heavy Pakistan hit form, but India boycott risks early T20 exit

NBB innovation programme 2025 concludes with winning team announced

Source of pride

HM King and HRH Prince Salman exchange congratulations on BDF 58th anniversary

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, described the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) as a source of national pride for the Kingdom.

His remarks came in response to a cable of congratulations sent by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, marking the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

HM the King congratulated HRH Prince Salman and all members of the BDF.

He also expressed his appreciation for their dedicated efforts in enhancing the BDF's capabilities and performance through advanced training and modern armaments.

His Majesty highlighted their role in ensuring the highest levels of readiness and the effective deployment of advanced systems and technologies to safeguard the Kingdom and its civilisational achievements.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister conveyed his congratulations to His Majesty on behalf of all BDF members.



The BDF promotes regional and international peace and security in partnership with the armed forces of other nations, in line with His Majesty's comprehensive vision.



bers renew their pledge of allegiance to His Majesty, reiterating their commitment to remain devoted soldiers and to continue offering dedication and sacrifice in service of the Kingdom.

National Guard

His Majesty also received a cable of congratulations from His Highness General Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard.

HH Gen. Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa said that the BDF, with the efforts and follow up of HM King Hamad, has developed into a strong and steadfast institution with ongoing advancement, serving as the protector of the Kingdom, its sovereignty and achievements.

He added that His Majesty's continued support has enabled the BDF to fulfil its role and contribute to international coalitions that uphold legitimacy and justice in support of security and peace.

Efforts

In response, HM the King sent cables of thanks to H.E. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed and HH Gen. Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa, in which he commended their efforts in developing the BDF at all levels.

His Majesty ratifies Bahrain, arbitration court agreement

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ratified and issued Law (6) of 2026 approving the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, following its approval by the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

The Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, was signed in the Kingdom of Bahrain on June 17, 2025.

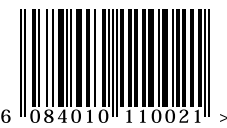
Cuba could face humanitarian collapse: UN chief

AFP | United Nations

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned that Cuba risks humanitarian "collapse" if it is denied oil, his spokesman said yesterday as the US threatens to cut energy supplies as part of a pressure campaign.

Communist Cuba has been under a US trade embargo for decades.

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Royal promotions

HM King Hamad promotes 623 new BDF officers

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has issued a Royal Order promoting 623 officers of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) across various military ranks.

The promotions coincide with the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the BDF.

HM the King also issued a Royal Order awarding medals to 168 officers and 680 non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel in recognition of their dedicated service.

On the occasion, His Excellency Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, conveyed to the promoted and honoured personnel the congratulations of HM King Hamad and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister.

They extended their best wishes for continued success and further contributions towards the nation's progress and prosperity.



H.E. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed

H.E. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed issued orders promoting 3,411 non-commissioned officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians across various ranks and grades within the BDF in conjunction with the founding anniversary.

He also ordered the awarding of medals to 185 officers and 1,141 non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel in recognition of their service and dedication.

Motivation

The BDF Commander-in-Chief congratulated all officers, personnel, and civilians on their promotions and honours, stating that the recognition

should serve as motivation to further strengthen their commitment to duty.

He urged them to carry out their national responsibilities with courage and determination in defending the homeland, safeguarding its development achievements, and supporting its civilisational progress.

H.E. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed also expressed hope that the honours would inspire continued contributions to the advancement and prosperity of the BDF, wishing them success under the leadership of HM King Hamad.

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# Innovation drive

**MSMEs make up 93% of active businesses**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

## HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman attends final stage of Fikra seventh edition

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, has emphasised the importance of consolidating creativity and innovation that drive progress within government work-streams, and improve the quality and efficiency of government services.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman was speaking as he attended yesterday the seventh edition of the Government Innovation Competition, 'Fikra'.

He highlighted the Kingdom's commitment to launching programmes and initiatives that promote innovation and encourage competitiveness across the public sector, in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and in accordance with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The winning concepts were selected through a rigorous evaluation process involving a



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, along with senior officials and distinguished guests

Ministerial Committee, chaired by HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman, as well as a public vote.

The winners included Takamul by Captain Abdulla Waheed Almannaei and Alaa Ahmed Albalooshi from the Ministry of Interior; Smart Employment Advisor by Jalal Jaafar Maki from the Ministry of Legal Affairs; and Tameni by Ali Husain Darwish, Maha Majeed Almaarej, Narjes Yusuf Sabt, Fatema Ateya Alaradi from Government Hospitals.

His Highness congratulated the winners, commending the innovative ideas showcased throughout the competition and

their potential.

He noted that the ideas presented reflect a strong culture of initiative, responsibility, and commitment to contributing to national development through innovative government solutions.

### Efforts

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman commended the participants' efforts, and wished them success in implementing their ideas.

The Minister expressed his appreciation to those in charge of Fikra, noting their continued commitment to developing the competition and ensuring

the achievement of its winning concepts.

In line with efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the winning initiatives, the ideas will be presented to the Government Executive Committee chaired by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as a step towards their adoption and implementation by the relevant government entities in line with approved procedures.

The Ministerial Committee was chaired by HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman, and consisted of HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy; HE Yousif

bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs; HE Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health; HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, Minister of Cabinet Affairs; HE Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; HE Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education; and HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Fikra contributes to advancing public services in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the 2023–2026 Government Programme.

Bahrain has 85,700 active business registrations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for 93.4 per cent of all active registrations in the Kingdom, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The figures show the scale of the MSME base across ownership, jobs, business growth, and trade.

Bahraini owners account for 75.1 per cent of the registrations. Women own 34.6 per cent of the businesses, while youth ownership stands at 27.5 per cent.

### Jobs

On employment, the data shows MSMEs account for jobs for almost half of Bahrainis working in the private sector.

The number of Bahrainis employed in micro, small and medium-sized firms reached 46,300 by the second quarter of 2025, according to the Information and eGovernment Authority, up 4.3 per cent in 2025 compared with 2024.

The number of businesses also changed by size category as firms moved into larger groups.

# High distinction

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The Embassy of Italy in Manama is proud to announce the conferment of the decoration of Commander of the Order of the Star of Italy upon H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

The distinguished honor was presented by H.E. Andrea Catalano, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain, during a special reception held on Tuesday, February 3rd, at his residence.

The ceremony brought together esteemed guests and underscored the deep cultural ties and enduring friendship between Italy and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bestowed by the President of the Italian Republic, this high distinction recognizes H.E. Shaikh Khalifa's exceptional dedication to fostering intercultural dialogue and his pivotal role in advancing cooperation between the two nations in the fields of art, history, and heritage preservation.

The event took place amid a period of remarkable diplomatic momentum between Rome and Manama.

### Milestones

Recent milestones — including the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during the Gulf Cooperation Council, the historic official visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to Rome, and the private meeting between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa



H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with H.E. Italian Ambassador Andrea Catalano

and the Italian Premier — have significantly strengthened bilateral relations.

This decoration stands as a shining symbol of that growing partnership.

Ambassador Andrea Catalano remarked: "It is a privilege to present this decoration during such a vibrant period for our bilateral relations. Following the path traced by our leaders, H.E. Shaikh Khalifa has been a true bridge-builder on the ground. His vision for the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities resonates with Italy's commitment to preserving history, proving that culture is a powerful engine for diplomatic growth.

"This award celebrates a shared passion for beauty, knowledge, and the universal language of culture. Culture is the most compelling instrument at our disposal to foster mutual understanding and meaningful dialogue, and tonight the Republic of Italy formally acknowledges His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin

Ahmed Al Khalifa's visionary leadership in strengthening cultural cooperation between Bahrain and Italy."

### Honor

Upon receiving the honor, H.E. Shaikh Khalifa expressed his gratitude to the Italian Republic and its people, stating: "It is a great pleasure to receive this recognition from the Republic of Italy, a key partner for Bahrain in the field of cultural diplomacy. Both countries are blessed with rich cultural heritage, spanning from antiquities to contemporary art. We have been fortunate to showcase many of these treasures in Bahrain, while also being present in Italy through various forums.

"One such occasion was our participation in the Venice Biennale last year, where Bahrain was awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Pavilion.

"This distinction reflects the importance of our work and underscores the value of cultural exchange."

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Council to resolve waste bag issue

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

The Southern Municipal Council has announced that it will convene an extraordinary session on Monday dedicated to addressing the waste bag distribution issue, following growing concerns raised by council members over delays and disruption to a core municipal service. Members stressed that the problem cannot be left without resolution and requires urgent intervention.

During the council's eleventh meeting of the fourth legislative term, municipal member Mohammed Hussain Darraj highlighted persistent complaints regarding slow processing of services and overlapping responsibilities between several authorities involved in waste management.

He stressed that citizens are often left without clear answers, with requests being rejected or delayed due to uncertainty over jurisdiction, adding to public frustration.

Southern Municipal Council member Ali Al Shaikh focused on the need for clearer coordination and stronger on-site supervision.

Rising burdens

MPs seek public debate on government measures to address escalating living expenses and business costs

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Parliament has asked for a public debate to question the government on how it is dealing with the social and economic strain linked to rising prices, after recent changes that MPs say have pushed up household costs and business bills.

The request calls for an open discussion in Parliament to press ministers on their plan for coping with higher living costs and inflation-linked pressures.

The MPs behind it named MP Hassan Ibrahim to speak first.

"This request comes against the backdrop of a range of fast-moving economic changes," Ibrahim said, pointing to fuel price changes, higher electricity and water bills, and increased labour market fees, along with rising costs for some key inputs used by businesses.

**Impact**

He said the impact was being felt in day-to-day life and in running costs across the economy.

"These changes have pro-



duced cumulative, direct and indirect effects that have reached various aspects of daily living," he said. "They have affected the ability of many national institutions, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to continue and to meet their contractual and financial obligations."

Ibrahim said steps with a wide financial reach should come with clear support to ease the hit on households and firms.

"Any decisions with wide financial impact should be accompanied by supportive policies and clear mitigating measures," he said, adding that these

“These changes have produced cumulative, direct and indirect effects that have reached various aspects of daily living.”

— MP HASSAN IBRAHIM

steps should take account of different incomes and levels of spending power.

**Protection**

MPs want the government to explain how it plans to strengthen consumer protection as prices rise, and to spell out how fuel prices are reviewed and how decisions are weighed against people's ability to pay.

They are also asking what will be done to deal with older contracts and tenders that have become harder to deliver because costs have risen, and what support is planned for contractors and suppliers facing new bills

that were not expected when agreements were signed.

The request presses for details on support for the private sector as operating costs rise, including steps meant to help national firms avoid financial trouble, keep the job market stable and prevent any knock-on effect on citizens or service quality.

It also asks about projects already under way, including how higher energy and service costs are affecting financing and whether contracted firms can keep work moving.

