

HM King thanked by Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari family

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a letter of thanks from Hala bint Mohammed Al Ansari, Adviser to His Majesty the King for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, following the royal directive to rename Bahrain Teachers College as Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari Teachers College.

In the letter, conveyed in her name and on behalf of the family of the Bahraini thinker Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari, she expressed appreciation for the royal directive, noting that it reflects HM the King's commitment to recognising national intellectual figures and preserving their contributions to education and knowledge.

Japan warns of global risks



H.E. Ambassador Asako Okai

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Continuing the series on how 2026 is reshaping the global order, Japan cautions that international law, multilateralism, and responsible use of technology are under growing strain in an increasingly volatile world. Read the perspective of Her Excellency Ms. Asako Okai, Ambassador of Japan to Bahrain, on Page 2.

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Bahrain, Saudi keen to deepen strategic ties

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the shared commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation between the Kingdoms of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

He stressed the importance of building on strategic ties to support development priorities and further strengthen collaboration across various sectors between the two countries.

HRH Prince Salman made these remarks while receiving His Excellency Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairi, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain, at Riffa Palace yesterday.

Relationship

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed that the historic relationship between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia continues to advance across various fields in line with the support of both His Majesty King Ham-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with H.E. Saudi Ambassador Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairi

"It is important to build on strategic ties to support development priorities and further strengthen collaboration across various sectors between the two countries."

— HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

ad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, highlighting the pivotal role of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and

mended the partnership, highlighting the pivotal role of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, in achieving the aspirations of both countries.

During the meeting, the latest regional and global developments were reviewed.

Role

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the prominent role played by Saudi Arabia and its allies in consolidating regional security and stability.

For his part, H.E. Ambassador

Al-Sudairi expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness for his commitment to strengthening this longstanding partnership, wishing Bahrain and its people continued progress and prosperity.

H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, and His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, also attended the meeting.

'Criminal offence'

Renting out commercial registrations is 'commercial concealment', lawyer warns

Mohammed Darwish

TDT | Manama

Renting out a commercial registration in exchange for a monthly payment is not a harmless side deal but a criminal offence known as "commercial concealment", Bahraini lawyer Jassim Al Issa has warned in an interview with The Daily Tribune.

"This relationship is not a lease arrangement involving the commercial registration. It is regarded as an offence, described under Bahraini law as commercial concealment," Al Issa said.

He described the practice as allowing a foreigner to run a business under a Bahraini's name while the Bahraini collects money without real involvement.

Al Issa said the authorities can act against both sides of the arrangement, meaning the foreign party running the business

and the Bahraini individual or company providing the cover, with measures that can include suspending or cancelling the registration and shutting the premises until the status is corrected.

"The ministry may act against those engaging in commercial concealment by administratively closing the commercial premises until the legal status of the commercial registration is rectified," he said.

Al Issa pointed to penalties set out in Decree-Law No. 1 of 1987 concerning certain provisions related to the sale and lease of commercial premises, saying repeat offences can bring jail time, a fine, and removal from the commercial register.

Imprisonment

He said reoffending can be punished by imprisonment for up to a year and a fine of up to BD1,000, or one of the two,



"The practice is treated as a crime because commercial activity is granted to the registered merchant and is not meant to be passed on to someone else."

— JASSIM AL ISSA, LAWYER

alongside striking off the registration and closing the premises where the violation took place.

The lawyer said the practice is treated as a crime because commercial activity is granted to the registered merchant and is not meant to be passed on to someone else.

The offence, he added, is made out when a Bahraini enables a non-Bahraini to carry out commercial activity that the non-Bahraini is barred from practising, while the foreign party controls the business in reality.

Al Issa said Bahrain has stepped up oversight through inspections and information-sharing between agencies, and that penalties may extend to deportation for foreigners involved.

He also pushed back against the idea that collecting modest monthly sums makes a person a "business owner", arguing the

Repeat offences can bring jail time, a fine, and removal from the commercial register.

wider harm falls on the market and on small traders.

The lawyer said commercial concealment can curb economic growth, distort fair competition, and weaken service quality when the real operator of a business is hidden behind paperwork.

Al Issa said the practice can also leave consumers and suppliers dealing with blurred responsibility, while enabling non-Bahrainis to corner certain activities through front arrangements that appear compliant on paper but are not so in practice.

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Her Excellency Ms. Asako Okai, Ambassador of Japan to Bahrain

As 2026 brings renewed pressure on the foundations of international law amid geopolitical rivalry, technological disruption, and transnational risks, Japan warns that unilateralism and coercion are eroding the norms essential to global stability. In conversation with **Mahir Haneef**, **Her Excellency Ms. Asako Okai, Ambassador of Japan to Bahrain**, outlines why diplomacy, multilateral cooperation, and responsible governance of emerging technologies remain indispensable to safeguarding peace, trust, and shared prosperity.

As we embark on 2026, humanity faces a critical juncture. International law and humanitarian principles, diligently built over a century, now face the unsettling reality of their very foundations being threatened. The global landscape is complex and volatile, marked by unilateral attempts to alter the status quo by force, erosion of the rule of law, reliance on coercion over dialogue, and widening geopolitical divides. Thus, diplomacy must be reaffirmed as the only sustainable path to peace and stability.

Beyond geopolitics, escalating climate change, cyber threats, disinformation, and the destabilizing potential of non-state actors continue to threaten societal stability and trust. Concurrently, rapid technological advancements, especially in AI, offer immense opportunities, yet their development must be responsibly guided to address ethical concerns, privacy, and potential misuse, such as in autonomous weapon systems. Faced with these multifaceted and transnational issues, it is clear that no single nation can address them alone; robust international cooperation and multilateralism are therefore indis-

The global landscape is complex and volatile, marked by unilateral attempts to alter the status quo by force, erosion of the rule of law, reliance on coercion over dialogue, and widening geopolitical divides.

pensable frameworks for collective action. Open and inclusive global economic systems, fostering equitable growth, are necessary. While geopolitical pressures necessi-

tate supply chain reorientations, upholding free trade principles remains vital. These shifts must strengthen, not undermine, the foundations of an open global economy, ensuring exchange and innovation thrive.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), unanimously adopted at the UN in 2015, powerfully testify to humanity's capacity for collective ambition. Though their 2030 achievement faces challenges, these foundational goals must not be discarded. Their critical state makes their principles even more vital, urging us to recall this spirit of unity and transform pledges into tangible action.

Against this backdrop, Bahrain, a champion of international law and peaceful co-existence, stands as a reliable partner, now serving at the UN Security Council. Japan remains resolute in its commitment to a rules-based international order, dialogue, and multilateralism. This stems from its profound dedication to peace and consistent efforts to uphold the rule of law at every level. Japan has also long provided development cooperation genuinely tailored to the needs of its partners. Through such concerted, mutually respectful efforts, we must collectively forge a future where peace and prosperity prevail for all.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Tamkeen approves 2026-2030 strategy

● Empowering more than 44,000 Bahrainis through employment and career development initiatives

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), yesterday chaired the Board of Directors meeting and approved the Fund's 2026-2030 strategy.

His Highness underscored the essential role played by the private sector in the Kingdom, emphasising its impact on Bahrain's growth and development.

He further highlighted that close collaboration between the government and the private sector is critical for the realisation of national plans and the Kingdom's comprehensive development, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

His Highness outlined the



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman chairs Tamkeen's Board Meeting

New strategy aims to strengthen the role of private sector enterprises by implementing initiatives that support their growth and advancement.

importance of continuing to empower national talent and broaden professional development opportunities, while supporting private sector enterprises through enabling initiatives that contribute to the Kingdom's growth and development.

These efforts aim to enhance competitiveness, strengthen sustainable economic participation, and expand access to high-quality employment opportunities for national talent.

The Fund's strategy centres on four key priorities: prioritising areas with the highest returns for the economy and Bahrainis; supporting the design of career pathways through initiatives that link skills with available labour market opportunities; adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and access to financing; and delivering

programmes that enhance the Fund's operational effectiveness and efficiency, while further strengthening governance.

Review

During the meeting, His Highness directed a review of all the Fund's programmes to ensure their alignment with the new strategic priorities and to enhance their impact on the private sector, thereby contributing to the national economy's

growth.

Additionally, the Board of Directors congratulated Her Excellency Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, on the issuance of the Royal Decree renewing her appointment. Her Excellency expressed her gratitude for her reappointment, reaffirming her commitment to achieving the Fund's key objectives of enhancing the national economy through initiatives that support the private sector and develop national talents.

The Board also thanked the team responsible for developing the Fund's strategy for the coming years and ensuring its alignment with current and future market needs, reflecting Tamkeen's commitment to providing supportive programmes and initiatives that align with national trends and labour market requirements.

Milestone event

ISB set to host historic Annual Cultural Fair to mark Platinum Jubilee

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) is finalizing preparations for its Annual Cultural Fair, a landmark event organized in celebration of the institution's prestigious Platinum Jubilee.

Presented by Star Vision Events, the fair will take place on January 15 and 16, 2026, and is expected to be the largest cultural gathering in the school's 75-year history.

To heighten community excitement, the school has unveiled an impressive range of raffle prizes.

Prize

The grand prize is a brand-new silver MG ZS car from Zayani Motors, followed by 4-gram and 2-gram gold coins from Joyalukkas.

Other major prizes include a 600-litre refrigerator, home theatre systems, and various premium Philips home appliances.

Entry tickets are priced at BD2, making the event accessible to the wider community while raising funds for essential student welfare and staff support initiatives.

The fair features a star-studded entertainment lineup, beginning on Thursday, January 15, with a live concert by world-renowned musician and composer Stephen Devassy.

The festivities continue on Friday, January 16, with a series of student cultural pro-



The fair will take place on January 15 and 16, 2026 as the largest cultural gathering in the school's 75-year history.

grams followed by a high-energy performance from popular playback singer Rupali Jagga and Abhishek Soni.

Extensive preparations are currently underway to ensure a seamless experience for the thousands of alumni, parents, and visitors expected to attend.

The official raffle draw is scheduled for January 18 and will be conducted in the presence of ministry representatives to ensure full compliance with regulations.

ISB Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese and Fair General Convenor R. Ramesh have called upon the public to support the event wholeheartedly.

They emphasized that this fair is more than just a cultural extravaganza; it is a historic milestone that celebrates decades of educational excellence while providing vital assistance to students and staff.

Drug trafficking suspect arrested in sting operation



● In possession of narcotic substances

Rehab Mohammad

Based on confidential intelligence and close security surveillance, a case involving the possession and trafficking of narcotics has been referred to the courts after suspects were arrested following a pre-arranged sting operation.

The High Criminal Court is set to examine the case.

Investigations indicate that information received from confidential sources confirmed that the suspects were in possession of narcotic substances with the intent to sell and use them.

This intelligence led to the issuance of arrest and search warrants by the competent authorities.

Contact

A confidential source managed to establish contact with one of the suspects, who agreed to sell narcotics for 400 dinars, with a time and place for the exchange agreed upon.

At the appointed time, the source proceeded to the location under discreet surveillance by the arrest team.

Contact was made with the suspect, who arrived shortly thereafter. He was apprehended after identifying himself, and police officers carried out the arrest.

A search of the suspect's vehicle led to the seizure of four bottles containing liquid narcotics.

