

World Championship
runner-up Gian van
Veen, former World
Matchplay champion
Nathan Aspinall and
Dutch star Danny
Noppert confirmed for
Bahrain | **P16**

**HM King thanked
by Mohammed Jaber
Al Ansari family**

TDT | Manama

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

TDT | Manama

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, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

His Royal Highness com-

mented 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 a proxy.

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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