**Clarity**

MPs want clarity too on the role of the Labour Fund Tamkeen in rolling out support schemes and new initiatives to help firms cope with changes in energy and service pricing.

Another key point is the middle class, which MPs describe as heavily exposed to repeated rises in living costs while not always covered by support aimed at lower-income groups. MPs want the government to explain its plans.

Drugs found hidden in dried fish

● Two suspects held

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

A man and woman were intercepted at Bahrain International Airport after customs officers became suspicious of their suitcases.

Using a sophisticated method to conceal narcotics among dried fish and shrimp, the defendants attempted to pass through customs.

Upon inspection, officers discovered drugs hidden in six transparent bags inside the fish and shrimp, as well as in clothing, making them difficult to detect.

The defendants denied the charges before the High Criminal Court (First Circuit), which scheduled a verdict date while ordering the defendants to remain in custody.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendants with importing and possessing narcotics for the purpose of trafficking in 2025, in violation of the law.



TENDER INVITATION

Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C. invites specialized companies to submit their proposal for the following:

Tender Ref.	Tender Title	Tender Document Fee	Initial Bond Fee
ADM /01/2026	Appointment of a Customs Clearance Agent	BHD 100 (Non-refundable)	BHD 1000
Tender Publish Date			05 FEB,2026
Last date for purchasing tender documents			09 FEB 2026 - 01:00PM
Tender Closing Date			18 FEB 2026 - 01:00PM
Bids opening Date			To be advised

Brief Description:

Delmon Poultry Company (B.S.C.) hereby announces the opening of a tender for the provision of medical insurance scheme for all its employees. The insurance contract will start on 15 March 2026 for one year. The total number of individuals covered under this policy, including employees and their dependents (spouses and children), is 318.

Guidelines for submission of bids:

- Collect the tender documentation from the Purchasing Department in the Delmon's Poultr Company Head office located in Hamala (Building 701 – Road 101 – Block 1012 (starting from Thursday 05. Feb.2026 until Monday 09. FEB.2026 (during office hours 8 am till 1pm).
- The initial bond should be in the form of a Certified cheque, Bank Guarantee (or as specified in the tender documents).
- Documents to be enclosed with the bids:
  - A copy of the commercial registration certificate for the current year
  - Bahrainisation Certificate issued by the Ministry of Labour for (Bahrain-based companies only).
  - All the documents submitted with the tender must be stamped with the company's official seal.
  - Proposal envelops (With technical and commercial offers + required documents) must be sealed and have the title of the tender, and must be addressed to the Head of Purchasing.
  - Department and deposited in the tender box at the same address mentioned above.
  - This Tender Invitation is considered supplementary to the tender documents. In case of any discrepancy between the Invitation and the tender document, the tender document prevails.
- The submitted bids will be evaluated by the company's management in coordination with the appointed insurance broker.
- For more details, please contact Tel: 17 608 260 or 17 608 282 (ext. 250) tenders@dawajen.bh

Milestone as ICAI Bahrain Chapter crowned best overseas chapter for tenth consecutive year



Making Bahrain and India proud

Pradeep Puravankara  
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has etched its name in history by securing the 1st Prize for the Best Overseas Chapter – 2025 (Category II).

This prestigious win marks an unprecedented milestone of ten consecutive years of global excellence for the Chapter.

The grand announcement was made during ICAI's premier global event, the World Forum of Accountants (WOFA 2.0).

Chapters worldwide were rigorously evaluated on several key performance indicators, including professional development initiatives, member engagement, community outreach, and their overall contribution to the accounting profession.

This decade-long streak of

The achievement is a testament to the sustained efforts of successive Executive Committees, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors, all backed by a highly active membership base in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

success highlights the Chapter's consistent leadership and high standards within ICAI's international network.

Officials noted that the achievement is a testament to the sustained efforts of successive Executive Committees, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors, all backed by a highly active membership base in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Over the last ten years, the Bahrain Chapter has evolved

into a vital pillar of the Kingdom's financial ecosystem.

By hosting high-impact technical seminars, international conferences, and student-focused initiatives, the Chapter has consistently bridged the gap between global professional standards and local industry needs.

Expressing their gratitude, Chapter representatives credited the ICAI leadership for their unwavering guidance.

They emphasized that this collective triumph belongs to every past and present chairperson and member who worked tirelessly to build the Chapter's formidable legacy.

This 10-year milestone not only celebrates past achievements but also reinforces the Chapter's future commitment to elevating professional ethics and strengthening Bahrain's position as a hub for financial excellence.



The 58th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on the anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force



•We express our appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, for the keen attention and steadfast support His Royal Highness extends to our Armed Forces.

•We extend our thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Field Marshal Staff Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, for his tireless efforts, clearly reflected in the continued advancement and progress witnessed by the Bahrain Defence Force.

•We gratefully acknowledge the distinguished pioneers of the establishment phase of the Bahrain Defence Force, to whom we extend our highest appreciation for their great efforts and dedicated service to their homeland.

•From Bahrain’s rich and ancient history, we draw inspiration from the resolve of loyal men who have been steadfast in safeguarding the nation with utmost sincerity, from the founding of the state during the era of the first founder, Sheikh Ahmed Al Fateh (may God rest his soul), to the present day.

•The dawn of the first light of the Bahrain Defence Force stands as a shining milestone in our blessed national journey. With God’s grace, it continues to elevate its glory year after year, faithfully fulfilling its noble and honorable duty of defending the homeland with courage and valor.

•We proudly witness the significant and impactful contributions of the men and women of the Bahrain Daefence Force in supporting the Kingdom’s comprehensive development and civilizational progress.

• The achievements of the valiant personnel of the Bahrain Defence Force serve as a strong impetus for us to continue developing its various branches and units, and to equip them with the latest military systems in accordance with future plans.

His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces visited the Royal Bahraini Air Force



where deep appreciation was expressed for the valuable and productive efforts exerted by the brave personnel of the Royal Bahraini Air Force, distinguished by their high level of combat readiness and professional skill. Standing united as one formation, they operate in close coordination with their brothers across the various branches and units of the Bahrain

Defence Force.

Appreciation was also conveyed for the vital role of Bahraini women in the military field, and for their meaningful contributions to the Kingdom’s national advancement across all sectors.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, patronized the ceremony for the distribution of housing units to members of the Bahrain Defence Force in Wadi Al Sail (Phase Two) and Galali.

The advanced levels of combat and administrative readiness attained by the Bahrain Defence Force “in line with the best military practices worldwide” are the result of the supreme royal patronage of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, extended to the Bahrain Defence Force and all its personnel.

•Such supreme royal patronage has reinforced the continuity of development and modernization at both the military and defence levels, thereby enabling members of the Bahrain

Defence Force to carry out their assigned duties with the highest standards of professionalism.

•The roles undertaken by the Bahrain Defence Force in strengthening security and stability in the region “through its effective and distinguished participation alongside the forces of brotherly and friendly countries” are widely recognized and held in high esteem.

During the attendance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and his brother His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, at the joint military exercise (the Bahraini–Emirati “Rabdan–Shuwaihan” Exercise),



Which affirmed that the armed forces of both countries stand as one, and that coordination and cooperation between the armed forces of the two brotherly nations will remain enduring and continually advancing.

The distinguished efforts of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates were highly commended, as was their participation alongside their counterparts from the Bahrain Defence Force in this exercise, demonstrating the highest levels of competence, professionalism, and operational harmony.

His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces received the achievers who represented the Kingdom in external military sports championships and competitions



Pride and appreciation were expressed for the spirit of perseverance and the high level of competence demonstrated by the Kingdom’s military and security forces in carrying out their duties across all fronts and under all circumstances. Gratitude was also conveyed to their personnel for their dedication and sincerity in safeguarding the security and stability of the nation, protecting its achievements

and gains. They are, in every sense, the protectors of Bahrain, its steadfast shield and vigilant guardians of its supreme interests and rich civilizational heritage. This occasion also provided an opportunity to celebrate with them the latest military sports achievements attained by the Bahrain Defence Force at both the regional and international levels.





His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, visits the General Headquarters of the Bahrain Defence Force



High praise was expressed for the strong sense of patriotism and responsibility demonstrated by the personnel of the Bahrain Defence Force in confronting all challenges and developments, embodying the highest standards of dedication and selfless service in the performance of national duty, and in safeguarding the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

His Excellency Field Marshal Staff Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, during his patronage of the “Eye of the Falcon/3” Exercise



•Satisfaction was expressed with the effective achievement of the intended objectives, made possible through the cooperation and cohesion among the participating forces, which played a vital role in enhancing military efficiency and elevating combat readiness.

•Pride was also expressed in the commendable level demonstrated by participants from the various branches and units of the Bahrain Defence Force during the execution of the exercise, marked by efficiency and professionalism.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Defence Affairs, attended the graduation ceremony of the Twelfth Foundational Judicial Course of the Military Judiciary



which was attended by a number of officers affiliated with the military judicial and legal bodies of the brotherly countries «Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, and State of Kuwait» in addition to the participation of a number of officers from the military and security entities of the Kingdom of Bahrain.


His Highness Lieutenant General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Commander of the Royal Guard, patronizes the joint aerial exercise “Jund Al-Samaa/2”



The exercises simulated realistic operational conditions and reaffirmed the course pursued by the participating entities to achieve the intended objectives of the exercises, through enhancing the readiness of the participating branches and units. The applications included interception missions, air support, search and rescue operations, and the execution of various defensive operations, thereby contributing to the refinement of military capabilities and the enrichment of the participants’ field experience.



Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Treatment Department was inaugurated at the Royal Medical Services – Bahrain Oncology Center.



•The Royal Medical Services recorded the treatment of one million patients across all its affiliated hospitals and medical centers during the year 2025.

•The Royal Medical Services – Military Hospital carried out approximately 200 surgical procedures using robotic surgery technologies.

•The Royal Medical Services – King Hamad University Hospital performed 85 living-donor transplant procedures, including 21 liver transplants and 65 kidney transplants.

•The Royal Medical Services – Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Specialized Cardiac Center successfully treated 1,000 cases, in addition to 3,500 procedures conducted by the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, patronized the inauguration ceremony of the Joint Command Center at Ras Al Bar Camp, established through cooperation between the Bahrain Defence Force and the United States Central Command



Bahraini/American relations have reached advanced levels of cooperation and joint coordination, underpinned by the solid strategic agreements and partnerships that unite the two friendly countries, including the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement. Emphasis was placed on the importance of continuing to build upon the fruitful cooperation achieved between the two friendly nations across various fields, particularly in the military and defence domains.

High appreciation was also expressed for the mutual commitment and shared interest that characterize relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States, with a view to further developing these ties and advancing them toward broader and more sophisticated horizons in support of shared aspirations.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force honors the units that secured first place in the 2025 Combat Readiness Tests



•His Excellency conveyed to them the congratulations, greetings, and appreciation of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to the units that secured first place, along with His Majesty’s commendation of the duties and roles they have undertaken in both operational and peacetime contexts, and their continued commitment to maintaining this distinguished standard in raising the level of combat readiness of the Bahrain Defence Force across various fields.