A subsequent search of his residence uncovered 160 plastic containers filled with liquid narcotics, another large container of narcotic substances, 51 empty containers believed to have been used for repackaging drugs, two bank cards, and a sum of cash.

During questioning by the Public Prosecution, the suspect admitted to drug use, stating that the seized items found in the vehicle and residence belonged to him.

Rental fraud

Man accused of renting generator using stolen ID card and forged contract

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An advert selling an electric generator online put a Bahraini man in the dock, accused of renting the machine using someone else's ID card and a forged hire contract, the High Criminal Court heard.

Prosecutors said the defendant, 33, used a valid identity card belonging to another person during September and October 2025 to get equipment from a construction hire shop.

He is accused of signing the shop's rental agreement while posing as the cardholder, using a forged signature, and then handing the paperwork back to the business as if it were genuine.

Delivery

The shop manager told the court the man first rented a generator and asked for it to be delivered to East Riffa.

After the delivery, the customer handed the workers a copy of an ID card, the witness said.

The next day, the same man



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ordered another generator to be delivered to a different address, according to the manager.

This time, the ID card given to staff carried another name.

Sale

Days later, on 3 October, the manager said he spotted an online advert offering a generator for sale and believed it matched the one hired out on the second order.

A report was filed at a police station and an inquiry began.

Investigators later recovered

the generator and confirmed it belonged to the shop, prosecutors said.

Contract

One of the shop's workers identified the defendant as the man who received the generator on both occasions, saying that on the second visit an ID card belonging to someone else was produced and the customer signed the hire contract under that person's name.

The court has adjourned the case until 11 January.

Bahraini accused of torching friend's motorcycles faces fate

● Court verdict set for 10 February

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A 42-year-old Bahraini man accused of setting fire to his friend's motorcycles will be sentenced, or cleared, on 10 February after the High Criminal Court held the case for judgment and kept him in custody.

Prosecutors say he lit a fire in moveable property owned by a friend in a way that could have put people and property at risk.

The defendant denies it. He has told the court the blaze started by accident while he

was smoking a cigarette.

Intent

His lawyer, Reem Al Mahfari, asked the court to acquit him, arguing that intent had not been proven and that the file contained no sure proof that her client meant to start a fire or cause damage.

As a fallback, she asked the court to show mercy and, if it convicts, to impose the lowest penalty allowed under Articles 73 and 81.

Al Mahfari pointed to a Civil Defence report dated 24 November 2025, which said two motorcycles and part of a house wall were damaged by fire and smoke.

The report suggested the blaze was likely started by

someone, but did not name that person, which the defence said leaves the charge unproven.

Accounts

She also challenged the witness accounts, telling the court that one witness spoke of seeing a person set the motorcycles alight outside the home but did not give a description or identify the accused.

She said police enquiries, as recorded in the case papers, did not produce extra information that supports the allegation, and that her client has denied the charge throughout questioning and in court.

The prosecution's case centres on CCTV footage and witness statements.

'Hawa Al Manama' braces for strong turnout this week

● Attendance more than double from last year

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The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has reported that the "Hawa Al Manama" event is witnessing strong turnout in its current edition, with attendance this week exceeding more than double the number of visitors recorded during its first edition last year.

This reflects the growing popularity of the event among citi-

The "Hawa Al Manama" event will continue until Thursday, January 15, 2026.

zens, residents and visitors, as well as the diverse cultural and tourism experiences it offers.

Her Excellency Sara Ahmed Buhejji, Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, noted that the expansion of the event's footprint has helped attract a larger number of participants, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in addition to drawing innovative Bahraini projects.

This has allowed for a wider variety of experiences and activi-



Visitors experience Manama's diverse cultural and tourism activities

ties to be offered, catering to the expectations of visitors of different age groups and interests.

She added that this expansion has had a positive impact on the growth in footfall at Manama

Souq, with increased visitor and customer movement in commercial outlets, highlighting the

market's status as a tourism and commercial destination.

This is especially evident with the current edition's focus on showcasing the cultural and heritage dimension of the capital, Manama.

She also confirmed that the accompanying events and guided tours held in Manama Souq have seen notable turnout, given the distinctive interactive experience they provide.

The "Hawa Al Manama" event will continue until Thursday, January 15, 2026.

It recreates aspects of daily life in the old souq and sheds light on the social and cultural transformations.

Arabic language check required for all adverts



H.E. Wael Al Mubarak



Dr Ebtisam Al Dalal placed, its size, and the details of the advertising company.

Requirements

Licences are usually issued within an average of five working days from the date an application is submitted, provided it meets the full requirements.

Adverts are also checked for language when they reach the committee, Al Mubarak said, with Arabic required to be correct before clearance is given.

"The advertising content is linguistically reviewed when presented to the Advertising Committee, with an emphasis on adherence to correct Arabic before approval is granted," he said.

Coordination

On coordination with other bodies, the minister said the Advertising Committee was formed under Decree-Law No. 14 of 1973 on the Regulation of Advertisements and its executive rules, issued under Decision No. 2 of 1977 and later amended.

The committee brings together the relevant parties, studies applications and gives a technical view, while some requests are sent to service bodies for review.

Amendments

Al Mubarak said the ministry has submitted two draft amendments to the current law to the legislative authority to match current conditions and changes in commercial and advertising activity.

The aim, he said, is to improve the look of cities and make licensing procedures faster and more orderly.

He added that the ministry would continue working with the Shura Council on matters that fall within its remit.

Green concerns

Southern Council backs ban on damas trees in residential areas

● Residents complain of infrastructure harm caused by Conocarpus trees

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Southern Municipal Council has backed a proposal to ban damas trees (Conocarpus) from homes and residential neighbourhoods in the Southern Governorate.

The council will write to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to consider introducing the restriction.

Councillors approved the proposal at their meeting yesterday.

Vote

It was submitted by council member Abdullah Darraj, and passed by unanimous vote.

“Despite their benefits, we have received many complaints from residents,” Darraj told the council as he presented the case for a ban on planting the trees in housing areas.

The proposal focused on the tree’s roots, saying they tend



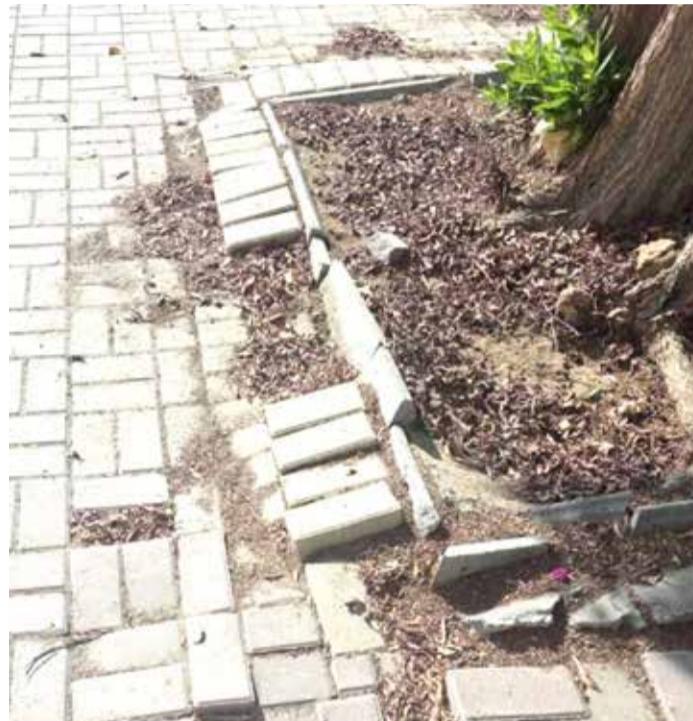
“**Their roots cause major damage to the infrastructure of buildings, homes, roads, pavements and sewage networks, because they spread in search of water.**”

— ABDULLAH DARAJ, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

to spread thickly and sideways rather than growing deep.

Pattern

The study said this pattern can damage infrastructure, with roots able to break into



Damas trees are blamed for roads and sewage damage

fresh-water pipes, sewage lines, damage to the infrastructure of buildings, homes, roads, pavements and sewage networks, because they spread in search of water,” Darraj said.

The proposal also cited year-round leaf and seed fall, and fruit described as foul-smelling,

“Their roots cause major



The tree’s roots tend to spread thickly and sideways rather than growing deep.

saying this leads to dirt building up on streets, pavements and soil and affects the look of neighbourhoods.

Harmful

It said the tree can draw insects and offer shelter for harmful reptiles such as snakes, can alter soil properties in ways that make it less suitable for other plants, grows quickly into uncultivated areas, and uses large amounts of water.

The council’s letter to the minister will ask for the matter to be reviewed, with a view to banning the planting of damas trees (Conocarpus) in homes and residential areas across the Southern Governorate.

Drivers jailed and fined for illegal street race in Zallaq

TDT | Manama

The Attorney General, Head of the Traffic Prosecution, announced that the Minor Criminal Court has handed down sentences in a case involving an illegal street race.

The court ruled that the first defendant will serve one month in prison and pay a fine of BD1,000, while the second defendant will serve six months in prison and pay a BD1,000 fine.

Both vehicles involved in the incident were also ordered to be confiscated.

Defendants

The defendants were charged with conducting a race on a public road without a license, driving without caution, endangering lives and property, and exceeding the legal speed limit.

According to official reports, the Public Prosecution received a complaint from the General Directorate of Traffic regarding a high-speed race between two vehicles on Bahrain Bay Street in the Zallaq area.

The drivers allegedly exceeded the legally prescribed speed in a manner that posed a serious risk to both lives and property.

Apprehension

Investigations were immediately launched, leading to the apprehension of both drivers.

During questioning, they admitted to the charges.

Following a thorough review of the evidence, the Public Prosecution referred the case to the competent court, which issued the sentencing as described.

Bahrain Teachers College renamed

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In implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the University of Bahrain announced the renaming of the Bahrain Teachers College to the Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari College for Teachers, in recognition of Dr. Al Ansari’s pioneering intellectual and cultural role at the national and Arab levels, as well as his distinguished contributions across various fields of knowledge.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, expressed his appreciation for the royal directive.



Enriching heritage with modern vision of Bahraini identity

● Event on 25 March

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Youth Affairs has announced the Youth Path Car Carnival as part of Bahrain’s National Youth Day celebrations, marked each year on 25 March, with the carnival set to take place during the month.

The Ministry said the event reflects the Kingdom’s confidence in its youth and invites institutions and organisations to join a national showcase that captures the spirit of creativity, ambition, and modern Bahraini pride.

Innovation

Participation criteria have been issued for the Youth Path, encouraging teams to design innovative and interactive floats or platforms that feel fresh, youthful, and impossible to ignore.

The Ministry called for designs that blend originality with national pride and reflect one or more themes such as tech-

nology, the environment, space, or a modern vision of Bahraini identity, stressing that innovation should shape the work from the first idea to the final presentation.

National elements are mandatory, with teams required to

incorporate Bahrain’s symbols, colours, and visual heritage through creative choices that can include media, fashion, and design details.

The Ministry said the goal is to create a unified look that strengthens belonging and pride as the procession moves through

the carnival route.

Requirements

Organisers stressed that entries must comply with safety requirements and traffic dimensions to ensure smooth participation.

They underlined the need for structural stability and safe materials, warning against any installations that could endanger participants or spectators.

