

‘Grnata Group’ employs and trains more than 60 Bahrainis through Tamkeen programmes

Manama

As part of ongoing efforts to invest in national talent in the real estate and construction sectors, “Grnata Group” have employed and trained more than 60 Bahraini employees through the various programs offered by the Labour Fund “Tamkeen”. This step affirms the Group’s strong commitment to investing in the development of its national workforce, enhancing their skills and expertise, and empowering them to elevate their capabilities and achieve their long-term career aspirations.

The support enriches the real estate activities sector, which recorded a contribution of 4.2% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the second quarter of 2025. It also strengthens the growth of this expanding sector, which positively reflects on the availability of employment opportunities for national talent.

The Labour Fund “Tamkeen” provides a wide range of pro-



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Tamkeen

Grnata Group was established in 1982, and over the course of four decades, evolved from a small shop in Daih into one of the leading and most prominent institutions in the real estate sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It has strengthened its position by adopting the latest technological systems and offering an integrated range of real estate services, including brokerage and marketing, valuation and feasibility studies, as well as contracting and urban development. “Grnata Group” currently operates 26 branches within the Kingdom of Bahrain and abroad, including locations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and several GCC countries, in addition to newly established branches in international markets across Europe, such as London and Spain.

grams designed to support various enterprises, empower the private sector as a key driver of economic growth, and deliver employment and career initiatives aimed at making Bahraini talent the first choice of employment in the labor market.

Volatility grips oil market as nervous investors assess Venezuela



The opening numbers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange are pictured on a screen after the opening ceremony to celebrate the first trading day of the year, at the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The oil market was jumpy on Monday after US forces captured the leader of oil-rich Venezuela, sparking speculation on the implications for future crude supplies.

Having spiked in an initial reaction to the military operation to apprehend Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, oil prices quickly dropped again on expectations that Venezuela -- which sits on about a fifth of the world’s oil reserves -- will crank up production quickly, adding to an

existing supply glut.

But then oil recovered again as investors realised that Venezuela is in no position to make a meaningful impact on oil supply in the short run, even with all the help that US President Donald Trump has promised.

Despite Trump’s “obvious desire for US oil companies to ramp up activity in Venezuela, lower oil prices and political uncertainty will frustrate efforts to exploit its vast energy potential”, predicted David Oxley, chief climate and commodities economist at Capital Econom-

Key figures at around 1435 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 0.7% at \$61.19 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 0.9% at \$57.83 per barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.7% at 48,704.34
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4% at 9,986.36 points
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.1% at 8,201.99
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.0% at 24,777.28
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 3.0% at 51,832.80 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	■ at 26,347.24 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.4% at 4,023.42 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1680 from \$1.1720 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3461 from \$1.3460
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 156.73 yen from 156.85 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.77 pence from 87.07 pence

ics. “It would take years, and massive investment, to bring Venezuela’s oil production back to pre-crisis levels,” said Ipek Ozkardeska, an analyst with Swissquote.

Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world, at around 303 billion barrels, according to OPEC.

Trump’s promise to rebuild Venezuela’s crude production capacity with the help of American companies meanwhile sent stocks in oil majors soaring.

In early Wall Street business, Chevron was up nearly 5%,

while Exxon rose by around 2.5%.

Safe-haven investments gold and silver rose on increased geopolitical risk in the wake of the US invasion.

Prospects of more US interest-rate cuts this year and a booming technology sector meanwhile lent support to equity markets.

The first full week of business for 2026 will see the release of key US jobs data that could play a role in the Federal Reserve’s decision-making on borrowing costs.

Hungary’s PM eyes oil price cut after US operation in Venezuela

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

Hungary’s Prime Minister Victor Orban on Monday said the US operation in Venezuela was a sign of the “new world” and would lead to a fall in energy prices sought by Donald Trump to carry out his economic programme.

Nationalist leader Orban, who is an admirer of the US president, called the US toppling of President Nicolas Maduro “a new language... that the world will speak in the future”.

“With Venezuela, the United States is now able to control 40 to 50 percent of the world’s oil reserves,” he told a news conference, estimating that it would lead to a fall in prices.

“I can see a serious possibility that following the bringing of Venezuela under control, a more favourable energy situation for Hungary will emerge, and that’s good news.”

Orban also justified his decision not to join a European Union call on Sunday for the will of the Venezuelan people to be respected, citing his opposition to EU foreign policy.

“Coordinating the foreign policy

of 27 member states is a good thing and it’s possible. But there is no need to have a common foreign policy because we don’t agree -- and we will not agree -- on many foreign policy issues,” he added.

“We don’t agree on Venezuela, we don’t agree on the Russia-Ukraine war, on the Middle East. On Israel, we are completely divided,” he added, arguing that only trade policy was within the EU’s remit.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Sunday called for “calm and restraint” to prevent an escalation of the crisis in Venezuela, in a statement on behalf of all member states except Hungary.

“Respecting the will of the Venezuelan people remains the only way for Venezuela to restore democracy and resolve the current crisis,” Kallas said.

Media outlets at Orban’s news conference on Monday were allowed to ask only one question each, with no opportunity for follow-ups.

The prime minister promised that “no question would go unanswered” but several leading media organisations, including AFP, were unable to ask questions.



EU says ‘seriously looking’ into Musk’s Grok AI over sexual deepfakes of minors

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The European Commission said Monday it is “very seriously looking” into complaints that Elon Musk’s AI tool Grok is being used to generate and disseminate sexually explicit childlike images.

“Grok is now offering a ‘spicy mode’ showing explicit sexual content with some output generated with childlike images. This is not spicy. This is illegal. This



is appalling,” EU digital affairs spokesman Thomas Regnier told reporters.

“This has no place in Europe.”

Complaints of abuse began

hitting Musk’s X social media platform, where Grok is available, after an “edit image” button for the generative artificial intelligence tool was rolled out in

late December.

But Grok maker xAI, run by Musk, said earlier this month it was scrambling to fix flaws in its AI tool.

The public prosecutor’s office in Paris has also expanded an investigation into X to include new accusations that Grok was being used for generating and disseminating child pornography.

X has already been in the EU’s crosshairs.

Brussels in December slapped

the platform with a 120-million-euro (\$140-million) fine for violating the EU’s digital content rules on transparency in advertising and for its methods for ensuring users were verified and actual people.

X still remains under investigation under the EU’s Digital Services Act in a probe that began in December 2023.

The commission, which acts as the EU’s digital watchdog, has also demanded information

from X about comments made around the Holocaust.

Regnier said X had responded to the commission’s request for information.

“I think X is very well aware that we’re very serious about DSA enforcement, they will remember the fine that they have received from us back in December. So we encourage all companies to be compliant because the commission is serious about enforcement,” he added.