•It was emphasized that, embodying the enlightened visions and in implementation of the supreme directives, the branches and units of the Bahrain Defence Force have attained the highest and most comprehensive levels of advanced combat readiness aspired to.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, attended the graduation ceremony of the Seventeenth Joint Command and Staff Course



The Royal College of Command, Staff and National Defence represents a qualitative milestone in the professional journey of officers, fostering leadership, planning, and joint operations skills through its advanced programmes and distinguished academic faculty.

The course outcomes encompassed strategic knowledge and planning, the enhancement of leadership and management capabilities, the analysis of military planning concepts, and the principles of joint operations and their defensive dimensions, preparing graduates to serve as pioneers in the fields of military leadership.

His Highness the National Security Advisor and Commander of the Royal Guard during the National Defence and Security Forum



The convening of this forum “the first of its kind at the Kingdom level” aims to facilitate the exchange of perspectives and concepts to preserve and strengthen ongoing strategic integration efforts among all relevant military and security sectors. This is grounded in the supreme royal vision and its firm belief in the continued pursuit of joint action to empower the defence framework and enhance security in its comprehensive sense.



•The Bahrain Defence Force team secured the silver medal at the Fifth International Competition for the Best International Military Sniper Team, held in the brotherly Republic of Turkey.

•The Bahrain Defence Force Military Athletics Team won four gold medals and one bronze medal during its participation in the Fifth Winter Military World Games, held in Switzerland.



•The Bahrain Defence Force Military Golf Team secured second place at both the team and individual levels at the 16th Military World Golf Championship, held in Kenya.

•The Bahrain Defence Force Military Muay Thai Team won two silver medals at the First Military World Muay Thai Championship, held in the Kingdom of Thailand.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A King’s Vision That Still Protects Bahrain



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

For decades, Bahrain has continued to live by the far-sighted vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, may God protect and preserve him—a vision that has consistently touched the daily lives of Bahraini citizens across all fields. With each passing year, and through every national occasion or anniversary, we are reminded that His Majesty anticipated the importance of pivotal developments long before they became realities. The anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), particularly amid the escalating regional tensions we witness today, stands as a clear testament to that foresight.

Nearly six decades ago, following his graduation from the Mons Officer Cadet School in the United Kingdom, His Majesty—then Crown Prince—returned to Bahrain with a clear and deliberate vision: the establishment of a national defense institution capable of safeguarding the country’s sovereignty. That vision soon materialized with the founding of the Bahrain Defence Force. His Majesty personally laid down its structure and strategic direction and directly supervised the early stages of its formation, pursuant to the Amiri decree appointing him Commander of the force, which was known at the time as the “National Guard.”

His Majesty proceeded to develop comprehensive plans covering recruitment, training, armament, and institutional growth. He oversaw the construction of the first building blocks and infrastructure of the force and established its foundational regulations, eventually leading to the formation of the Air Force and Naval Force during the 1970s. These steps reflected a clear understanding that national defense must be built on modern, sustainable, and forward-looking foundations.

In establishing the Bahrain Defence Force, His Majesty drew upon the historic legacy inherited from his grandfather, Isa the Great, while fully appreciating his responsibility in completing the pillars of the modern Bahraini state. Central to that responsibility was the creation of a contemporary defense system capable of protecting the nation, preserving stability, and ensuring long-term security.

As we commemorate this year the legacy of the founding ruler, Isa the Great, we also take pride in living in the era of the founder of the Bahrain Defence Force—our King. We are grateful for the wisdom and strategic vision with which God has endowed His Majesty for the future of Bahrain, the region, and the world.

Today, the region faces mounting tensions that few could have imagined six decades ago. Yet these challenges were clearly foreseen by His Majesty when he laid the foundations of the Bahrain Defence Force, which now stands as a robust shield and a source of reassurance for citizens amid regional uncertainty. Over the years, the BDF has continued to achieve qualitative progress, keeping pace with advanced defense systems and ensuring its personnel are consistently trained to operate them.

This progress has been supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, whose commitment has ensured the provision of the resources necessary for continuous development. His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has also played a key role by promoting innovation and launching initiatives such as the Nasser Military Innovation Competition, fostering creativity within the military institution.

We must also recognize the significant role of His Excellency Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, whose efforts in strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework have enhanced the force’s ability to secure the nation and fulfill its mission with professionalism.

As we mark the anniversary of the Bahrain Defence Force, we extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King for a vision conceived six decades ago—one that continues to protect Bahrain and its people today.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

“Amid mounting regional tensions, the Bahrain Defence Force stands as a robust shield and a source of reassurance for citizens.”

Royal leadership praised



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa



H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa



H.E. Lieutenant General Staff Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi



H.E. Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi



HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa



HH Shaikh Ali bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa

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H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa



H.E. Major General Bassam Mohammed Khamis Al Maraj



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, received cables of congratulations on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

Greetings were sent by senior officials and members of the royal family, including His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister

of the Prime Minister’s Court; His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy; H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Interior Minister; H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister; H.E. Lieutenant General Staff Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Defence Affairs; H.E. Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff; HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Special Representative of His Majesty the King;



His Majesty commended the BDF’s efforts to enhance its efficiency and strengthen its ability to operate advanced military systems.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal

Court; HH Shaikh Ali bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Minister of Royal Court Affairs; H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Higher Urban Planning Committee; and H.E. Major General Bassam Mohammed Khamis Al Maraj, President of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), among others.

The Minister of Interior highlighted the support of HM the King and the directives of HRH Prince Salman, in the development of the BDF.

H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah wished further progress and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

‘Ignoring safety can cost lives’

Ghadeer Alkumaish  
TDT | Manama

“Safety is not optional, it is your responsibility,” was the key message delivered to building, establishment, and restaurant owners by Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar, Head of Hidd Police Station, during an appearance on the Interior Ministry’s Al Aman social media programme.

“Always use devices and equipment approved by the General Directorate of Civil Defence,” he emphasized. “Neglecting these requirements can lead to tragic consequences injuries, loss of life, and legal repercussions. God forbid; lives can be lost if safety is ignored.”

Colonel Bahar reminded viewers that buildings have



collapsed due to gas leaks, and some restaurants have operated before being inspected by Civil Defence, putting everyone at risk.

Proper safety equipment, such as gas detectors and detection devices, protects not only your property but also the lives of employees and customers.

As he mentioned in episode

43 of the Interior Ministry’s Al Aman social media program, he explained the dangers of gas leaks, which were responsible for more than 300 fires and 21 explosions in 2024 and 2025.

He highlighted the main causes of gas leaks and shared four simple prevention tips that should be taught, explained,

and practiced by all household members to avoid similar incidents in the future.

“Negligence can cost lives,” he warned. “Your reputation depends on it but more importantly, so does human life. Do not rely solely on your staff; follow up personally, because the law holds you accountable.”

Explosions

He added a stark reminder: “In the past two years, 21 residential buildings have been affected by explosions, with some collapsing entirely due to gas. Lives were lost, people were injured, and some cases were referred to the Public Prosecution. The choice is clear: put safety first, or risk the consequences.”

Colonel Bahar concluded: “Choose wisely. Choose safety.”

“The choice is clear: put safety first, or risk the consequences.”  
— COLONEL DR. OSAMA BAHAR, HEAD OF HIDD POLICE STATION



News in brief

◆ **Colombia's most** powerful cartel walked away from months-long peace talks on Wednesday, after Presidents Gustavo Petro and Donald Trump vowed a new offensive targeting three key cocaine trafficking bosses. At the White House, the two presidents agreed to joint military and intelligence actions against Colombian criminal capos who together produce and supply much of the world's cocaine. Colombian Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez said the two countries would target Ivan Mordisco, Colombia's most wanted rebel; Chiquito Malo, commander of the Clan del Golfo cartel; and Pablito, an ELN guerrilla leader operating on the Venezuelan border. The Petro-Trump pact upends years of spluttering Colombian efforts to negotiate peace accords with big criminal groups. Colombia produces about 70 percent of the world's cocaine, and the United States is by far the world's largest consumer.



**Top Colombia cartel halts peace talks after Trump-Petro pact**

**Xi tells Trump can resolve issues with 'mutual respect': Chinese state media**

◆ **China's leader** Xi Jinping told US President Donald Trump in a call on Wednesday they could resolve bilateral issues with mutual respect, Chinese state media said. "By tackling issues one by one and continuously building mutual trust, we can forge a right way for the two countries to get along," Xi said, according to state broadcaster CCTV. "Let us make 2026 a year in which China and the United States, as two major countries, move toward mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation," he added.

◆ **Russia yesterday** condemned the killing of Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of slain Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi, and called for a thorough probe into his death. "We strongly condemn this crime. We hope a thorough investigation will be conducted and the perpetrators will be brought to justice," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

**Russia condemns Gaddafi's son killing, wants 'thorough investigation'**

**Gaza health officials say strikes kill 23 after Israel says shots wounded officer**

◆ **Gazan health officials** said Israeli air strikes on Wednesday killed 23 people, with Israel's military saying it struck after one of its officers was wounded by enemy gunfire. Despite a US-brokered truce entering its second phase last month, violence has continued in the Gaza Strip, with Israel and Hamas accusing each other of breaching the agreement. The latest bloodshed came days after Israel partly reopened the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the only exit for Gazans that does not pass through Israel.

SPOTLIGHT

Iran formally allows women to ride motorcycles



A man transports a girl and a woman in a motorcycle in Tehran

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Women in Iran can now formally obtain a licence to ride a motorcycle, local media reported Wednesday, ending years of legal ambiguity surrounding two-wheelers. Previously, the law did not explicitly prohibit women from riding motorbikes and scooters, but in practice authorities refused to issue licences. Due to the grey area, women have been held legally responsible for accidents even when victims. Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref signed a resolution on Tuesday aimed at clarifying the traffic code, which was approved by Iran's

cabinet in late January, the country's Ilna news agency reported. The resolution obliges traffic police to "provide practical training to female applicants, organise an exam under the direct supervision of the police, and issue motorcycle driver's licences to women", Ilna said. For Saina, a 33-year-old advertising agency employee who has been commuting to work by scooter for six months, the change to the traffic laws comes "too late" because "women have been riding motorcycles for months already." "I don't think this is the main problem in our society," she told AFP, referring to the recent protests and Iran's economic challenges.