The Ministry also encouraged the use of recycled materials in decoration as part of a wider push towards sustainability.

Teams must meet submission and participation deadlines, attend preparation sessions, and coordinate closely with organisers on execution.

Participants are also expected to handle key logistics such as display vehicles, energy sources, and sound systems to ensure the presentation runs smoothly on the day.

The Ministry said the Youth Path aims to turn the carnival into a live showcase of Bahraini talent where culture, creativity, and sustainability meet, highlighting young people as partners in shaping the future.

NOTICE

With regard to the license cancellation

of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L.”

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (1) of 2026 pertaining to the cancellation of the Ancillary Service Provider - Card Processing and payment Service Provider license of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L.” issued on 15 Rajab 1447H, corresponding to 4 January 2026, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Ancillary Service Provider - Card Processing and payment Service Provider license of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L.” issued on 18th February 2015, registered under commercial registration No. 91873 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

DANAT registration for Gem-A Gemmology Foundation Program

TDT | Manama

set to commence in February.

As the world’s oldest gemmology education body, Gem-A has trained generations of gemologists across the globe for over a century.

Its Foundation Certificate is widely regarded as a gateway into the global gem and jewellery industry, offering rigorous academic grounding and prac-



Noora Jamsheer

tical exposure.

This initiative reaffirms DANAT’s commitment to strengthening Bahrain’s position as a global hub for gemstone expertise.

Its launch comes at a time when demand is growing for internationally accredited professionals, driven by the expansion of the luxury jewellery industry.

iGA launches Labour Force Survey 2026

TDT | Manama

In line with efforts to strengthen the national data framework and improve labour market indicators, the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) announced the launch of the 2026 Labour Force Survey (LFS), which will be conducted from January to December 2026.

Targeting a random sample of more than 8,000 households across the Kingdom's governorates, the study aims to collect comprehensive data on the Kingdom of Bahrain's labour market, including information on occupational structure and the economic activities of the employed population. The data will be compiled according to the standards and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), allowing for regional and international comparability.

Vision

Duaa Sultan Mohamed, iGA's Deputy Chief Executive for Statistics and Population Registry, said that the Labour Force Survey reflects the Government's vision and iGA's commitment to the directives of His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communications Technology (MCICT).

She also noted that continuing to conduct these studies and surveys supports informed decision-making, policy development, and the formulation of national plans and strategies to further advance the Kingdom's development.

Military cooperation meeting



The Bahrain Defence Force has successfully concluded the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Military Cooperation of the Armed Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. During the meeting sessions, a number of topics listed on the agenda were discussed, aimed at developing integrated strategies and initiatives that contribute to supporting the progress of joint Gulf military action and strengthening the foundations of existing military cooperation and coordination among the armed forces of the GCC states.

Empowering youth centres

His Excellency Hassan Abdullah Al Madani, Governor of the Northern Governorate, received Sadiq Salman Habib, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abu Saiba Youth Empowerment Centre, along with a number of board members, in the presence of H.E. Brigadier Abdullah Ali Rashid Ma'anthar, Deputy Governor of the Northern Governorate. The meeting discussed a number of topics related to the needs of the centre and local residents, as well as ways to enhance cooperation with the relevant authorities, contributing to the support of joint efforts to serve children and youth and to invest their time in ways that benefit them and their community. The Governor praised the vital role and outstanding efforts undertaken by youth empowerment centres in nurturing talents and developing the capabilities of young people.



A higher ceiling

Southern Municipal Council backs BD13,000 cap for home renovation aid

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

BD13,000 could become the new upper limit for renovation support under the Cities and Villages Development Project.

The Southern Municipal Council voted yesterday to write to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, urging a change to the project's guidance manual.

The council backed, unanimously, a proposal from Mohammed Darraj, the member for the Fourth Constituency, to lift the cap from BD10,000 to BD13,000, or less, but only in exceptional cases.

Darraj told the council: "The expected actual cost of carrying out the works has become higher than the amount estimated

"There is a need to complete the project without placing additional burdens on citizens. Citizens rely on limited salaries, which makes them unable to cover any additional costs."

— MOHAMMED DARAJ, FOURTH CONSTITUENCY MEMBER

and approved in the first phase. There is a need to complete the project without placing additional burdens on citizens. Citizens rely on limited salaries, which makes them unable to cover any additional costs."

Under the proposal, the higher ceiling would apply only when extra works are needed because of the scale of damage and rising costs, subject to a decision by the project's Exceptions Committee.



He linked the request to the aim of the Cities and Villages Development Project's renovation and rain insulation service, which targets safe and suitable housing for low-income citizens, with the aim of raising housing standards across the Kingdom.

In its recommendation, the council referred to provisions in the Municipalities Law and its executive regulations that allow municipal councils to propose local projects and follow up services within their remit, while co-ordinating with the relevant authorities.

The proposal also notes that the "houses at risk of collapse" project has been stopped since 2012, leaving some urgent cases relying on renovation support despite the scale of damage in some homes.

Vehicle embezzlement and impersonation case

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

In a further connected case, the loss of ID cards inside a vehicle led to the uncovering of a broader fraud and vehicle embezzlement scheme.

The suspect had used an identity belonging to a detainee serving a sentence at a rehabilitation centre to rent a vehicle, which he failed to return.

The rightful owner of the ID later confirmed that he had neither rented the vehicle nor signed the contract, and that his card had been stolen.

Signatures

Forensic examination established that the suspect had forged the signatures on the rental agreement, and financial investigations confirmed that payments for the vehicle rental were made using a phone num-

ber registered in the suspect's name.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant in 2025 with using forged official documents, impersonation, fraud, document forgery, misuse of a forged document, vehicle theft and causing financial damage to the rightful owner.

The High Criminal Court set 10 February as the date for issuing its verdict, with the defendant remaining in custody.

Stage set for Primary Healthcare Centers event

Conference, exhibition bring leading experts together in February

TDT | Manama



Primary Healthcare Centers are preparing to host the second edition of the Primary Healthcare Centers Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to take place from 12 to 14 February 2026 at the Gulf Hotel, in partnership with BDA Conferences and Exhibitions.

The conference will bring together more than 40 speakers comprising prominent experts and specialists in the field of primary health care, alongside broad regional and international participation.

The event will also feature the participation of a select group of leading pharmaceutical and medical supplies companies, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and in-depth discussion of the latest solutions and challenges across several critical areas of healthcare.

Disciplines

The conference programme will cover a wide range of disciplines, including family medicine, emergency medicine, communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, physiotherapy, and dental health.

It will also highlight the latest professional practices

and innovative technologies shaping the future of primary health care services.

On this occasion, Dr. Ijjal Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of Primary Healthcare Centers and President of the Conference, confirmed that all organizational and scientific preparations for the second edition have been fully completed.

Success

He noted that this edition builds on the success achieved by the inaugural conference and reflects the growing focus on advancing primary healthcare services and strengthening their central role within the healthcare system.

"The conference places particular emphasis on delivering practical scientific content that keeps pace with the latest developments in the field, while anticipating the evolving needs of the next phase of primary healthcare services," said Dr. Al Alawi.

NBB receives Deutsche Bank Client Excellence Award @ Sibos

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has been recognised with Deutsche Bank's Client Excellence Award during Sibos 2025, one of the global financial industry's most prominent gatherings. The accolade reflects NBB's continued advancement in institutional banking and its strong performance in international transaction services.

Presented in acknowledgement of outstanding operational delivery, the award highlights NBB's Straight-through Processing (STP) rate of 99%, placing the Bank among the highest-ranked institutions worldwide. This achievement is the result of the combined efforts of NBB's Operations, FI Coverage, and Transaction Banking teams, who consistently work to strengthen the Bank's processing accuracy and service reliability.

Commenting on the occa-



sion, Ali Abdulkarim, Group Chief Executive – Corporate & Commercial Banking, stated, "Receiving this award from Deutsche Bank is a testament to the collective dedication of our teams and the progress we continue to make in enhancing our transaction banking capabilities. Our focus has been on delivering consistent quality and efficiency for our clients, and this milestone reinforces the value of our approach."

The acknowledgment builds on NBB's longstanding relationship with Deutsche Bank and their shared commitment to supporting institutional clients through dependable, technology-enabled service models.

As the Bank continues to advance its infrastructure and expand its digital workflow capabilities, this achievement underscores NBB's role in strengthening Bahrain's standing in regional banking and supporting the Kingdom's financial sector development.

Lenovo unveils AI agent to bridge PCs, phones and wearables at CES

AFP | Las Vegas, United States

Lenovo, the world's top PC maker, unveiled its own AI assistant Tuesday at the CES tech show in Las Vegas, promising a tool that follows users seamlessly across laptops, smartphones and connected devices.

The Beijing-based company commanded 28 percent of global PC market share in the third quarter of 2025, ahead of rivals HP at 21.5 percent and Dell at 14.5 percent, according to US research firm Gartner.

Lenovo's new artificial intelligence agent, dubbed Qira, is designed as an autonomous interface capable of performing tasks rather than simply generating content on demand, a move



An exhibitor displays AGADE's Agadex Lowback, its next-generation AI-driven industrial exoskeleton, during the Showstoppers event at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada

Lenovo hopes will showcase the breadth of its product portfolio.

Unlike rivals focused on single categories, Lenovo was the only major manufacturer whose

offering spanned laptops, tablets and smartphones -- under its Motorola brand, acquired in 2014 -- as well as servers and even supercomputers.

The company also unveiled prototypes of connected glasses and an AI-powered pendant, still in testing, that captures "important moments" with user consent by recording conversations, said Motorola's Angelina Gomez.

Codenamed the AI Perceptive Companion, the pendant features a microphone and camera and "sees what you see and hears what you hear," Lenovo vice president Luca Rossi told reporters.

An interaction with Qira can start via the pendant, continue on a smartphone and end on a laptop, with the agent retaining user context across devices.

It can summarize the highlights of a user's day, draft and send emails, or even select pho-

CES regularly attracts around 140,000 attendees from across the world, making it one of the largest and most influential technology trade events globally, with thousands of exhibitors and a high percentage of international participation



tos from archives to post on social media.

Lenovo stressed it is not positioning Qira as a rival to Microsoft's Copilot and announced the integration of Copilot into Motorola smartphones.

For major hardware makers, the challenge now is proving the utility of generative AI in everyday applications rather than simply flaunting cutting-edge

Amid lingering geopolitical tensions with Washington, Lenovo was the only Chinese firm to take center stage at CES, choosing Las Vegas's futuristic Sphere venue for its showcase.

Executives emphasized the company's global footprint, with most revenue generated outside China and several top managers from overseas.

Bahrain and Bangladesh seek to deepen trade and investment cooperation



Manama

His Excellency Mr Sameer Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, underscored the importance of strengthening economic, investment and trade relations

between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, calling for enhanced joint efforts to expand the volume of bilateral trade.

He made these remarks while receiving His Excellency Mr Md Rais Hasan Sarower, Ambassador of the People's Republic of

Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Mr Nass reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment, along with the Bahraini private sector, to advancing bilateral relations by activating the role of the private sector in both countries, promoting joint investments and establishing sustainable economic partnerships.

He noted that bilateral trade exceeded USD 38 million in 2024, reflecting the steady growth of economic ties, and highlighted promising investment opportunities across key sectors, including transport, tourism, healthcare, renewable energy and textiles, which offer broad prospects for cooperation and

joint ventures.

