

## A royal welcome



France's President Macron welcomes HM King and HRH Shaikh Nasser at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris

Macron (L) welcomes HM King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris



HH Shaikh Nasser, HM King Hamad, France's President Emmanuel Macron and France's junior Defence Minister Alice Rufo (R) pose after signing a bilateral agreement at the Elysee Palace in Paris

HM King Hamad arrives at the Elysee Presidential Palace to meet with French President in Paris

# A garden, a market and a message

Budaiya Farmers Market grows into a weekend community favourite

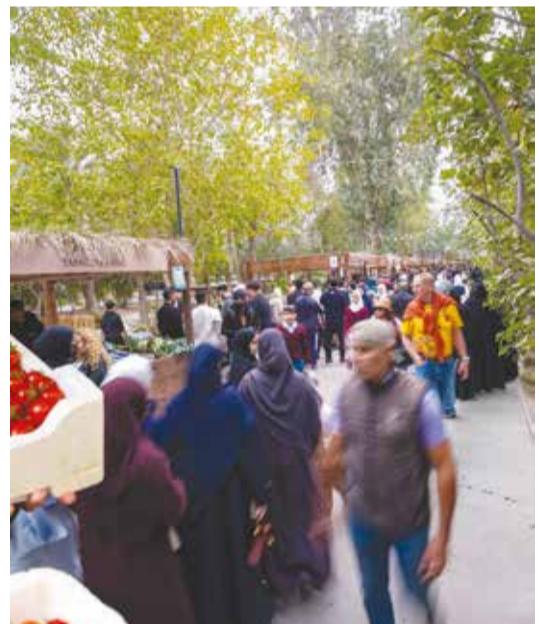
Every Saturday until February 14, colourful stalls come alive with the sights and sounds of local agriculture

Beyond the produce, the market has become a family-friendly space

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Under the shade of Budaiya Botanical Garden's greenery, the Bahraini Farmers Market has evolved into a lively weekend destination, drawing families, food lovers and visitors from Bahrain and abroad.

Every Saturday until February 14, colourful stalls come alive with the sights and sounds of local agriculture. Fresh fruits, vegetables and traditional Bahraini products are displayed in abundance, all offered directly



by the farmers who grow them. The setting creates a relaxed atmosphere where shopping blends naturally with community interaction.

This season, 33 Bahraini farmers are taking part, presenting

more than 100 varieties of locally grown produce. From crisp leafy greens to sun-ripe tomatoes and fragrant herbs, the market reflects the diversity and quality of Bahrain's agricultural output.

baskets gradually filling with fresh, local food. These scenes highlight the market's growing role as both a social hub and an educational platform.

Organised by the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture, in partnership with the National Initiative for Agricultural Sector Development and private-sector partners, the initiative strengthens the link between farmers and consumers. It also plays a wider role in supporting local producers and reinforcing national food security by encouraging the purchase of Bahraini-grown products.

The market also supports Bahraini entrepreneurship, providing space for agricultural initiatives, craft projects and value-added food products. Alongside this, educational and awareness activities continue throughout the season, focusing on environmental preservation, sustainable agriculture and the importance of local produce.

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Budaiya Botanical Garden is a popular public green space in Bahrain known for its diverse plant life, including areas dedicated to palm trees, aromatic plants, wild plants and flowers, and it hosts seasonal community events such as the Bahraini Farmers Market which attracts thousands of visitors and supports local agriculture every winter.

# Pension payment delays to face Parliamentary scrutiny

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Delays in pension disbursements will come under parliamentary scrutiny when the Council of Representatives convenes on Tuesday, as MPs question the efficiency of administrative procedures affecting retirees' financial stability.

The issue will be raised following a parliamentary ques-

tion submitted by MP Mahmood Mirza Fardan.

## Oversight

The discussion will involve the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the government body responsible for public finances and pension-related financial administration. MPs are expected to examine whether existing procedures ensure timely payment, and whether current systems sufficiently re-

spond to pensioners' needs.

Pension administration has increasingly featured on the parliamentary agenda amid growing public concern over retiree-

ment security. The issue will be discussed alongside other pension and social insurance matters during the same sitting, highlighting the importance of effective implementation in addition to legislative reform.



Education Minister receives Head of Saudi Educational Mission in Bahrain



Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma'a, Minister of Education, received Dr. Sami bin Ghazi Al Otaibi, Head of the Saudi Educational Mission in Bahrain. The meeting focused on strengthening the longstanding educational partnership between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.