Rubio says US ready to meet Iran but must discuss missiles

Iranian state media said talks with the United States would take place Friday

● Rubio did not confirm a meeting on Friday with Iran's clerical state

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States is ready to meet Iran this week but discussions must cover its missile and nuclear programs, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday. Rubio did not confirm a meeting on Friday with Iran's clerical state, which has violently put down some of the most serious protests against its rule since the 1979 Islamic revolution. "If the Iranians want to meet, we're ready," Rubio told reporters. "They've expressed an interest in meeting and talking. If they change their mind, we're fine with that too," he said, after President Donald Trump ordered a sharp military buildup



near Iran's coast and threatened actually lead to something meaningful, they will have to include

certain things, and that includes the range of their ballistic missiles, that includes their sponsorship of terrorist organizations across the region, that includes their nuclear program and that includes the treatment of their own people," Rubio said. Iran in previous talks on its disputed nuclear programme has ruled out discussions on its missiles, casting the weapons that can hit Israel as a tool of self-defense to which every country has a right. But Iran has been under growing pressure from the protests and after an Israeli bombing campaign last year. Iran has also lost key regional allies with Israel's severe degrading of Lebanon's Hezbollah and the fall of veteran Syrian president Bashar al-Assad. Iranian state media said yesterday that talks with the United States would take place Friday in Oman, after diplomats earlier said the meeting would happen on Friday in Turkey.

Merz heads to Gulf as Germany looks to diversify trade ties

AFP | Berlin, Germany

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz headed to Saudi Arabia yesterday to kick off a Gulf tour as the biggest EU economy seeks to diversify its key trade and energy partnerships. Joined by a business delegation, the conservative leader will meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, then travel to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on his whistlestop tour until Friday. "In the geopolitical environment in which we operate, we must intensify our partnerships with important and influential states in the world. The Gulf

states are among them," a senior German official said ahead of Merz's trip. A second official said Germany wanted to "strengthen trade and export opportunities, increase foreign investment" and "diversify our supply chains... especially



in the energy sector". Germany has long exported defence goods and sealed major infrastructure deals in the Gulf region, whose wealthy monarchies have in turn used their energy riches to invest in German corporate giants from

Volkswagen to Deutsche Bank. When Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine led to sharply lower Russian energy supplies, Berlin turned to Doha to step up liquefied natural gas imports that got it through the following winter. Berlin has now accelerated efforts to lessen its reliance on American LNG and wants to use increasingly bank on green hydrogen generated through clean energy to achieve its climate targets. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have meanwhile been moving to diversify away from oil and gas, investing heavily in sectors from renewables to tourism, logistics and AI.

Saudi Arabia to provide passports for kingdom's beloved camels

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has announced plans to issue passports to the kingdom's millions of camels, to help better manage the country's prized herds. The ministry of the environment, water and agriculture promised the initiative would enhance the "productivity and efficiency in the sector and build a reliable reference database for camels". A social media post from the ministry on Tuesday included a picture of the document: a green passport stamped with the country's coat of arms and a golden image of a camel. The passport will "contribute to organising sales and trading operations by regulating commerce and transport, ensuring official documentation, protecting owners' rights, and facilitating proof of ownership," accord-



Camels with Saudi Open banners are paraded during the awarding ceremony of the Asian Tour Saudi Open golf tournament at the Riyadh Golf Club

ing state-backed broadcaster Al Ekhbariya. In 2024, the government estimated there were around 2.2 million camels in the kingdom. Camels have long been a vital mode of transportation in Arabia, conferring status on their owners and fuelling the rise of a lucrative breeding industry.

The kingdom also hosts beauty contests for camels at annual festivals, where Saudi enthusiasts spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on animal contestants -- and the unscrupulous sometimes seek an illegal advantage. Organisers have in recent years cracked down on cosmetic enhancements, a malpractice that has thrived amid stiff competition and despite heavy penalties. Methods to make the camels' lips droopier and their humps more shapely are particularly frowned upon by the authorities who want to encourage a natural look. Camels have been essential to life on the Arabian peninsula for millennia, with research published in 2021 suggesting life-sized carvings of camels and horses hewn into rock faces in Saudi Arabia could be around 7,000 years old.



1576

Henry of Navarre  
(later Henry IV of  
France) abjures Ca-  
tholicism at Tours

1597

A group of early Japanese Christians,  
known as the 26 Martyrs, are killed by  
the new government of Japan for be-  
ing seen as a threat to Japanese society



1885

King Leopold II of Bel-  
gium establishes the  
Congo as his personal  
colonial possession

1945

WWII: US troops under General Douglas MacArthur  
enter Manila in the Philippines after a month-long  
battle, ending three years of Japanese military  
occupation

X

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The two-State solution with Israelis & Palestinians living side by side in peace & security is the only viable path to a just & lasting peace. The occupation must end. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people must be realized. International law must be respected.

@antoniguterres

02



Good exchange with @KGeorgieva on Europe's competitiveness. A strong starting point for today's discussions at our College seminar. In a world of sharp competition and short horizons, we are building Europe's competitiveness. It begins with strength at home.

@vonderleyen

03



Four in 10 cancer cases worldwide could be prevented. •15% of all new cancer cases are caused by tobacco •10% by infections •3% by alcohol A new @WHO study has examined 30 preventable causes, including high body mass index, physical inactivity, air pollution, ultraviolet radiation – and for the first time – nine cancer-causing infections.

@DrTedros

04



We await the reaction of America to the Russian strikes. It was the U.S. proposal—to halt strikes on energy during diplomacy and severe winter weather. The President of the United States made the request personally. Russia responded with a record number of ballistic missiles.

@ZelenskyyUA

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

# Xi, Putin hail 'stabilising' China-Russia alliance

Xi also held a phone call with US President Donald Trump



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and Chinese President Xi Jinping are seen during news coverage about a video call between the two leaders, on a giant screen outside a shopping mall in Beijing

## ● The pair discussed "opinions" on the United States

## ● Putin had told Xi that Moscow intends to act "responsibly" after a key nuclear pact with the US expires on Thursday

## ● The video call took place as Russian, Ukrainian and US negotiators met in Abu Dhabi

AFP | Beijing, China

China's President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin hailed the strengthening of bilateral ties in the face of a "turbulent" global situation, in a video call yesterday.

Several hours later, Chinese state media said Xi held a phone call with US President Donald Trump, without immediately providing further details.

China and Russia have sought to present a united front against the West, with ties deepening since Moscow's 2022 Ukraine

invasion. The Xi-Putin call, which a Kremlin aide said lasted nearly an hour and a half, came ahead of the fourth anniversary of Russia's military campaign later this month.

"Since the beginning of the year, the international situation has become increasingly turbulent," Xi told Putin in a readout reported by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

"Both sides should... ensure that China-Russia relations continue to develop steadily along the right track, through deeper strategic coordination and a more proactive and effective commitment as major powers," the Chinese president said.

Addressing Xi as his "dear friend", Putin expressed a similar message, saying "the foreign policy alliance between Moscow and Beijing remains an important stabilising factor".

"The Russian-Chinese comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation is exemplary," Putin said in the video broadcast on Russian state TV.

Neither leader went into detail on what strategic areas they would deepen coordination on.

## Matching 'opinions' on US

The Kremlin said Putin had accepted invitations to visit China in the first half of 2026 and attend the APEC regional

summit hosted by Xi in November. "The conversation lasted one hour and 25 minutes," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters from AFP and other media outlets, saying the call was held in a "friendly and trusting atmosphere".

Putin praised trade ties, with Moscow redirecting its exports to Asia after Western countries imposed massive sanctions on Russia over the Kremlin's Ukraine offensive.

The video call took place as Russian, Ukrainian and US negotiators met in Abu Dhabi for a round of talks on ending the almost four-year war, which has turned into Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

Putin made no mention of Ukraine during the part of the call broadcast by Moscow, but the Kremlin later said Xi expressed support for the Abu Dhabi negotiations.

The pair discussed "opinions" on the United States, views that according to the Kremlin "practically matched" each other.

The Kremlin also said Putin had told Xi that Moscow intends to act "responsibly" after a key nuclear pact with the US expires on Thursday.

And "special attention was given to the tense situation in Iran", Kremlin aide Ushakov added.

## India's factory growth improves slightly in January, PMI shows



A worker grinds a metal gate inside a household furniture manufacturing factory in Ahmedabad, Ind

Reuters | Bengaluru

India's manufacturing activity inched up in January as demand improved slightly but the gain wasn't strong enough to lift business optimism or meaningfully increase hiring, according to a private survey released Monday.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, rose to 55.4 in January from December's two-year low of 55.0. However, it came in below the preliminary estimate of 56.8.

The PMI has stayed above the 50.0 threshold, which separates growth from contraction, since July 2021.

Factory output strengthened compared with December, when growth had slowed to a 38-month low. New orders, a key measure of demand, also regained some of the momentum lost in the previous month.

Export demand, however, remained weak. Export orders improved only marginally from December, suggesting

the overall pickup was driven mainly by domestic demand. Manufacturers reported receiving orders from clients across Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East.

Despite the improvement in activity, job growth stayed subdued. Hiring rose to a three-month high, but the pace of recruitment remained modest as firms adjusted staffing levels to meet higher operating needs.

At the same time, business confidence slipped to its lowest level in three-and-a-half years. Only 15% of surveyed companies expected output to increase over the next year, while most anticipated no change.

Price pressures painted a mixed picture. Input costs increased moderately but at the fastest pace in four months with companies citing higher prices for chemicals, copper, iron, steel, and transportation.

Even so, output price inflation fell to its lowest level in nearly two years, suggesting manufacturers still have limited pricing power despite firmer demand.



A Cameroon-flagged cargo ship that ran aground on a beach in the town of Maria Chiquita due to strong winds recorded in the area, in Colon, Panama

# Russia demands Ukraine give in as UAE talks open

AFP | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Moscow yesterday demanded Kyiv accept its conditions to end the four-year war and vowed to press on with its invasion otherwise, as negotiations between the two sides opened in Abu Dhabi.

The US-mediated talks are the latest round of negotiations in a flurry of diplomacy that has so far failed to strike a deal to halt the war, unleashed by Russia's February 2022 invasion.

"Our position is well known,"



Moscow is demanding that Kyiv pull its troops out of swathes of the Donbas, including heavily fortified cities atop vast natural resources, as a precondition of any deal. It also wants international recognition that land seized in the invasion belongs to Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday as the talks got underway.

"Until the Kyiv regime makes the appropriate decisions, the special military operation con-

tinues," he said, using Russia's term for the offensive.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had on Tuesday said that Russia's strikes on Kyiv's energy system "confirms that attitudes in Moscow have



not changed: they continue to bet on war and the destruction of Ukraine, and they do not take diplomacy seriously."

"The work of our negotiating

team will be adjusted accordingly," he said, without elaborating.

US President Donald Trump, however, said Russian President Vladimir Putin had "kept his word" with a week-long promise not to hit the capital or critical energy facilities.

"It's a lot, you know, one week, we'll take anything, because it's really, really cold over there," Trump said Tuesday.

"I want him to end the war," Trump added of Putin. Asked if he was disappointed Putin had not extended the pause, he replied: "I would like him to."