Strong relations

In turn, His Excellency Ambassador Md Rais Hasan Sarower expressed Bangladesh's pride in its strong relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain, reaffirming his country's aspiration to exchange expertise and deep-

en economic cooperation. He also confirmed the Embassy's readiness to intensify coordination with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to support partnerships between business communities and further stimulate trade and investment exchanges between the two countries.



The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain's annual Farmers Market returns

Manama

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain opens the season with the return of the beloved annual Farmers Market, an iconic celebration of the rich culture, craftsmanship, and culinary heritage of the Kingdom of Bahrain that has become a yearly tradition for the country. Set within the lush grounds of the resort, this cherished tradition is set to take place every Friday from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM on the following dates: January 9, 16, 23 and 30 and February 6 and 13, 2026.

This highly anticipated community event offers an immersive journey into the rich cultural traditions of the Kingdom with fresh seasonal produce, unique artisanal creations, and activities for guests of all ages. Curated by the hotel's culinary maestros, led by Executive Chef Joergen Sodemann in collaboration with Food and Beverage Director Jae Hak Lee and its dedicated team, the Farmers Market offers an authentic culinary experience and offerings that are always unique every year.

We are also delighted to welcome Chef Suman Ali Sayed as a Guest Chef at the Farmers Market. A Bahraini-Canadian culinary talent, Chef Suman Ali brings a unique perspective shaped by international experience and a deep connection to Middle Eastern food heritage. Her cuisine celebrates how food transcends borders, uniting cultures through flavor and storytelling.

Formerly a Culinary Partner at Bar Mordecai, ranked among North America's 50 Best Bars, Chef Suman is known for crafting menus that showcase local, sustainable Canadian ingredients infused with distinctive Bahraini influences. Her career spans collaborations with leading global hospitality brands and features in acclaimed cu-



linary platforms, including a James Beard-nominated documentary.

At the Farmers Market, Chef Suman will present a thoughtfully curated offering that reflects her passion for culture, community, and conscious cuisine—an experience not to be missed.

Begin your journey with an authentic spread of traditional Bahraini breakfast favorites and indulge in an assortment of cold Mezze and crisp seasonal green before exploring the live cooking stations preparing classics such as Foul Medames, Bahraini Shakshuka, Balaleet,

and seared Bahraini beef liver. As lunch time approaches, enjoy freshly prepared Shawarmas, grilled chicken, and dishes from the pasta and panini station. Complete your culinary journey with Bahraini sweet treats including Gaimat; golden and sweet, it is the perfect finale to your feast.

The market continues to honor Bahrain's deep cultural roots through interactive activities for all ages. Guests can enjoy face painting, henna art, pottery making, and hours of joy with the bouncy castle for little ones. Spend your time wandering through live painting

displays, observing traditional wood carving, or meeting gentle farm animals at the petting zoo. At the heart of the market, experience immersive displays of local craftsmanship from date harvesting with date-tree climbing demonstrations, Arabic calligraphy, and the intricate beauty of traditional Bahraini weaving.

With its blend of authentic flavors, artisanal crafts, and community spirit, the Annual Farmers Market at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites guests to celebrate the Kingdom's heritage in a vibrant and unforgettable style.

Air India Express launches special discounts for excess baggage



● The special offer allows guests to pre-book 5 kg/10 kg extra baggage at attractive rates for travel from the Middle East to India.

Manama

New Year, new offers, and more reasons to pack for longer holidays. Air India Express, India's first international value carrier, announces a special limited-period offer for guests travelling from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to India, allowing them to

aexpress.com, mobile app and on all major booking channels and is subject to availability.

Guests travelling from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to India can purchase additional check-in baggage for only BHD 0.2, KWD 0.2, OMR 0.2, QAR 2, SAR 2, and AED 2 respectively in lots of 5kg and 10kg. The offer is available across all fares including Xpress Value, Xpress Lite, Xpress Flex, and Xpress Biz. The offer is only valid during booking flow.

The airline already offers a minimum 30 kg baggage allowance on these sectors across fare types except on Xpress Lite, the airline's exclusive zero check-in baggage fare. With the option to purchase an additional 10 kg through this offer, guests can now travel with up to 40 kg check-in baggage, making it easier to carry gifts, essentials, and personal belongings when visiting family and friends.

Hilton Bahrain wraps up the Festive Season with a heartwarming handover of toys to Tree of Life Charity Society

Manama

Hilton Bahrain is proud to announce the successful conclusion of its annual festive toy drive. In partnership with Bahrain Elementary School, this year's initiative collected double the number of toy donations compared to last year.

The month-long campaign wrapped up this morning as the collection was officially handed over to the Tree of Life Charity Society, an organization dedicated to the social welfare and empowerment of young children across the Kingdom.

Travel with Purpose

Guided by Hilton's Travel with Purpose, the initiative is part of a continuous promise to foster meaningful connections within the local community.

"True hospitality is about the impact we leave behind," said Tamer Farouk, General Manager of Hilton Bahrain. "While



we are thrilled to have doubled our collection this year, the real success lies in the spirit of our guests and partners. It is an honor to facilitate this wave of kindness that directly supports children in need across Bahrain."

A Shared Mission

The partnership with Bahrain Elementary School was instrumental in the drive's success, engaging young students in the act of giving back.

Shafiqah Al-Muallem, Deputy Executive Director and Events Manager of Tree of Life Charity Society, expressed her gratitude, "We are deeply moved by the empathy shown by the Hilton Bahrain team and the students of Bahrain Elementary School. These donations represent more than just gifts; they provide a sense of joy and community support for the children we serve. It is heartening to see such a dedicated commitment to making a difference."

This successful collaboration between Hilton Bahrain, Bahrain Elementary School, and the Tree of Life Charity Society sets a positive tone for 2026, proving that when the community unites, the impact is truly transformative.

News in brief

◆ **The United States should** pressure Russia by "carrying out some sort of operation" to remove Chechen head Ramzan Kadyrov from power, just like it did with Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday. In comments to journalists, Zelensky said the operation to remove Maduro showed that Washington had the power to influence Moscow if it really wished, arguing that deposing Kadyrov would make Russian President Vladimir Putin "think twice" about his ongoing offensive on Ukraine. US special forces snatched Maduro and his wife from Caracas last Saturday, shocking Washington's allies and drawing condemnation from Venezuela's partner Moscow. Kadyrov, the leader of Russia's Muslim-majority region of Chechnya since 2007, is one of Putin's most vocal supporters and sent thousands of soldiers to fight in Ukraine.



US should topple Chechen leader after Maduro, Zelensky says

Iran clashes during protests kill two people, wound 30: local media

◆ **Clashes in** southwest Iran yesterday killed two people and wounded 30, the Fars news agency said on the 11th day of a wave of protests in the Islamic republic. Fars reported that shopkeepers were protesting in Lordegan when "rioters began throwing stones at the police". "Among them, there were individuals with military and hunting weapons who suddenly opened fire on the police," Fars added, without specifying whether those killed were police officers or protesters.

◆ **Hamas officials** told AFP that search operations for the remains of the last Israeli hostage held in Gaza resumed yesterday after a two-week pause due to bad weather. Israel has previously said it is awaiting the return of Ran Gvili's body before beginning talks on the second phase of the fragile ceasefire agreement with Hamas which came into effect in October. A Hamas official told AFP that the Palestinian Islamist movement's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, "accompanied by Red Cross teams, are resuming today search operations for the body of the last Israeli captive in the Zeitun neighbourhood in southeastern Gaza City." Another official said that search operations had been suspended over the past two weeks due to stormy weather and heavy rain, which had prevented excavators and other machinery from reaching Zeitun. "The search operations resumed today, and we hope to recover the body to close the exchange file," the official added, urging pressure on Israel to complete the first stage of the ceasefire agreement and open the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt.

Hamas says search resumes for last Israeli hostage body in Gaza



SPOTLIGHT

'Never expected this': Creator of viral AI Maduro image comes forward

AFP | Washington, United States

The man who created an AI-generated image of Nicolas Maduro that went viral has come forward, telling AFP he was shocked the fake racked up millions of views online.

The image depicting Maduro flanked by US forces exploded across social media after Washington seized the Venezuelan leader and his wife in a raid on Caracas on Saturday. Many posts called it the first photo of Maduro in custody.

But the X user who first posted the image, who goes by Ian Weber and describes himself as an "AI video art enthusiast" based in Spain, told AFP in an exclusive interview that he used Nano Banana Pro, an image generator within Google's Gemini, to create it.

"I never expected this to become the most shared picture worldwide," he said Tuesday in a series of direct messages on X, where his account has fewer than 100 followers.

As the news broke, Weber gave the image generator a simple prompt, according to a screenshot of the chat shared with AFP. Translated from Spanish, it read: "Nicolas Maduro detained by American assault forces. Put granular photo." He cropped out the Gemini watermark and posted the result on X within 20 minutes of US President Donald



Representative image

Trump announcing the operation on Truth Social.

"I just wanted to see if an account on X with fewer than 78 followers at the time could make a picture go viral organically," he told AFP.

Almost immediately, it did.

Weber watched as users asked Grok, Elon Musk's AI tool, to verify the image. In some cases, the chatbot responded that it was authentic. Prominent accounts misrepresented the image, and further manipulated versions soon spread online.

"That was when the avalanche began," Weber said. "Everyone was suddenly desperate to publish the first picture of his arrest."

AFP and other news agencies quickly debunked the fake, noting that Gemini said it contained a SynthID, an invisible watermark attached to AI content created using Google's tools.

Trump says doubts 'NATO would be there for us' if needed

US leader added that the NATO member countries are "all my friends"

● **Russia and China have "zero fear of NATO" without the United States**

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump, whose renewed threats to seize Greenland from NATO member Denmark have rattled the transatlantic alliance, said yesterday he doubted allies would "be there for us if we really needed them."

"We will always be there for NATO, even if they won't be there for us," he wrote on his Truth Social platform, a day after the White House said it was not ruling out military intervention to acquire Greenland.

In his post, Trump repeated his frequent assertion that many members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had failed to meet military spending commitments until he intervened.

"The USA was, foolishly, paying for them! I, respectfully, got them to 5% GDP, AND THEY PAY, immediately," he wrote.

But the US leader added that the NATO member countries are "all my friends."

Trump, who has cast himself



A tourist looks at the statue of Hans Egede (1686-1758), a Dano-Norwegian Lutheran missionary, in Nuuk, Greenland

as a global peacemaker, also touched on a personal grievance.

"I single-handedly ENDED 8 WARS, and Norway, a NATO Member, foolishly chose not to give me the Noble Peace Prize," he said, misspelling the name of

the prestigious award that instead went to Venezuelan op-

position leader Maria Corina Machado.

Trump concluded by saying that Russia and China have "zero fear of NATO" without the United States as part of the alliance.

"The only Nation that China and Russia fear and respect is the

DJT REBUILT U.S.A." he said, referring to himself by his initials.

Trump's designs on the mineral-rich, self-governing Danish territory of Greenland has set off alarm bells among European NATO members, who see such a move as an existential threat to the alliance.

Trump weighs military option to acquire Greenland

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump is discussing options including military action to take control of Greenland, the White House said Tuesday, upping tensions that Denmark warns could destroy the NATO alliance.

Trump has stepped up his designs on the mineral-rich, self-governing Danish territory in the arctic since the US military seized Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro last weekend.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that "acquiring Greenland is a national security priority" for Trump to deter US adversaries like Russia and China. "The president and his team are discussing a range of options to pursue this important foreign policy goal, and of course, utilizing the US military is always an option at the commander in chief's disposal," she said in a statement to AFP.

The Wall Street Journal reported Secretary of State Marco Rubio told lawmakers that Trump's preferred option is to buy Greenland from Denmark, adding the threats did not signal an imminent invasion.

Denmark has warned any move to take Greenland by force would mean "everything would



This aerial view shows snow-covered buildings in Nuuk, Greenland

stop," including NATO and 80 years of close transatlantic security links.

Any US military action against Greenland would effectively collapse NATO, since the alliance's Article Five pledges that member states will defend any of their number that come under attack.

Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt wrote on social media that they'd sought a meeting with Rubio throughout 2025 but "it has so far not been possible." Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen

said meeting Rubio should "clear up certain misunderstandings."

And Greenland Prime Minister

Jens-Frederik Nielsen insisted that the island was not for sale, and only its 57,000 people should decide its future.

'Not acceptable'

Allies have rallied around Denmark and Greenland while simultaneously trying not to antagonize Trump.

The leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain joined Denmark in a statement on Tuesday saying they would defend the "universal principles" of "sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders."

French President Emmanuel

Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer both sought to play down the row as they attended Ukraine peace talks in Paris alongside Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

"I cannot imagine a scenario in which the United States of America would be placed in a position to violate Danish sovereignty," Macron said. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said Wednesday he believed the US was committed to NATO, but he suggested European leaders were prepared to strike back against potential US "intimidation."



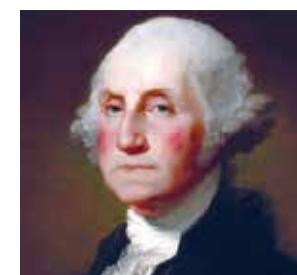
Greenland is the world's largest island – covering about 2.17 million square kilometres – and more than 80 per cent of it is covered by an ice sheet, making its icy expanse second only to Antarctica's in size.

1656

Oldest surviving commercial newspaper, "Weeckelycke Courante van Europa", now known as "Haarlems Dagblad", and still in print, begins publication in Haarlem, Netherlands

1790

First US President George Washington delivers the first State of the Union address



1835

US national debt reaches \$0 for the first and only time in history

1926

Abdulaziz Ibn Saud becomes King of Nejd and Hejaz, forerunner of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



In situations as confused & complex as the one we now face in Venezuela, it's important to stick to principles: Respect for the @UN Charter. Respect for the sovereignty, political independence & territorial integrity of states.

@antoniofoterres

02



Glad to speak with my friend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and convey New Year greetings to him and the people of Israel. We discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Israel Strategic Partnership in the year ahead. We also exchanged views on the regional situation and reaffirmed our shared resolve to fight terrorism with greater determination.

@narendramodi

03



#India has secured a great hat trick for health by raising taxes on tobacco that will 1) mobilize more resources for health, 2) reducing overall health system costs, and 3) targeting a vicious risk factor causing non-communicable diseases like cancer, heart and lung diseases.

@DrTedros

04



Together, we are building a robust security architecture for Ukraine. Ensemble, nous bâtissons une architecture de sécurité robuste pour l'Ukraine.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

Saudi strikes Yemen after separatist leader skips talks

The coalition said it had given Aidaros Alzubidi a 48-hour ultimatum

● Alzubidi decided not to join the delegation flying to Saudi Arabia

● On Wednesday, more than 15 air strikes hit Dhale

● STC said it had lost contact with the delegation following its arrival in Riyadh

AFP | Aden, Yemen

Asaudi-led coalition struck the home province of Yemen's separatist leader yesterday, after he failed to show up for talks in Riyadh and was kicked out of the country's presidential body.

The coalition said it had given Aidaros Alzubidi a 48-hour ultimatum to come to Riyadh for discussions, after his Southern Transitional Council (STC) grabbed swathes of territory last month.

They were rolled back by the Saudi-led coalition and allied Yemeni forces in recent days.

But he failed to board the flight carrying his delegation, and the coalition struck his home province of al-Dhale af-



Members of the Southern Giants Brigade aka Al-Amalqa sit in the back of military vehicles deployed in Aden

ter accusing him of mobilising "large forces" there.

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, which holds executive power, then announced Alzubidi's removal, accusing him of high treason.

The showdown between Yemen's rival factions has raised fears that its second city, Aden, where the STC insisted its leader was still located, could be drawn

into the violence.

Lost contact

The separatists said they were open to discussions but warned they had lost contact with their delegation in Riyadh, urging Saudi authorities to guarantee their safety.

Yesterday, more than 15 air strikes hit Dhale, a local official told AFP, killing four people, ac-

cording to two hospital sources.

Alzubidi "fled to an unknown location... after he had distributed weapons and ammunition to dozens of elements inside Aden", coalition spokesperson Major General Turki al-Maliki said in a statement.

The coalition carried out strikes to prevent Alzubidi from "escalating the conflict" and extending it into Dhale governo-

rate, he said.

An STC official told AFP that Alzubidi decided not to join the delegation flying to Saudi Arabia for talks after hearing he would be asked to dissolve his group, which forms part of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) governing government-held Yemen.

Later, the STC said it had lost contact with the delegation following its arrival in Riyadh, urging Saudi Arabia to "guarantee the safety of its delegation currently in Riyadh".

Alzubidi "continues his duties" in Aden, the group said, calling on the Saudi-led coalition to halt the air strikes.

'Grave crimes'

The PLC announced Alzubidi's removal, accusing him of committing several crimes, including "high treason" and "engaging in armed insurgency".

"It has been established that (Alzubidi) has abused the just cause of the South and exploited it to commit grave crimes against civilians in the southern governorates," it said.

A security official in Aden told AFP that the forces loyal to Mahrami have been deployed in the streets and government buildings, including the presidential palace.

Europe faces transport chaos as cold snap toll rises

AFP | Paris, France

Snow, ice and high winds brought transport chaos to swathes of Europe for a third day yesterday, with hundreds of flights cancelled and passengers stranded.

Airports in Paris and Amsterdam were the worst affected, with the Dutch authorities saying more than 1,000 travellers had been forced to spend the night at Schiphol, one of Europe's busiest hubs.

Seven people have died in weather-related accidents as the continent reels from the most bitter cold snap of the winter so far.

Hungary's interior ministry said on Wednesday that a woman had died after a car skidded on ice and crashed into another vehicle, adding to five people killed in France and one in Bosnia since the winter freeze descended on Monday.

With snowfall continuing on Wednesday, skiers and snowboarders enjoyed hurtling down the steep hills of the Montmartre district in Paris.

But the cold snap came as a bitter shock to the French capital's many homeless people.

Guinean teenager Boubacar Camara, who is sleeping in a tent on the city's outskirts, told AFP he had "no choice but to keep



A local town hall employee attempts to tow a stranded vehicle on a snow-covered road near Sebourg, northern France

on going".

"You just have to stay strong, make sure you don't die, you know," said the 19-year-old. "We can't do anything about the cold -- I'm not used to this at all."

Hundreds of schools were closed for a third day across Scotland, and English authorities were warning of a snowstorm across parts of the country in the coming days.

Black ice warning

More than 100 flights were

cancelled on Wednesday at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport and 40 more at the French capital's other main hub, Orly.

Almost half of mainland France was on alert for heavy snow and black ice, and lorries were banned from the roads in some areas, forcing truckers off the road while waiting for permission to get going again.

"It's better to be here than stuck on the road," said driver Carle Bruno, who managed to get to a roadside service station

in the northern port city of Le Havre to wait out the weather.

In the Netherlands, Schiphol Airport said more than 700 flights had been cancelled so far and warned that the number was likely to increase.

Brussels Airport confirmed 40 cancellations on Wednesday, and Budapest Airport in Hungary said 20 flights had been cancelled overnight.

Andras Vaszko, a meteorologist at the Hungarian national weather service HungaroMet,

told AFP it was the heaviest snow in the capital for 15 years.

Forecasters said temperatures could fall to -20C in some places in Hungary, and in neighbouring Austria the mercury plummeted even further to -24C in the Alps overnight.

'Calm prevails'

Britain also saw temperatures plunging, with the authorities warned some rural communities in Scotland could be "cut off" by snow. The Eurostar rail service connecting London with continental European cities was also disrupted again on Wednesday, with passengers facing cancellations and delays.

The Balkans region has been hit by heavy snow and floods in recent days and thousands were still without power in Serbia after a snowstorm tore down power lines on Tuesday.

The Albanian port city of Durres was hit by torrential downpours on Tuesday that inundated hundreds of homes and forced around 200 people to flee, though officials said conditions were easing on Wednesday. Nordic countries were also facing snow-related chaos, with officials in eastern Sweden warning that power cuts were "likely" because of heavy snowfall.

‘Dire’ financial crisis forces UNRWA to fire 571 Gazan staff

Staff affected had originally worked in the Gaza Strip

- Affected staff have been without pay for over 10 months
- Israel has barred UNRWA from operating on its soil
- Israel had not provided conclusive evidence for its headline allegation

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The UN’s beleaguered agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday that a “dire” financial crisis had this week forced it to fire hundreds of Gazan staff who had left the territory.

“On Tuesday, 571 local UNRWA staff, outside Gaza, were informed that they were being separated from the agency with immediate effect,” a spokesperson told AFP in an email.

For more than seven decades, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees has provided aid and assistance to Palestinian refu-



A man collects trash while wearing a jacket bearing the logo of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), along a street in the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank

gees across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

But the agency has seen the voluntary contributions it relies on dwindle as it has become the focus of increasingly harsh Israeli criticism and attacks, causing what the spokesperson

called an “unprecedented financial crisis”.

While the work UNRWA was mandated to do cost around \$880 million in 2025, the agency received only around \$570 million in contributions, the spokesperson said.

“As things stand, we expect a substantial shortfall in 2026,” they added.

All of the staff affected by this week’s announcement had originally worked in the Gaza Strip, but had managed to leave early in the war sparked by Hamas’s

deadly attacks inside Israel on October 7, 2023.

‘Intense defamation’

Most had been unable to carry out their duties remotely since leaving Gaza, but had remained on UNRWA’s payroll until last March, when they were placed on exceptional unpaid leave, the spokesperson said.

“The affected staff have been without pay for over 10 months, and it is impossible to foresee when or if they could resume their duties due to circumstances entirely beyond UNRWA’s control,” the spokesperson said.

“Recognising that UNRWA’s financial situation remains dire, the agency took a decision which at least allows them to access financial resources rapidly, including separation indemnities.”

The spokesperson stressed that UNRWA, which has seen more than 300 of its employees killed in Gaza since the start of the war, still had around 12,000 staff working inside the Palestinian territory.

Israel has barred UNRWA from operating on its soil, accusing the agency of providing cover for Hamas militants, and claiming that some of the agency’s employees took part in the October 7 attack.

A series of investigations found some “neutrality-related issues” at UNRWA, but stressed that Israel had not provided conclusive evidence for its headline allegation.

Tuesday’s decision was “extremely difficult and (came) as a result of an extremely challenging financial outlook, as well as intense defamation campaigns to undermine UNRWA and deter its donors”, the spokesperson said.