# NBB innovation programme 2025 concludes with winning team announced

In partnership with Bahrain FinTech Bay to support fintech innovation in the Kingdom

● The initiative brought together aspiring fintech entrepreneurs to develop scalable AI-driven banking solutions

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the conclusion of the NBB Innovation Programme 2025, a three-week accelerator launched in partnership with Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB). Designed to empower early-stage Bahraini fintech talent and accelerate innovation in the digital banking sector, the programme culminated with the announcement of the winning team following a high-impact Demo Day.

Launched during FinTech Forward 2025, the initiative brought together aspiring fintech entrepreneurs to develop scalable AI-driven banking solutions aligned with Bah-



rain's progressive financial services industry. Over three intensive weeks, participants advanced through a structured journey that combined startup

mentorship, regulatory insight, and technical training. The programme aimed to equip the youth with the skills, exposure, and support necessary to trans-

form their early-stage ideas into real-world applications.

The accelerator concluded with a Demo Day, where shortlisted teams pitched their

solutions to a panel of judges representing the banking and fintech domains. One team was selected as the winner following a rigorous evaluation based on innovation, the use of artificial intelligence, market potential, execution capability, scalability, and overall impact.

The winning team was awarded a USD 10,000 cash prize and a three-month incubation period at Bahrain FinTech Bay, where they will receive additional support to refine and enhance their solution. They will also be engaged in potential partnership discussions with the Bank to explore the implementation of their solution within real banking environments.

Delivered across three focused tracks, the programme addressed the technical and strategic dimensions of fintech innovation. Led by experienced entrepreneurs, the Fintech Founders Track focused on startup execution, scaling strategies, and growth planning. The NBB Track placed participants under the mentorship of bank-

ing professionals, exploring regulatory frameworks, bank-fintech collaboration models, and innovation within financial institutions. Meanwhile, the BFB Track, facilitated by Bahrain FinTech Bay, delivered workshops on business model validation, investor readiness, and the use of AI-powered tools.

The NBB Innovation Programme 2025 reflected a shared vision between NBB and Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB) to cultivate a sustainable, innovation-led fintech ecosystem in Bahrain. It created opportunities for collaboration between startups, institutions, and ecosystem enablers; encouraged the development of customer-centric digital banking solutions; and empowered young entrepreneurs with access to funding, mentorship, and real-world application pathways.

Both organisations remain committed to nurturing Bahrain's digital economy by investing in initiatives that turn local innovation into lasting impact.

## Indian minister says 'sensitive' sectors protected in US trade deal

● Agriculture and dairy form the backbone of India's rural-driven economy, employing over 700 million people

● The deal would lower levies to 18% from the 25% imposed on Indian goods last year

● Goyal said the revised tariff was lower than what the US had imposed on many countries in the region

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's commerce minister said yesterday the government had succeeded in protecting the country's critical agriculture and dairy sectors in its trade deal with the United States announced this week.

Agriculture and dairy form



Piyush Goyal

the backbone of India's rural-driven economy, employing over 700 million people.

Farmers fear that opening these two sectors to foreign competition would rob vulnerable households of their livelihoods.

The trade deal was announced on Monday after months of uncertainty and negotiations between the two countries.

"The Indian side has succeed-

ed in protecting the interests of its sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and dairy sectors," Piyush Goyal told the lower house of parliament.

"This framework agreement, with the world's largest economy, which will accelerate global growth and innovation in the coming years, is in the broader interest of the people of India and the nation."

US President Donald Trump

said the deal, which would lower levies to 18% from the 25% imposed on Indian goods last year, came together after Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to stop buying Russian oil.

Washington has argued the oil sales help Moscow generate revenue to fund the war in Ukraine.

Goyal said the revised tariff was lower than what the US had imposed on many countries in the region and would increase "India's export competitiveness in the American market."

He also said both sides were working to complete the technicalities and the details of the deal would be announced soon.

When announcing the deal, Trump also said New Delhi had agreed to purchase more than \$500 billion worth of US energy, technology, agricultural, coal and other goods.

While Trump had struck deals with most governments since he unveiled sweeping tariffs in April last year, Indian officials had struggled to follow suit.

## Arla Foods Invests Over USD 60 Million to Expand Bahrain Dairy Facility



Kim Villadsen, Senior Vice President Arla Foods MENA, Innauguration moment and Harry Veldman, Head of MENA Supply Chain, Arla Foods

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

and enable Arla to expand exports beyond its current presence in more than 20 countries.

Arla Foods has announced a major expansion of its Bahrain production facility, located in the Bahrain International Investment Park, with a total investment exceeding USD 60 million (50.9 million Euro). The expansion will add 8,000 sqm to the site, increase annual production by 30%, and further solidify Arla's position as one of the largest dairy producers in the MENA region.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by senior officials and industry leaders, including HE Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry; HE Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; and Mr. Ali Al Madaifa, Chief of Business Development at the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB). Their participation highlights Bahrain's strong ecosystem supporting industrial investment and growth.

The investment will primarily increase the production of Puck® spreadable cheese jars

Her Excellency Eman Ahmed Al-Doseri commented, "This investment reflects confidence in Bahrain's business ecosystem and its appeal for diverse industrial projects. Arla's expansion supports the strategic goals of Bahrain's Industrial Sector (2022-2026) and serves as a model for advanced and sustainable manufacturing, using modern technologies and eco-friendly energy solutions. It also demonstrates the government's success in attracting high-value investments and promoting industrial growth, strengthening Bahrain's position as a regional hub for food production."

Kim Villadsen, Senior Vice President of Arla Foods MENA, said, "Expanding our Bahrain facility allows Arla to strengthen regional leadership, increase production, and promote sustainable growth."

Ali Al Madaifa added, "Bahrain's strategic location and business-friendly ecosystem have been key to supporting Arla Foods' growth."

## Syria inks deal with Chevron, Qatari firm for offshore exploration

AFP | Damascus, Syria

Syria signed a preliminary deal with US energy giant Chevron and Qatari firm Power International on Wednesday to explore for oil and gas off the coast of the country, which is still recovering from years of civil war.

Syria's new Islamist authorities, who overthrew former ruler



Last May, Syria signed a \$7 billion energy deal with a consortium of Qatari, Turkish and US companies -- including Power International -- to revive its crippled power sector following years of conflict.

er Bashar al-Assad in late 2024, are seeking to woo investors to rebuild and drawing closer to

other countries in the region and the United States.

The state-owned petro-

leum company signed the memorandum of understanding in Damascus with Chevron and Power International at a ceremony attended by US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack, the official SANA news agency reported.

"The deal marks Syria's first formal step toward offshore energy exploration," it said.



**Italy Honors BACA President with Prestigious Decoration**



In a ceremony highlighting robust diplomatic and cultural ties, Italian Ambassador H.E. Andrea Catalano presented the Commander of the Order of the Star of Italy to H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA). The distinction, bestowed by the President of the Italian Republic, recognizes Shaikh Khalifa's exceptional role in fostering intercultural dialogue and heritage preservation. Ambassador Catalano described him as a "bridge-builder" whose vision aligns with Italy's commitment to using culture as a diplomatic engine. Receiving the honor, Shaikh Khalifa emphasized the strong partnership between the nations, citing Bahrain's Golden Lion win at the Venice Biennale as a milestone in their shared architectural and artistic research.

**UTB and Northern Governorate Partner to Drive Sustainability and Innovation**



The University of Bahrain for Technology (UTB) hosted a high-level delegation from the Northern Governorate to explore joint cooperation in environmental sustainability and community service. The meeting was led by H.E. Brigadier Abdullah Al-Maantar, Deputy Governor of the Northern Governorate, and Dr. Adnan Al-Tamimi, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs at UTB. A primary focus of the partnership involves leveraging UTB's specialized academic expertise, particularly its unique Environmental Engineering program, to support the Kingdom's green initiatives. Discussions centered on implementing innovative solutions such as smart irrigation systems, agricultural waste recycling, and the expansion of green spaces in accordance with global best practices.

**Interior Ministry Undersecretary Receives British Deputy Ambassador**



His Excellency Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, received Her Excellency Fiona Walker Doyle, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the Undersecretary welcomed the Deputy Ambassador, highlighting the historic and deep-rooted bilateral relations between the two friendly nations. He emphasized the importance of the continuous development of these ties, which serves to enhance coordination and cooperation across various security and administrative sectors. The discussion covered a range of topics of common interest, focusing on further strengthening the strategic partnership between Manama and London.



**Royal Court Minister Commends Kanoo Family's Economic Contributions**

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, received Mr. Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo, Chairman of the Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, and members of the Kanoo family at the Royal Court. During the meeting, the Minister commended the Kanoo family for their historic and influential role in Bahrain's commercial and investment landscape. He highlighted their significant contributions to the Kingdom's economic growth, which aligns with the comprehensive and sustainable development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

**Northern Municipality Transforms Recycled Tires into Beach Seating for National Environment Day**



To mark National Environment Day, the Northern Region Municipality, in collaboration with Bahrain University College and the Northern Governorate, launched an innovative recycling initiative at Al-Badi' Beach. The project engaged students in repurposing used tires into eco-friendly seating areas, enhancing the beach's public facilities and urban aesthetic. Engineer Mohammed Saad Al-Sahli, Director General of the Northern Region Municipality, stated that the initiative reflects a deep commitment to sustainability and Bahrain Vision 2030. He emphasized that involving the youth in such creative environmental projects fosters social responsibility and a culture of conservation.

**World Malayalee Council Bahrain Hosts 'Keraleeyam 26' and Awards Gala**



The World Malayalee Council (WMC) Bahrain Province celebrated the inauguration of its new executive committee alongside a spectacular cultural event, 'Keraleeyam 26', held at the Indian Club. The ceremony was inaugurated by Indian Member of Parliament, N.K. Premachandran, and presided over by Province President Abraham Samuel. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Bahrain Parliament's First Deputy Speaker, Abdulnabi Salman, and Social Development Ministry Undersecretary, Sayed Adel Darwish. A major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 'Nrithakala Ratna Award' to Ajina Raj, a specially-abled dancer and recipient of the Kerala Government's 'Sargathmaka Balya Puraskaram.' The audience was treated to a vibrant musical concert led by Joby John and Hem Lina, along with captivating dance performances by film stars Shruthy Lakshmi and Sreelaya, alongside local talents.