UNRWA provides critical services – including education and health-care – to nearly 6 million Palestinian refugees across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza, running hundreds of schools and health facilities as part of its humanitarian mandate.

US seizes Russia-flagged oil tanker chased to North Atlantic

- Washington says the tanker is part of a so-called shadow fleet that carries oil for countries such as Venezuela, Russia and Iran

- Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth posted that the US blockade on Venezuelan oil was in full effect “anywhere in the world”

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States on Wednesday seized a Russian-flagged oil tanker in the North Atlantic after pursuing it from off the coast of Venezuela, in an operation condemned by Moscow.

Washington says the tanker is part of a so-called shadow fleet that carries oil for countries such as Venezuela, Russia and Iran in violation of US sanctions, and seized it despite the ship being escorted by the Russian navy.

The vessel had thwarted an



A Venezuelan navy patrol boat escorts Panamanian flagged crude oil tanker Yoselin near the El Palito refinery in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela

earlier attempt to board it last month near Venezuela, where a US raid on Saturday toppled the country’s authoritarian president, Nicolas Maduro.

The vessel was seized in the North Atlantic pursuant to a warrant issued by a US federal court, US European Command, which oversees American forces in the region, said in a statement

on X.

After the operation, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth posted that the US blockade on Venezuelan oil was in full effect “anywhere in the world.”

Russia’s Transport Ministry slammed the seizure, saying “freedom of navigation applies in waters on the high seas, and no state has the right to use force

against vessels duly registered under the jurisdiction of other states.”

The US military also announced a second sanctioned tanker ship had been seized in the Caribbean Sea.

Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem posted on X that both vessels “were either last docked in Venezuela or en route to it,”

and included a video of US forces roping down from a helicopter onto an unidentified ship and proceeding toward the bridge with weapons ready.

US to control oil sales ‘indefinitely’

Last weekend, US special forces snatched Maduro and his wife from Caracas and flew them to New York to face trial on drug charges.

Since then, President Donald Trump has said that the United States will “run” Venezuela and US companies will control its critical oil industry.

In Caracas, after several days of shuttered shops and intermittent public transport, the capital’s streets were again busy Wednesday with pedestrians, street vendors, cars and motorbikes.

The North Atlantic operation came despite Russia reportedly sending a submarine and other naval assets to escort the empty tanker and saying the vessel was sailing under the Russian flag.

The vessel, formerly known as the Bella-1, in recent weeks switched its registration to Russia, changed its name to the

Marinera and the tanker’s crew reportedly painted a Russian flag on the tanker.

It had been en route to Venezuela before it evaded the US blockade, and has been under US sanctions since 2024 over alleged ties to Iran and Hezbollah.

Trump said Tuesday that Venezuela said 30-50 million barrels of “high-quality, sanctioned” Venezuelan crude will be shipped to US ports, with the revenue -- perhaps more than \$2 billion at current market prices -- placed under his personal control.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright added Wednesday that Washington will control sales of Venezuelan oil “indefinitely.”

It was not clear whether Venezuela’s new ruler -- interim president Delcy Rodriguez -- had agreed to hand over the oil, how the plan would work, or what its legal basis would be.

Rodriguez -- a long-time member of Maduro’s inner circle as vice president and energy minister -- has vowed cooperation with the United States amid fears that Trump could pursue wider regime change.

Chikex Bahrain Partners with Manama Club to Support Youth Basketball and “Golden Generation” Goals



In a significant boost to local sports development, Manama Club has officially signed Chikex Bahrain as the primary sponsor for its youth and junior basketball teams. This strategic partnership directly supports the national “Golden Generation” initiative, a program led by His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa dedicated to cultivating young athletic talent across the Kingdom. The collaboration marks a milestone in Manama Club’s long-term strategy to enhance its youth infrastructure. Hassan Nowrooz, Board Member and Head of Media & PR at Manama Club, highlighted the importance of this synergy, noting that the partnership aligns perfectly with the national vision for sports excellence. He stated that investing in young talent today is the key to preparing future players who will represent both the club and Bahrain with distinction. Under the terms of the sponsorship, Chikex will provide essential operational support for the club’s youth and junior basketball programs. Mr. Arshad Hashim, Director of Chikex Bahrain, expressed pride in the initiative, emphasizing that the company’s involvement stems from a core belief in youth empowerment.

Northern Governor Meets with Abu Saiba Youth Empowerment Center to Discuss Youth Development



His Excellency Mr. Hassan Abdullah Al Madani, Governor of the Northern Governorate, met with Mr. Sadiq Salman Habib, Chairman of the Abu Saiba Youth Empowerment Center, and his board members. Deputy Governor Brigadier Abdullah Ali Rashid Maantar was also in attendance. Governor Al Madani praised the center’s efforts in nurturing local talent, affirming the Governorate’s commitment to supporting youth as a vital societal pillar. He emphasized the importance of continuous dialogue and community partnership to meet the aspirations of the younger generation.

Bahrain’s Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies Reviews Landmark Achievements



Chaired by H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) Board of Trustees held its 26th meeting to review 2025’s achievements. Attendees included H.E. Dr. Ali bin Fadl Al Buainain, H.E. Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, Counselor Nawaf Abdullah Hamza, Judge Issa Sami Al Mannai, Dr. Fouad Mohammed Al Ansari, Lawyer Salah Ahmed Al Madfa, Dr. Khalid Sari Siam, and Judge Dr. Riyadh Mohammed Sayadi. The Institute delivered 128 programs to 3,903 participants, totaling 1,388 hours. H.E. Sheikh Khalid praised the qualitative leap in judicial human capital, while H.E. Dr. Al Buainain noted growing regional demand for the Institute’s expertise. H.E. Mr. Al Maawda highlighted the training’s alignment with Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030. Development initiatives included programs for the deaf, data protection, and partnerships with the Financial Disclosure Examination Authority and Youth City.

Bahrain Odia Samaj Welcomes 2026 with Vibrant New Year Celebration



Members of the Bahrain Odia Samaj Association gathered at the Olive Hotel in Juffair to ring in the New Year with a grand community celebration. The event, which brought together the Odia diaspora to bid farewell to the past year, was led by Association President Mr. Ramachandra Sahu and senior members Mr. Kishor Das and Mr. Bishnu Charan Mohanty. The evening served as a significant moment for the community to strengthen their bonds and celebrate their shared cultural heritage. During the festivities, executive members of the association extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for success to all in attendance.

Padavu Kudumbavedi Hosts Annual Winter Camp in Sakhir



Padavu Kudumbavedi organized its annual winter camp for members at the Sakhir tent area, featuring a vibrant mix of cultural and sporting activities. The event, which spanned both day and night, provided a warm atmosphere for community bonding and engagement. The camp featured various competitions tailored for both children and adults. The official proceedings began with an inauguration by Padavu Patron Ummar Panaikulam, while President Sunil Babu presided over the function. General Secretary Mustafa Pattambi delivered the welcome address, and Rasinkhan offered the vote of thanks.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

LAHORI CHANNA PARATHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33282011 or QAMARSAQIBBH@GMAIL.COM

M&R CARGO HANDLING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33794237 or MAKIK6008@GMAIL.COM

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

CHASE UP DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33602690 or NO-UFAL.NK@ICLOUD.COM

G M C C SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37445763 or GHAZISAFETY07@GMAIL.COM

ELIE JESS FASHION DESIGN has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66763626 or ALYAA3344@GMAIL.COM

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

MANGUARD SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or SECURITY@MANGUARD.COM.BH

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

DAR AL KHALEEJ TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292851 or M.A.AHMADI@DAK-TC.COM

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

MOVE UP STEP DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39484066 or GULFBAHRAIN33@GMAIL.COM

Arkan Ithiad Development Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMS-BAHRAIN.COM

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

MANGUARD SECURITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or SECURITY@MANGUARD.COM.BH

PURPLE ORYX EVENTS PLANER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66600704 or SHOJIVIRK3@GMAIL.COM

Almoayyed Air Conditioning W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

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

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

WHITE SCORPION SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER/OPERATOR(EARTH MOVING MACHINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35340043 or WHITESCORPIONSRS@GMAIL.COM

NAHDI MANDI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33851264 or NAHDMANDIBH@GMAIL.COM

THE ROSE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33867547 or THEROSEWLL@GMAIL.COM

MANISH BAHRAIN GOLDSMITH. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32014165 or jewelmbh@gmail.com

BAHRAIN CITY CENTER TOWERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811616 or BMFAQEEH@GMAIL.COM

FLORA CONTRACTING MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623882 or accounts@florabh.com

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

MUKHTAR ABDULLA AHMED ALHAJJ ABDULLA. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

BLACK SAMANDERI INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMID777MP@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ JUMA ABDMOHAMMED AJAMCO W.L.L. CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623007 or AJAMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

ADAM JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217315 or ADAM-NABEELAKRAM@YAHOO.COM

LOVELY MALABAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36736711 or AMAALY.CO@GMAIL.COM

S N COATING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33074488 or SNCOATING@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

Plasticco Bahrain W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39011118 or hr@plasticbhb.com

YOUNG SPORTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77992434 or JPUL-LANHI@GMAIL.COM

MOVE UP STEP DECOR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39484066 or GULFBAHRAIN33@GMAIL.COM

Arkan Ithiad Development Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33422370 or ABOO-BAKRAHMAD56@GMAIL.COM

Cold Trading Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33907263 or JOSEPH.JOHN@CTC-BAHRAIN.COM

ISLAMUDDIN FACILITY MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33051349 or ISLAMUDDINBH@GMAIL.COM

TIK TAK TOK RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GRILLING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66367994 or ABOOD251770@ICLOUD.COM

Amanaat Recovery Solutions has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39686896 or f.mahmood_85@hotmail.com

Arkan Ithiad Development Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13300444 or HROFFICER@AIMS-BAHRAIN.COM

Glass Tech Industries B.S.C closed has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697800 or mannaig@mannaigroup.net

TEAM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(METAL HARDENING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39289289 or teamco98@gmail.com

143 RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33704583 or KAMELO581952670@GMAIL.COM

ALAZHAR CONTRACTING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702454 or mohdnew28@gmail.com

AL HILAL HOSPITAL COMPANY - BSC (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17344700 or HRD@ALHILALHEALTHCARE.COM

AMBH VALET PARKING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3412433 or SAIQAGHAURI@GMAIL.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or

info@panarabco.net

VIONCA BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33123611 or BAHRAIN2@GMAIL.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

MUKHTAR ABDULLA AHMED ALHAJJ ABDULLA. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

BLACK SAMANDERI INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMID777MP@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ JUMA ABDMOHAMMED AJAMCO W.L.L. CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623007 or AJAMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

ADAM JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17217315 or ADAM-NABEELAKRAM@YAHOO.COM

LOVELY MALABAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36736711 or AMAALY.CO@GMAIL.COM

S N COATING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33074488 or SNCOATING@GMAIL.COM

MAGNUS RISING STAR UPHOLSTERY Individual Establishment has a vacancy for the occupation of UPHOLSTERER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784818 or MOHAMMEDNAWAB@GMAIL.COM

MS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33990445 or sanghamaninder7@gmail.com

SUPER PHARMA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32005400 or aseelmarkets@gmail.com