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

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al enma house for security services W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36633319 or admin@enmabh.com

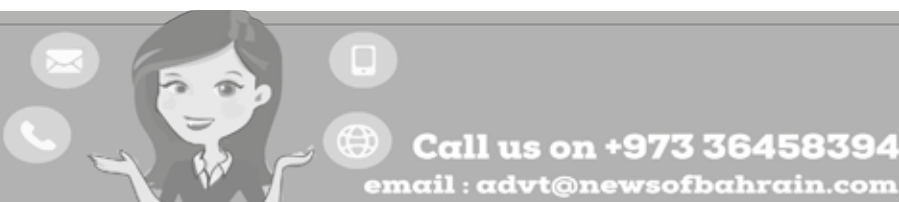
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BRIJNEET SWAG FASHION HOUSE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112395 or PESO.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

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MONAS CLEANING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33107608 or KISEKKADE0795@GMAIL.COM

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

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

BORDWAY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37372907 or TAHIR-SHAFIQ705@GMAIL.COM

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

ABANARLA COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39238561 or MOODD65U@GMAIL.COM

HARWA TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39135961 or WAJEEH.HASSAN@GMAIL.COM

FILIPINAZ FASHION DESIGN has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112395 or PESO.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

THE PERFUME CITY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34484407 or SHAZIAASGHARALI.BH@GMAIL.COM

TRIPLE STAR CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35458563 or Hamad-rajaj2005@gmail.com

ALRAFEA ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36542949 or KHAN\_FIYAZAHMED@YAHOO.COM

SALON QASAYID BEAUTY LADIES has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37399359 or ROS-FAISSAL@GMAIL.COM

FLEXI CLEANING FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33643233 or ABUAZLAN@YAHOO.COM

BREEZE MOVERS has a vacancy for the occupation of PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34222234 or breezemovers@HOTMAIL.COM

FARESHTA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33595836 or WSAEED214@GMAIL.COM

TALAL ABUGHAZALAH & CO. INTERNATIONAL - PARTNERSHIP has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17550003 or bahrain.reg@tagorg.com

LABHA MANAGEMENT CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36574942 or RS0926563@GMAIL.COM

MELTO CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36664669 or ITSNABBIE@ICLOUD.COM

ALEA WORLD CONTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669225 or SAATI-2002@HOTMAIL.COM

DAMA ELECTRONICS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33712283 or DAUD-CHEEMAS423@GMAIL.COM

MIRAJ CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39981882 or SH.AHMED.K5555@GMAIL.COM

ZAITON DECOR CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33826212 or SIKANDER6212@GMAIL.COM

EBENEZER BUILDING CONTRACTS has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33130880 or hanan.adel3313@gmail.com

AL REHMANI BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36311262 or YASEENANMOL3145@GMAIL.COM

HARD DREAM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38881547 or hgdynamic@gmail.com

LALABELLA FLOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably

qualified applicants can contact 17471111 or hr@lalabellabh.com

ARAD CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258575 or ACE.5391@GMAIL.COM

PEBBLES GATE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17778868 or MAHMOODE-SA151@YAHOO.COM

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

NEW IDEA ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37119705 or AHMADJUTT379930399@GMAIL.COM

NILE INTERNATIONAL DETERGENTS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33035123 or NILEMTDET@GMAIL.COM

FASHION WORLD HAIR SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66347363 or FAAMATRAVEL4@GMAIL.COM

UNION WORLD ALUMINUM has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500331 or hr@eraprojects.net

THE PALAVRA RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38199444 or gdhrr@palavraresort.com

QUEZON PINAS EXPERT CARGO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66600587 or THREEKINGSPAZAWAY@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

AROMA LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33626883 or AROMA-LAUNDRY434@GMAIL.COM

AL MAWATNEEN DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66914266 or MAWATNEEN-FASHION@GMAIL.COM

YOUSEF ALABDULJALEEL REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33787333 or YOUSEF\_ALABDULJALEEL@HOTMAIL.COM

ISHRAT JAMIL REPAIRING WORKSHOP COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 342022614 or ISHRATTALI@YAHOO.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

JAHECON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAHECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

MARIAM AKBAR AC REPAIR WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC (AIR-CONDITIONING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33318860 or M.ALBLUSHI83@HOTMAIL.COM

METRO TOWER CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66906887 or METROTOWERCARGO@GMAIL.COM

AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com

TORQUE TECH MECHANICAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36474678 or JACKERS.CUSTOMS@GMAIL.COM

GULF DIGITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33056512 or Mominshk5@gmail.com

PERFECT CHOICE AC SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33907097 or SAAMIIR@LIVE.COM

SHAD INTERIOR DECOR CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33161968 or SHADINTERIOR638@GMAIL.COM

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

JASSIM GARDEN CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552808 or JASSIMG@BATELCO.COM.BH

BAB AWAM CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified appli-

cants can contact 33070060 or COOOLMAN31@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC KARAK - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39867872 or HASHZH2@GMAIL.COM

ROSE ROYAL FASHION W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33841031 or AJUST1031@GMAIL.COM

GARAGE ALI SUPER JAPAN has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33886088 or HAN323@WINDOWSLIVE.COM

MEGNA COLDSTORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33748548 or gulfcity2019@GMAIL.COM

S4 MOBILE MART has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33655668 or ALIHASSANALI@HOTMAIL.COM

ALUMINIUM SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290987 or SHRIFAHMADI@GMAIL.COM

DIVYA FASHION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33749991 or DIVYAFASHION@HOTMAIL.COM

ALAFKAR ALMOTLAQA SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34126859 or JABIRKOROTH16@GMAIL.COM

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

FARHAN TOWER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16636500 or FARHANTOWER1@GAMIL.COM

Grand Swiss -Bel Hotel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335442 or ALMIYAS@YAHOO.COM

BAB ALSALAM IMPORT AND EXPORT OF BUILDING EQUIPMENTS has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39469624 or HASSANALFARSANI@GMAIL.COM

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

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

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

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

WOOD WORLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33552907 or MASNAAM@HOTMAIL.COM

Sentry security solutions Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or SENTRY@mre.co

Sentry security solutions Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or SENTRY@mre.co

Sentry security solutions Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or SENTRY@mre.co

Sentry security solutions Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or SENTRY@mre.co

LGFMCG Trading and Distribution W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39448544 or ALJAWAD75@HOTMAIL.COM

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

EDITORIAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAREHOUSE PORTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38819929 or ARMADA.BAHRAIN@ARMADAGROUPCO.COM

ADEL ALWAZEER AUTO SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100972 or WAZEER909@HOTMAIL.COM

WESTERN AREA TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINT-

ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631232 or faisalashoor@gmail.com

WOOLLY CONCEPT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36833358 or BINRAJAB.BH@GMAIL.COM

DAILY FRESH MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39860760 or CRS68882@HOTMAIL.COM

HK GLOBAL CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33399879 or HKCONSULTANCY18@GMAIL.COM

CARRY FRESH MARKET. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39858332 or RIZANA-TRADING786@GMAIL.COM

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

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

PINDAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO-28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

CLEANING LEADERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347766 or PERWAIZ\_I@HOTMAIL.COM

ALSALAM SPECIALIST HOSPITAL W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33336071 or hr@alsalam.care

THE ART HOTEL & RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(ELECTRIC & ELECTRONI ENGINEERING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16033100 or ABEER@AMWAJ.BH

City Point Hotel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500794 or ayman@sevenleisure.net

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

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

PLASTIC LINE PLASTIC INDUSTRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66611404 or XAX920109@HOTMAIL.COM

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

Le Meridien Hotel Bahrain City Center has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885874 or ccb.government@maf.ae

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

sponge bob restaurant has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38880656 or ASIMKH14@GMAIL.COM

NES Bahrain W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36742383 or BAHER.HAMDAN@NESFIRCROFT.COM

ESRAQ GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39593872 or SUMAIR.KHURSHID@GMAIL.COM

GULF DELMON FOR THE SALE OF VEG., FRUITS AND GENERAL TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38957699 or ADELALIRAJAB2017@GMAIL.COM

PASCO INTERNATIONAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33668872 or PASCOINTERNATIONALTRADING7@GMAIL.COM

MUJAHID HUSSAIN COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER(BUILDING DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33458832 or MOHSINBAHI765@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

HELSINKI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37143431 or usaamasifqazi@gmail.com

AL MIRAJ AUTO GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66612364 or DOCUMENT-BHA9@GMAIL.COM

MOON STAR FACILITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33114378 or GA0563931@GMAIL.COM

PINDAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

BRAQA CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39255664 or MBAHHAR62@GMAIL.COM

Ruman palace general trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17642485 or SERVICEANSBH@GMAIL.COM

AERONA MINIMART W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33275464 or ILLIYASKAD-AMARI@GMAIL.COM

HAMAMA GARAGE CARS has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33313137 or HAMAMA33@HOTMAIL.COM

TECHNO INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272975 or TISC@BATELCO.COM.BH

SIGNATURE HOTEL (FOUR SEASONS BAHRAIN BAY) COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17546000 or ali.baqer@fourseasons.com

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

COLOR LAND COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956971 or MUS2022MU@GMAIL.COM

WAAD MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33496925 or S208030@HOTMAIL.COM

BO ABDULLAH TAILORING & UPHOLSTERY has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR SALES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33253626 or WAHDZAHID8@GMAIL.COM

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

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

GULSHAN RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34393948 or DHEYA\_ALSHAIAK@HOTMAIL.COM

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

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

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 171717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

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

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN\_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

GOURMET BURGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020031 or PRINCEBURGER@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

Tom and Toffee The Pet Shop W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ANIMALS KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292393 or Myskr131313@gmail.com

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCAFFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

GOURMET BURGER W.L.L has a vacancy for the

occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001720 or GOURMETBURGERBAH@GMAIL.COM

TREND COTTON FASHION. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66643747 or DOCZMANA-MA123@GMAIL.COM

EMRAN FOOD DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(MOTOR VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37663626 or IMRANSALEHBADSHAH901@GMAIL.COM

LA CASA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38012341 or LA.CASA.BEAUTY.SALON@GMAIL.COM

KARUNA COOLING TECH has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (TURNING WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33373442 or huhun888@yahoo.com

AYWA PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36638878 or AYWA.ADV@GMAIL.COM

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

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

NAS ASSOCIATES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17483983 or IMPACT-MARKETING.ADV@GMAIL.COM

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

Serba Dinamik International Petroleum Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN/ASST.(MECH.EQUIP.MAINT.), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17231030 or fcariola.sdips@gmail.com

STONEWELL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689986 or SAJJADAWAN8366@GMAIL.COM

AKRAM GOLD SMITH CO has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217315 or ADAMNABEELAKRAM@YAHOO.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

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

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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



## Classifieds

### VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

MTAYYIBA BEAUTY LOUNGE has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39545224 or FANOON1973@GMAIL.COM

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

SUNSHINE BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39978242 or rvitergroup@gmail.com

HAZRAT KHAN COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

CHOF CHOF W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36125010 or CHOF.PANCAKES@GMAIL.COM

JUICES ON THE FLY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404071 or PASTRIESONTHEFLY@GMAIL.COM

Sando Restaurant W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66661212 or TARIQ.BUCHEERY@GMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

SHARAFIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHIEF EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17019999 or L.STEFFEN@OLAYANGROUP.COM

METAL CORE TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39747371 or FINANCE@METALCOREBH.COM

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

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

AL AREEN PALACE AND SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845000 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPODWATER-PARK.COM

SADEQ HASAN ABBAS GHULOOM REDHA has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or HGOOD8908@GMAIL.COM

HAZRAT KHAN COMBINED FACILITIES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36484758 or ATTAU3421@GMAIL.COM

Baker Barbar Palace has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39053831 or KHALILEBRAHIM18@GMAIL.COM

Secure Me W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17749697 or secure.me@live.com

SHY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32083818 or MURADKHOKAN8801@GMAIL.COM

SKYZONE REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33477665 or IBRAHIMKHALIL3645@GMAIL.COM

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# Al Ahli open WAVA campaign with straight-sets win

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Ahli began their fourth WAVA Men's Clubs Volleyball Championship campaign with a 3-0 victory over Qatar's Al Wakrah SC in Kuwait City. The match, played at the Kuwaiti Volleyball Federation Hall, ended 25-20, 25-22, 25-19 in favour of the Kingdom's representatives.