PYRAMINE CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33422370 or ABOO-BAKRAHMAD56@GMAIL.COM

FINE FORCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39609881 or MOHAMMED55@GMAIL.COM

SAYIDI KERIR FOR MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33176676 or KAMELO581952670@GMAIL.COM

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143 RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTAURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33704583 or KAMRANALI7600150@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811688 or hrs.bh@rameehotels.com

AL-HILAH CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m111@gmail.com

SHELBY MENS GROOMING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33440557 or TECRISETING@GMAIL.COM

YATEEM AIRCONDITIONING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SR TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000996 or hr@yateemac.net

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or

TDIAINEH@GMAIL.COM

SALEH ABDULLA ALI CHARSI has a vacancy for the occupation of AGRICULTURE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17686191 or fcas64@gmail.com

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404949 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

ALMOAYYED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or profice@almoayyedcg.com

RAHI AUTO CAR SERVICE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36383778 or 88ALMANAMI88@GMAIL.COM

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hr@dreamgroup.bh

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ALMANSOORI CATERING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3836006 or MANSURI@BATELCO.COM.BH

A To Z Jewellery Designs Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33401759 or buffyuter@aol.com

QUICK ZEBRA SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 179125070 or zulfi7zulfi@gmail.com

AL AREESH SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37328993 or ASEEL.E944@GMAIL.COM

FLYWING GLOBAL CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES-MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32157831 or MAHESH39@YAHOO.COM

FUTURE DESTINATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36326464 or MEPRIVYANKA123123@GMAIL.COM

Real Value Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36767312 or INFO@REALVALUECONTRACTING.COM

LE GRAND NAPOLEON BAKERY & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES-MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77910888 or AMAMAALTA@GMAIL.COM

KHABAZ AIN AL DAR GATE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103333 or Sjbreel5@gmail.com

MISTER MACHINE B.S.C has a vacancy for the occupation of SHOVEL OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17705050 or MUSTAFA@MISTER-MACHINE.COM

Real Value Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36767312 or INFO@REALVALUECONTRACTING.COM

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

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

WHITE SQUARE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROGRAMMER(COMPUTER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66337367 or VIVEKSUDARANAN@LIVE.COM

SABRIN TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33158782 or SHORABYEAKUB473@GMAIL.COM

LEAD LINE ALUMINUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39562021 or LEADLINEALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

PACKMAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404567 or MESKAFI33@GMAIL.COM

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

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

Ansar Gallery W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17140000 or PR@AG-BH.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

AL WAHAJ RESTURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325982 or wahajgalal@gmail.com

E9 GARAGE TOY STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66622505 or E9TRADING.BH@GMAIL.COM

MUKHTIYAR MEHERBAN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33758644 or AYAZ_WAHEED@HOTMAIL.COM

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

SURYA FURNITURE WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35098568 or CHIRAKKALSUDHI22@GMAIL.COM

ALI AHMED YUSUF EBRAHIM -THE LEADER-15032 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33375272 or ALISHAHAB197@GMAIL.COM

SARA ANTEY AJMAL BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35350876 or Simisarasalon@gmail.com

ARROW EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36819991 or ARROWEXPRESS.BH@GMAIL.COM

Easy and Fast Business Solutions has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39680188 or MKAS.TRADING@GMAIL.COM

EXTREME WASH LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34142827 or SANOONY@HOTMAIL.COM

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

SWANHILL SERVICE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37540968 or RIZWANGHAFAR.ALHAI@GMAIL.COM

A I I S GENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34009597 or slatif528@gmail.com

Four Square Media & Display Solutions Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39680188 or mkas.trading@gmail.com

PROSTAR SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39462946 or 68MKMA@GMAIL.COM

alrashed pools W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17274843 or HAYWARD.TRADING1@GMAIL.COM

TELUGU INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can

a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3940024 or prostar.bh@gmail.com

MANAMA BEAUTY SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33993272 or NEWBLUEMOONTRADING@GMAIL.COM

SHIFA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39873494 or TOPCLTY955@GMAIL.COM

SHIFA AL JAZEERA HOSPITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MEDICAL SERVICES AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17288000 or SHIFA.BAH@GMAIL.COM

PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 3411999 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM

MONAS INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38082800 or KISEKKADE0795@GMAIL.COM

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

elyea auto accessories has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33000886 or ALHA-BOOB55@HOTMAIL.COM

BREEZEE VILLAGE GENERAL TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33881099 or NAHYANOOONASSER@GMAIL.COM

FAZAL RAHIM CLEANING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32119631 or ABDUL-RAHMAN110511@GMAIL.COM

MARIAM SKY LINE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or MARIM.SKY014@GMAIL.COM

Marwa Landry has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33181488 or S.ISMAIL4884@GMAIL.COM

PLANNERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SHIP RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or m.vishal@exibah.com

INTERLOCK MAINTENANCE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17296175 or ramraj007@hotmail.com

ALMANHAL BAHRAIN WATER FACTORY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17404435 or AMER.KHALID@BNESTLE-WATERS.COM

MARIAM SKY LINE CONSULTANCY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or MARIM.SKY014@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMED-ALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

MUKHTAR ABDULLA AHMED ALHAJJ AB-DULLA has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or MNOUR8374@GMAIL.COM

NOVELTYTRADES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17426711 or AQIBEWLL@GMAIL.COM

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Muharraq open Arab volleyball championship quest in Tunisia

Red Wolves set to hit the ground running against Omani challengers

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's volleyball champions Muharraq take center stage today as they begin their 44th Arab Club Men's Volleyball Championship campaign against Majees SC of Oman at 2 PM (BRN time) in Tunisia. The tournament, which runs through January 18 at El Menzah Sports Palace, brings together 12 of the Arab world's top clubs, promising intense competition from the outset.

The Red Wolves arrive in Tunisia with added firepower, having strengthened their squad with Polish spiker Mateusz Jozwik. The 29-year-old former Zamalek SC standout, who helped the Egyptian club claim last year's Arab Club Championship, joins Swedish professional Jacob Link and a core of Bahraini stars including: Naser Anan, Mahmood Alafyah, Sayed Hashem Issa, Mohammed Abdulla, Mohammed Omar, and Abbas Al Khabbaz. Local talents Majeed Mohammed, Hussain Ehsan, Abbas Ehsan, and Ali Alsairafi complete a balanced and experienced roster ready



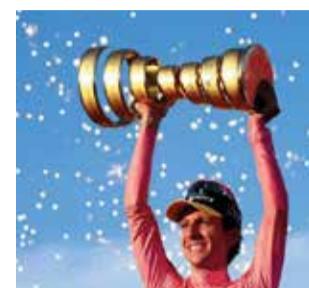
Muharraq's players huddle during their unbeaten league run

to test themselves against the region's elite.

The Bahrainis are in Group B alongside Libya's Al Ittihad SCSC Tripoli, Palestine's Military Club, Qatar's Al Shorta SC, Majees of Oman, and hosts Etoile Sportive du Sahel. After today's opener against Majees, Muharraq will play four more matches in as many days: Al Ittihad SCSC Tripoli (Libya) on Friday at 5 PM, hosts Etoile Sportive du Sahel (Tunisia) on Saturday at 1 PM, Al Shorta SC (Qatar) on Sunday at 3 PM, and the Palestinian Military Club on Monday at 3 PM.

The Bahrainis come into the tournament in excellent form, having won all six of their matches in the Isa Bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League this season. Coach Yaseen Al Meel has overseen a rigorous preparation program, blending domestic success with the need to adapt to the challenges of continental competition. With last year's finalists Zamalek and Al Ahly absent, Muharraq have a prime opportunity to assert themselves and aim for a deep run, all while representing Bahrain on the regional stage.

Giro d'Italia champion Yates announces shock retirement



Simon Yates
AFP | Paris

Two-time Grand Tour winner Simon Yates announced yesterday that he was retiring from professional cycling, just seven months after winning the Giro d'Italia.

The news comes after Yates enjoyed probably the best season of his career, following up his stunning Giro success with a stage victory at July's Tour de France.

"This may come as a surprise to many, but it is not a decision I have made lightly," Yates said in a statement released by his team, Visma-Lease a Bike.

"I have been thinking about it for a long time, and it now feels like the right moment to step away from the sport."

Yates, 33, shared more than a decade in the peloton with his twin brother Adam, initially together at the Jayco-AlUla team.

Arsenal boss Arteta 'sad' to see Amorim sacked by Man Utd

AFP | London

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said yesterday that he was "sad" to see rival boss Ruben Amorim sacked by Manchester United as he reflected on the brutal nature of their trade.

Amorim was dismissed by the Premier League giants on Monday after just 14 months in charge.

The Portuguese coach's exit followed growing tensions with senior Old Trafford officials, including director of football Jason Wilcox, over recent days.

United, by contrast, are sixth -- a huge 17 points adrift of the Gunners.

Amorim won just 25 of his 63 games at United in all competitions during the shortest reign for a permanent manager since David Moyes was sacked just eight months into his tenure in 2014.

"I can only talk about what I have experienced and it's always sad to see a colleague losing his job, obviously," Arteta told reporters in a pre-match press conference.



Ruben Amorim (L) and Mikel Arteta react after a match (file photo)

in over 20 years.

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Bethell slams maiden century to give England glimmer in final Ashes Test

AFP | Sydney

Jacob Bethell fulfilled his rich potential with a chanceless maiden Test century yesterday as England built a fragile 119-run second-innings lead with two wickets remaining to give themselves a glimmer of hope in the final Ashes Test.

At the end of day four at the Sydney Cricket Ground, England had reached 302-8 with Bethell imperious on 142 not out and number 10 Matthew Potts yet to score.

England are desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory in the previous Test at Melbourne. Australia lead 3-1 and have already retained the Ashes.

It was the 22-year-old Bethell who kept their faint hopes alive after Zak Crawley fell early and first-innings centurion Joe Root departed cheaply.

He powered to his hundred off 162 balls by smashing a lofted drive over midwicket for four.

"It's pretty special, it's not really sunk in yet. I haven't really had time to kind of reflect on it," Bethell told reporters.

Bethell had his parents in the stands and raised his bat towards them as he passed the milestone.

"To do that and have the family there was very special," said the left-hander.

"My dad was a cricketer so he knows how it feels to be out there batting, but I don't think that stops him from getting any less nervous."

It was not just Bethell's maiden Test ton but the only one he



England's Jacob Bethell (L) hits a shot to reach his century

Scorecard

England 384 and 302 for 8 (Bethell 142*, Duckett 42, Brook 42, Webster 3-51, Boland 2-34) lead Australia 567 (Head 163, Smith 138, Tongue 3-97, Carse 3-130, Stokes 2-95) by 119 runs

has scored in red-ball cricket, with his previous best 96 against New Zealand.

Bethell was recalled for Melbourne to replace the under-performing Ollie Pope, scoring a gritty 40 in difficult batting conditions.

He proved to be England's rock, but soon saw wickets tum-

bling at the other end as Harry Brook was trapped lbw for 42 and Will Jacks caught without

scoring in the space of three



To do that and have the family there was very special. My dad was a cricketer so he knows how it feels to be out there batting, but I don't think that stops him from getting any less nervous

JACOB BETHELL

balls from part-time off-spinner Beau Webster.

"I certainly didn't think I would (impact) with spin this game," said Webster, who is more usually employed as a seamer, but returned figures of 3-51.