Drawn in Group B alongside Al Wakrah, Lebanon's Club Jeunesse Sportif (CJS) Batroun, and hosts Kuwait SC, Al Ahli dominated all three sets in their opener.

Experienced players Mohammed Anan, Sayed Mohammed Al Abbar, and Mahmood Abdulhussain led the team, which



Al Ahli players react after winning a set point

controlled play despite a brief stoppage at 22-20 in the second set following a disputed point.

Brazilian coach Renato Castro praised the team's performance: "Everyone contributed. We showed confidence and composure across all sets."

Al Ahli, competing for the third consecutive edition of WAVA's premier men's clubs tournament, narrowly missed the podium in 2024, finishing fourth. Their squad includes several current and former Bahrain senior national team players, including Ali Ebrahim, Hani Alawi, Hasan Haider, Ayman Harwana, Hussain Mansoor, and Hussain Sultan.

Dar Kulaib, Bahrain's other representatives, will start their campaign today against Oman's Al Seeb at 2pm, after yesterday's preparatory practice in Kuwait City. Kenyan professional Enock Mogeni said: "We train every day as if it's game day. Everyone is coming for one mission – just to win."

The top two teams from each pool, plus the two best third-placed sides, advance to the quarter-finals on 10 February. Semifinals are scheduled for 12 February, with finals on 14 February. Al Ahli's next matches are against CJS Batroun tomorrow at 2pm and Kuwait SC on Sunday at 6pm, Bahrain time.

## France's Kante joins Fenerbahce after Erdogan 'support'



N'Golo Kante

AFP | Istanbul

France midfielder N'Golo Kante has signed for Fenerbahce from Saudi side Al-Ittihad thanks to "support" from president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Turkish club said yesterday.

World Cup winner Kante, who turns 35 next month, had been set to move to Istanbul earlier but the transfer seemed to have failed due to an administrative error.

The length of Kante's contract has not been revealed but it offers the two-time Premier League winning midfielder a chance to further his claim for a place in France's World Cup finals squad.

Erdogan was in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, making his first visit to the country in more than two years.

"Our club has successfully completed the transfer of N'Golo Kante, a prominent figure in world football," Fenerbahce president Sadedtin Saran said.

"On behalf of myself and our club, I would like to express my gratitude to our President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his significant support in ensuring the positive conclusion of this process, which will contribute to the development of both Fenerbahce and Turkish football," he added.

Going in the opposite direction is Fenerbahce's experienced Moroccan international striker Youssef En-Nesyri.

The 28-year-old, who was part of the Morocco side that reached the 2022 World Cup semi-finals and last month's Africa Cup of Nations final, replaces Karim Benzema, who left Al-Ittihad for Saudi rivals Al-Hilal on Monday.

# Arsenal sink Chelsea to reach League Cup final

Arsenal reach their first final in six years and end a run of semi-final defeats

● Arsenal beat Chelsea 1-0, advance 4-2 on aggregate

● Havertz scores late winner at the Emirates

AFP | London

Arsenal reached the League Cup final for the first time in eight years as Kai Havertz sealed a 1-0 win against Chelsea in the semi-final second leg on Tuesday.

Mikel Arteta's side had put themselves in pole position in the first leg and Havertz came off the bench to finish the 4-2 aggregate victory in the closing moments at the Emirates Stadium.

It was a cathartic triumph for the Gunners, who had lost their previous four semi-finals in the 2025 Champions League and League Cup, the 2022 League Cup and the 2021 Europa League.

In their first final for six years, Arsenal will face Manchester City or Newcastle at Wembley on March 22.

City held a 2-0 lead over Newcastle ahead of yesterday's second leg at the Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal haven't won the League Cup since 1993, losing in their last three final appearances.

Now they have the chance to end that drought by winning the club's first trophy since the 2020 FA Cup.

That remains the sole silverware won by Arteta since he was hired in December 2019.

"We knew it was going to be a real battle out there. That resilience, that clarity to understand what kind of game we had to play, we did so well," Arteta said.

"There was a special atmosphere inside our stadium. It makes such a difference. We've been waiting a few years to get into this position and we're certainly going to enjoy it."

It is shaping up to be a memorable season for Arsenal, who are six points clear at the top of the Premier League and reached the Champions League last 16 by winning all eight of their group



Arsenal's German midfielder #29 Kai Havertz (C) wins a header

There was a special atmosphere inside our stadium. It makes such a difference. We've been waiting a few years to get into this position and we're certainly going to enjoy it

MIKEL ARTETA

matches.

Despite their success, Arsenal have attracted criticism for their reliance on goals from corners and set-pieces.

Arteta launched a passionate defence of Arsenal's style of play this week, revealing he has a "massive book of people" who feel his side are the "most exciting in Europe".

Tuesday's war of attrition will hardly silence Arsenal's critics, but Arteta won't care about that after leading his team to Wembley.

Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior had won six of his seven matches in all competitions since arriving from Strasbourg to replace Enzo Maresca.

But Rosenior was unable to solve his Arsenal conundrum, with the Gunners handing him the only two defeats of his brief

BETTER YOU KNOW  
The torrential rain at the Emirates was so severe that Chelsea manager Liam Rosenior was forced to remove his soaked glasses during the first half just to see the match clearly

reign.

"Arsenal know they were in a game, over both ties. We dominated the areas we wanted to in the second half, but we didn't find that quality moment," Rosenior said.

"It's painful to lose. We just need to keep making improvements, which I'm seeing from the first leg to the second."

Knockout blow

Without captain Martin Odegaard, sidelined by a muscle problem, and winger Bukayo Saka, who was injured in the pre-match warm-up at Leeds on Saturday, Arsenal weren't at their best but still ground out

the win.

Rosenior's switch to a three-man central defence allowed Chelsea to stifle Arsenal in a scrappy first half.

The Gunners briefly shook off their shackles as Piero Hincapie's curler from just inside the area was palmed away by Robert Sanchez.

It rained so heavily in the first half that Rosenior had to take off his soaked glasses to see what was happening.

Squinting through the squall offered Rosenior an alarming view as Malo Gusto's misjudgement let in Gabriel Martinelli before the Chelsea defender scrambled back to block the shot.

It took 43 minutes for Chelsea to muster a shot on target when Enzo Fernandez's long-range blast was punched clear by Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Chelsea needed to push for a goal and Rosenior sent on Cole Palmer and Estevao Willian after an hour, ditching his back three.

Estevao immediately set up Fernandez for a curler that flashed over, but Chelsea's threat petered out.

Havertz delivered the knockout blow in the final seconds of stoppage-time, rounding Sanchez to slot into the empty net after Chelsea were caught on the counter.



# Spin-heavy Pakistan hit form, but India boycott risks early T20 exit

Forfeiting the marquee India clash leaves Pakistan with zero margin for error in Group A

- **Must win opening games vs Netherlands, USA**
- **Aims to avoid repeat of 2024 failure**
- **Batting consistency remains a major concern**

AFP | Lahore

Pakistan's spin-heavy squad are in winning form ahead of the T20 World Cup, but a controversial decision to forfeit their marquee clash against India could still trigger another early exit.

Pakistan came close to withdrawing from the tournament in solidarity with Bangladesh, who pulled out after refusing to play in India, citing security concerns.

The Pakistan government eventually cleared the team's participation but it barred them from facing India in Colombo in a blockbuster clash on February 15.

With two points for a win, a forfeit of the match will leave Pakistan with no margin for error if they are to progress as one



Pakistan's players celebrate during a match (file photo)

of the top two from a five-team Group A.

It means they must win their opening game against the Netherlands in Colombo on Saturday and beat the United States three days later to stay in contention.

Their final group game will be against Namibia on February 18.

Captain Salman Agha said the move to boycott the India game was out of the team's hands.

"That is not our decision. We have to follow what our government decides," he said.

The Pakistan government has not said what their stance might be if the team were to end up facing India again in the semi-finals or final. Agha was not thinking about that.

"Our job is to win, and we are capable of doing that," he said.

Pakistan will be keen to avoid a repeat of the last T20 World

Cup in 2024, where a shock super over defeat to co-hosts the United States led to them failing to get out of the group.

The side has since faced criticism for failing to adapt to the modern demands of T20 cricket, with the batting, particularly Babar Azam's low strike rate, under scrutiny.

The criticism was fuelled by Pakistan's record last year, where 21 of their 34 T20 inter-

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

**Pakistan's wildcard spinner Usman Tariq has drawn attention for his unorthodox, slinky action and dramatic mid-delivery pause – a style likened by fans to “a magician holding time still.”**

national wins came against lower-ranked opponents.

**Confidence restored**

Against elite teams, the results were sobering: three losses to India in the Asia Cup and a 4–1 series defeat to New Zealand.

However, Agha believes recent performances have restored confidence.

Pakistan beat South Africa 2–1, won a home tri-series, and then completed a 3–0 sweep of an under-strength Australia.

"We've had good preparation by beating Australia. We have the luxury of quality spinning

all-rounders like Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan and Saim Ayub.

"We're ticking most boxes and believe we can win the World Cup," Agha said.

The spin department has been strengthened by Abrar Ahmed and Usman Tariq, the latter known for his unusual, slinky action and exaggerated pause at the crease.

The pace attack is led by the experienced Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah.

Faheem Ashraf provides seam-bowling all-round support and newcomer Salman Mirza has been impressive.

Batting remains Pakistan's most volatile component.

When openers Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan provide strong starts, the side can post competitive totals, but collapses remain a constant threat.

Head coach Mike Hesson has added another layer of risk by leaving out experienced wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan because of poor form, opting instead for makeshift options in Usman Khan, Khawaja Nafay and Farhan.

For Pakistan, the ingredients for a deep run are present, but with points potentially forfeited, there is little room left for error.

## Draper to make long-awaited return in Davis Cup qualifier

AFP | Paris

Jack Draper insists he is "still improving" as he prepares to return from a long-term injury absence this week in Britain's Davis Cup qualifier against Norway in Oslo.