Webster believed the pitch had begun to take turn. "There was a bit of wear and tear there from Stacey's footmarks," he said. "And we managed to make the most of it in that session."

A mix-up saw Jamie Smith run out for 24 just as he and Bethell were threatening to take the game away from Australia with a sixth-wicket partnership that had reached 45.

Bahrain's handball team sets Asian target

Reds ready to impress at prestigious Yellow Cup

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's handball team arrived in Switzerland yesterday to compete in the 52nd Yellow Cup, one of Europe's most prestigious handball tournaments. The three-day event begins today and continues through Saturday at Winterthur Central Sports Hall. As part of a focused preparation program ahead of the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship in Kuwait later this month, the Kingdom's representatives will face North Macedonia, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

The team comes into the Yellow Cup following two tough friendly matches against Portugal, who finished fourth in last year's IHF Men's Handball World Championship. In the first encounter, Portugal won 39-29, while the second match ended 40-28 in Portugal's favor, with Bahrain taking the first set 14-13 before Portugal responded with 14-7 and 13-7 in the following sets.

Despite the losses, the games provided a valuable opportunity for Bahrain's coaching staff to evaluate the squad's form, build cohesion, and identify areas for improvement ahead of the Yellow Cup in Switzerland.

Bahrain will open their campaign tonight against North Macedonia at 10:30 PM. They then meet hosts Switzerland



Passionate Bahrain celebrations at 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games

tomorrow at 10:15 PM before concluding the tournament against Ukraine on Saturday at 5:30 PM.

Head coach Robert Hedin has named a 19-player squad led by captain Hussain Al Sayyad.

The roster includes key national-team regulars alongside Bahrain's top emerging talent, such as Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Hassan Al Samaheiji, Hussain Mahfoudh, Jaffar Abdulshaheed, Mohammed Hameed, Hesham Ahmed, Sal-

man Al Showaikh, Qassim Qamber, Ahmed Redha, Sayed Ali Basem, Hassan Madan, Ahmed Almaqabi, Ali Mahmood, Jassim Khamis, Ali Redha, and Ali Alasheeri.

Looking beyond Europe, Bahrain will soon compete in the Asian Men's Handball Championship, running from January 15 to 29 in Kuwait.

This tournament also doubles as the qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's Handball World Championship in Germany. Drawn into Group B alongside Iraq, China, and Jordan, the Red Wolves will

need to finish among the top two in their group to advance to the main round, with semi-finalists from that stage earning automatic berths at the World Championship.

Last year's gold medals at the Islamic Solidarity Games demonstrated the team's potential, but the Yellow Cup provides a final opportunity to test their strategies and build cohesion before the continental stage. With tough opponents and high stakes ahead, all eyes will be on Hedin's men to challenge Asia's best.

Gauff drags US into United Cup semis as Swiatek also wins



Coco Gauff and Christian Harrison celebrate defeating Greece's Maria Sakkari and Stefanos Tsitsipas

AFP | Perth

erase it. That's the beauty of this tournament.

"So definitely happy to give my team the lead today."

Six-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek beat 97th-ranked Suzan Lamens 6-3, 6-2 in the tie against the Netherlands in Sydney.

Fourth-ranked Gauff, who suffered a surprise defeat last time out, put the United States on their way in their quarter-final against Greece with a 6-3, 6-2 win over former world number three Maria Sakkari in Perth.

Stefanos Tsitsipas brought Greece level by defeating struggling Taylor Fritz 6-4, 7-5.

In the deciding mixed doubles, Gauff teamed up with Christian Harrison to battle past Tsitsipas and Sakkari 4-6, 6-4, 10-8.

The 21-year-old Gauff struggled with her serve as she suffered her first-ever defeat at the United Cup on Monday when she was stunned by Spain's Jessica Bouzas Ma-neiro.

"Definitely a much better match today," Gauff said after making light work of Sakkari.

"Last match, I just tried to

In Perth, Switzerland's Belinda Bencic beat Solana Sierra 6-2, 6-2 but a 7-5, 6-4 loss by Stan Wawrinka to Sebastian Baez sent the tie into a mixed doubles decider.

The Swiss finished off the

win with Bencic and Jakub

Paul clinching the winning

point over Maria Lourdes

Carle and Guido Andreozzi

6-3, 6-3.

The mixed-team United Cup

features 18 teams and serves as

a build-up towards the Aus-

tralian Open, which starts on

January 18.

Batelco Fitness on Track offers runners and cyclists unique fitness activity this Friday at BIC

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', welcomes the public this Friday (Editor's note: 9 January) for another chance to get in a unique workout with the latest edition of the widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track.

Friday's activity is scheduled to take place from 6am to 10am, offering participants a fresh and early start to the day while getting the weekend off on a positive note.

Those taking part will be able to enjoy the activity either individually or with family and friends, and it will be the perfect occasion to break in a sweat while savouring the cool, early morning temperatures – all within the safe and secure environment of a world-renowned Formula 1 venue.

Batelco Fitness on Track can be done on foot or on a bicycle, giving participants the chance to select their preferred workout programme.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre



Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for run-



ners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

BIC's Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass is still also availa-

ble – ideal for regular participants as it grants access to all Batelco Fitness on Track events throughout the season.

At the affordable price of just

BD15, the pass is a great way to save money over the course of

the year, with Batelco Fitness on Track being held multiple times each month, all the way through to April. Season Passes can be purchased by contacting the BIC Hotline.

For more information on Fri-

day's Batelco Fitness on Track or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Final line-up of stars confirmed for 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters

● World Championship runner-up Gian van Veen, former World Matchplay champion Nathan Aspinall and Dutch star Danny Noppert confirmed for Bahrain

● Line-up now complete of international stars for Bahrain, which include newly crowned two-time World Champion Luke Littler and defending Bahrain Darts Masters Champion Stephen Bunting

● Grandstand tickets still available for the event next week at Terminal 4 by Beyon, Exhibition World Bahrain

Manama

The final names have now been confirmed for the Bahrain Darts Masters as World Championship runner-up Gian van Veen, former World Matchplay champion Nathan Aspinall and Dutch star Danny Noppert completed the eight international stars confirmed for Bahrain next week.

The 2026 World Series of Darts will begin with the fourth edition of the Bahrain Darts Masters on January 15-16, as newly crowned two-time World Champion Luke Littler will take centre stage, having celebrated victory on his World Series debut in Bahrain back in 2024.

The teenage sensation will be joined in Bahrain by seven other PDC superstars - including 2023/24 World Champion Luke Humphries and World Championship runner-up Gian van Veen. European Champion Van Veen will feature alongside his fellow countryman Michael van Gerwen - the most successful player in World Series of Darts history.

Reigning Bahrain Darts Mas-



Luke Littler

ters champion Stephen Bunting will be aiming to build upon his impressive World Series performances in 2025, as 2020/21 World Champion Gerwyn Price makes his World Series return. The eight-player PDC line-up is

completed by Dutch star Danny Noppert - who featured in four televised ranking semi-finals in 2025 - and former World Matchplay champion Nathan Aspinall.

Each event will see the eight

PDC superstars take on eight Asian representatives in round one. The Asian representatives for the Bahrain Darts Masters include six players from the PDC Asian Tour who competed at the World Championship, headlined

by Filipino stars Alexis Toylo and Lourence Ilagan.

Japanese duo Motomu Sakai and Ryusei Azemoto also feature, as Singapore's darting icon Paul Lim graces the big stage along with Hong Kong's World Cup quarter-finalist Man Lok Leung.

Completing the 16-player field will be Bahrain duo Abdulla Saeed and Basem Mahmood, who prevailed in last month's Bahrain Qualifiers to confirm their World Series of Darts returns.

The Bahrain Darts Masters is organised by BIC, the PDC and sports promoter CBX, and is supported by Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority.

Tickets for the event are still available to the all-new Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand, but fans must act fast and purchase theirs at the soonest to avoid missing out on one of the most highly sought-after occasions in the new year.

All tables, including Premium and VIP areas for the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters, have already completely sold out, but darts enthusiasts can still experience the magic of the game at the Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand, which offers an incredible

Competing Players

PDC Representatives

Luke Littler (England)
Luke Humphries (England)
Gian van Veen (Netherlands)
Michael van Gerwen (Netherlands)
Stephen Bunting (England)
Danny Noppert (Netherlands)
Gerwyn Price (Wales)
Nathan Aspinall (England)

Asian Representatives

Alexis Toylo (Philippines)
Lourence Ilagan (Philippines)
Motomu Sakai (Japan)
Ryusei Azemoto (Japan)
Paul Lim (Singapore)
Man Lok Leung (Hong Kong)
Abdulla Saeed (Bahrain)
Basem Mahmood (Bahrain)

view of the stage, as well as close access to food and beverage areas at the venue.

Tickets to the Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand are BD25 apiece for the two days. All available ticket options can be found online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

The game of darts has become an international phenomenon in recent years, and in the Kingdom, the Bahrain Darts Masters has grown tremendously over the past three seasons it has been held. The event has been moved to Terminal 4 by Beyon to be able to accommodate the massive crowd expected, and the venue will be transformed into Bahrain's answer to the iconic Alexandra Palace.

Fans can expect an incredible atmosphere, with fancy dress, themed activations, and a wide range of food and beverage options as 'Sport's Biggest Party' brings its unique flavour to Bahrain.

For more information on the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.



Luke Humphries



Gian van Veen

Slot says Liverpool can still do 'special things' ahead of Arsenal clash

AFP | London

Liverpool manager Arne Slot insists his reigning English champions can still do "special things" this season as they prepare to face Premier League leaders Arsenal following a faltering start to their title defence.

Slot's men head to the Emirates for Thursday's clash in fourth place in the table, but 14 points adrift of the Gunners.

However, following on from a run of nine defeats in 12 games in all competitions, Liverpool



Arne Slot

are unbeaten in their last nine -- although that sequence includes four draws.

Those draws include a goal

less stalemate against Leeds and a 2-2 share of the spoils with Fulham in their first two Premier League fixtures of 2026.

"It is nine games unbeaten but we have definitely had two draws too many," Slot told a pre-match press conference yesterday.

Slot, who guided Liverpool to an impressive title triumph in his first season in charge at Anfield after succeeding Jurgen Klopp, added: "Where are we? I think I've said so many times that the answer to that question

is we aren't where we want to be, but I feel we have a very talented squad.

"If everyone's available and ready, then I think we can do special things."

'A lot to play for'

They certainly gave that impression earlier in the season when Liverpool beat Arsenal 1-0 at Anfield in August.

However, a crisis up front, in terms of personnel, casts doubt over their achieving the double over the Gunners.

Hugo Ekitike is a major doubt after missing the Fulham draw because of a hamstring problem.

The Reds are also without Alexander Isak through injury, while Mohamed Salah remains at the Africa Cup of Nations with Egypt.

Slot said he hoped his side would become more consistent.

"We haven't had the consistency but we've already beaten some very good teams, so that tells you the talent is definitely there but the consistency isn't," he said.

They have recorded some notable victories, home successes against Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid and a 5-1 romp away to Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League.

But on the flip side, Liverpool have suffered three-goal defeats at home three times this season, against Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest and PSV Eindhoven.

"This club has shown so many times that when they don't have the greatest form in the league, they are still able to win other trophies," said Slot.