The 24-year-old has not played since withdrawing from the US Open last August following his first-round match with an arm injury.

Draper enjoyed the best year of his career in 2025 before the injury, climbing to fourth in the world rankings and winning the Indian Wells title.

He returns on Thursday against a Norway side which may include three-time Grand Slam runner-up Casper Ruud.

"I think last year definitely started off amazingly well," said Draper.

"The second half was extremely challenging, but I took a lot of belief and confidence from the first half of the year and what I achieved.

"I've kept that in mind and I want to be competing right at the top of the game.

"It's going to be a bit of a challenge and a journey to get back to where I was, just because I've been out for such a long time.

"At the same time I'm constantly getting better and I'm constantly improving still. I hope I get to show that sooner more than later."

Draper has only won one of his four Davis Cup matches and has not played in the team event



Jack Draper reacts during a match

since losing a singles rubber to Felix Auger-Aliassime in the 2024 Finals group stage.

Jacob Fearnley, who enjoyed a breakthrough season last year, and the in-form Cameron Norrie are also part of a strong British side who will be favourites to beat Norway and set up a second-round qualifier against either Australia or Ecuador.

Ruud was named in Norway's squad but his partner gave birth to their first child last week and he is yet to confirm if he will still be available.

"They've obviously got a

young player, (Nicolai Budkov) Kjaer, who was number one in the world juniors and playing great tennis on the tour," said Draper.

"He'll be really tough and we all know Casper Ruud has been a top-10 player for a long time.

"It's going to be a great challenge for us all, but I think we're ready to embrace it and we're ready to fight for every point."

**Alcaraz hints at playing Davis Cup this year**

Recent editions of the Davis

Cup Finals, to be held this year in Bologna in November, have been hit by withdrawals from the majority of the world's best players.

A weakened Italy, without Jannik Sinner or Lorenzo Musetti, won last year's title against a Spain team missing Carlos Alcaraz in the final.

Spain have received a bye into September's second qualifying round as the 2025 runners-up, while reigning champions and hosts Italy have a place assured in the Finals.

The Davis Cup is one of the few big titles Alcaraz is yet to win after he became the youngest man to win the career Grand Slam at the Australian Open on Sunday.

"The Davis Cup, it is a goal as well. I really wanted to achieve that for my country, for Spain," Alcaraz said after beating Novak Djokovic in the final at Melbourne Park.

"I set up some other goals for the season, and I will try to be ready for, or to try to get those goals."

Elsewhere this week, Serbia and Chile go head-to-head on Friday and Saturday in Santiago in a bid to set up a tie with Spain.

Qualifying second seeds Germany, without world number three Alexander Zverev, host Peru.

Nine-time winners France take on Slovakia in a tie starting Saturday and Belgium, surprise semi-finalists last year, play Bulgaria in Plovdiv.

## Cunningham leads Pistons past Nuggets rally, Knicks roll on



Cade Cunningham (left) and Duncan Robinson (right) react during the game  
AFP | New York

Cade Cunningham scored 29 points as the Detroit Pistons held off a late rally from the Denver Nuggets to seal a 124–121 victory in their heavyweight potential NBA Finals preview on Tuesday.

Eastern Conference leaders Detroit looked to be cruising towards a comfortable win after surging into a 20-point lead early in the third quarter after a 37-point second period.

But Denver star Nikola Jokic rallied with 10 points in the third quarter and Jamal Murray poured in 14 points in the fourth to reduce the Pistons' lead to single digits in the final minutes.

Cunningham though was equal to the challenge, draining two crucial late free throws

to give Detroit a five-point lead with nine seconds remaining as the Pistons closed out the win.

Jamal Murray led Denver's scoring with 32 points while Jokic finished with 24 points, 15 rebounds and four assists.

All five Detroit starters finished in double figures, with Cunningham supported by 20 points from Duncan Robinson -- including six three-pointers -- and Jalen Duren 19 points.

The win gives Detroit a 37–12 record at the top of the Eastern Conference, five-and-half games clear of the second-placed New York Knicks, who extended their winning streak to seven games with a 132–101 blowout over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday.



# BIC set for National Race Day excitement with touring cars and motorbikes tomorrow

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts an exciting double-header tomorrow with the fifth round of National Race Day this 2025/2026 season.

The event is set to feature two of the Kingdom's most exciting local championships, including the Bahrain Touring Car Challenge (BTCC) and the Bahrain Motorcycle Championship (BMC).

The meeting is being organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Circuit Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

Racing will be held along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track, with the action scheduled to begin at 10.30am and continue until after 4pm. All are welcome to attend and watch the exciting



bumper-to-bumper and wheel-to-wheel battles. Tickets are BD2 for adults and BD1 for children. They can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, through the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

Race-goers will get to watch both series from BIC's Beyon Grandstand, offering fantastic views of key parts of the circuit, including the Inner Straight where the start and finish lines are located.

BTCC practice kicks off the day's schedule at 10.30am, to be followed by qualifying at 11.45am. The first of two 15-lap races in the round will then be held at 1.25pm, followed by race two at 3.40pm.

The BTCC field is expected to be headlined by Ali Almansoori, who has swept all eight races held so far this season.

Meanwhile, the BMC will see action in both the 1,000cc and

600cc categories. BMC practice will kick off the series' programme at 11.05am, while qualifying will take place at 1pm. The round's sole 14-lap race is then set for a 2.20pm start.

Winners from the BMC's previous meeting were Saeed Al Sulaiti in the 1,000cc class and Mo-hamad Alzaidan in the 600cc.

The podium ceremonies for both the BTCC and BMC will follow all the action at 4.35pm.

BIC's 2025/2026 racing calendar features seven rounds of National Race Day. Following this weekend's action, the campaign resumes with the sixth and penultimate meeting on 13 March. That will set the stage for the grand finale on 24 April.

For more information on National Race Day or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

## Mir sets pace on Sepang day two, Yamaha absent



Honda HRC Castrol team's Spanish MotoGP rider Joan Mir takes a corner

AFP | Sepang

Spaniard Joan Mir set the pace on the second day of MotoGP pre-season testing in contrasting conditions at the Sepang circuit yesterday, as Italian-Japanese factory team Yamaha opted to stay off track.

Mir became the pace setter after the 28-year-old clocked 1 min 56.874 sec on his Honda machine after 11 laps, to become the fastest rider over two days of testing in Malaysia.

Italian Franco Morbidelli came close to matching Mir's timing after he posted 1 min 56.983 sec, while his compatriot Fabio Di Giannantonio was third fastest on the day after registering 1 min 57.049 sec, both on their respective Ducatis.

The morning session witnessed only 17 riders set out for testing, with Yamaha's notable absence as they tried to resolve a technical issue from Tuesday's test.

Their withdrawal compounded Fabio Quartararo's absence from the remaining

two days of testing after the Frenchman suffered a finger fracture following his crash on Tuesday.

As the skies changed from intense heat to a sudden downpour in the afternoon, only 11 riders emerged to weather the conditions.

Spaniard Alex Marquez, who crashed on the same turn as Quartararo the day before in the morning session, returned to post the fastest lap of the afternoon session as he stamped 1 min 58.094 sec on his Ducati.

"I was quite angry with myself after seeing the damage on the bike. I tried different things with the new tyres, the grip of the track is super high so, I had the problem," Marquez said.

"I understood the crash, and we look forward," he added.

Jorge Martin, the 2024 champion who endured a challenging previous season with injuries, was meanwhile spotted walking around shirtless with his racing gloves on.

The Spaniard appeared in good spirits as he posed for pictures with the medics and race marshals.

## Selection process for future Olympic hosts set for reform

AFP | London

The International Olympic Committee is considering reforming its procedure for awarding future Games to restore "transparency" and establish a clearer timetable, as the contest looms as to who hosts the 2036 Summer Olympics.

The 2036 race is considered wide open and is expected to feature bids from India and Qatar, with Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Africa, Turkey and Chile among other interested parties.

"While there is no desire to return to the costly pre-2019 bidding process, the current election process requires refinement," former Croatian president Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, now an IOC member, told delegates yesterday during the IOC Session in Milan ahead of the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Grabar-Kitarovic, who heads



The Olympic rings at Cortina d'Ampezzo ahead of the 2026 Winter Olympics

a working group on the designation of Olympic hosts set up by IOC president Kirsty Coventry, said she believed "structured timelines, increased transparency and more meaningful participation by IOC members" were required.

Since 2019 -- when Coventry's predecessor Thomas Bach was president -- the IOC has radically changed the way it chooses

Games organisers, with the aim of stemming the lack of candidates, reducing costs and avoiding inflicting public humiliation on unsuccessful bidders.

Gone are the suspense-filled elections, seven years before the event, in which the lucky winner was drawn from an envelope during a ceremony broadcast around the world, after costly campaigns to promote bids.

Negotiations are now confidential until the designation of a "preferred host", which is selected behind closed doors by the IOC's Executive Board and approved at the end of the process by the roughly 100 IOC members meeting in their Session.

Grabar-Kitarovic said her working group was proposing introducing a "transitional stage".

It would "allow shortlisting of a limited number of interested parties with advanced projects for deeper evaluation".

That evaluation "should be based on transparent criteria published in advance", she added.

Grabar-Kitarovic suggested such criteria could include "the importance of venue master plans, clarity on the sports programme, financial guarantees, and the added value of prior experience in hosting multi-sport events".

## Timber hopes League Cup can be catalyst for Arsenal success

AFP | London

Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber believes lifting the English League Cup could inspire the Gunners to even more success this season.

Mikel Arteta's men are just 90 minutes away from ending their six-year wait for a major trophy after seeing off Chelsea at the Emirates on Tuesday to secure a place in next month's final.

Arsenal are also six points clear at the top of the Premier League and through to the Champions League last 16 following an unblemished league-phase campaign.

They also face third-tier Wigan in the fourth round of the FA Cup a week on Sunday.

"We don't have anything yet, but we've put ourselves in an



Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber in action

amazing position to win," Timber said when asked if winning the League Cup could spur Arsenal on to greater heights.

"The Carabao (League) Cup final is coming early, so maybe that could be nice for us as a

motivation and a boost towards the other cups as well.

"It's not always possible to play your best. But this team does an amazing job of finding a way to win, no matter what. We have done it away at Chelsea,

where it is not easy (to win), and then at home as well. So, it is very deserved.

"You could see how relieved everyone was and how happy that we are going to Wembley. And hopefully there are more celebrations to come."

Kai Havertz came off the bench to make sure of Arsenal's place in the final when he scored in stoppage time against former club Chelsea.

Havertz spent nearly a year out injured following hamstring and knee operations but has now scored twice in his last three appearances.

"Kai's presence within the team makes a big difference, but also on the pitch," said Timber. "Everyone can see his amazing qualities, and how happy we all were for Kai."