

talabat Bahrain Launches 'Home of Legends' Campaign

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talabat Bahrain, the leading on demand platform in the MENA region, launched its campaign 'talabat, Home of Legends', running throughout January 2026, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening long-standing partnerships with some of the Kingdom's most trusted and high-performing restaurant brands.

The campaign highlights talabat Bahrain's core partner network, which plays a central role in shaping the platform's growth and delivering consistently high-quality dining experiences to customers across the Kingdom. Each partner offers a distinctive culinary experience, reflecting Bahrain's diverse and evolving food culture



while supporting the platform's broader growth and innovation journey.

The campaign will spotlight a curated selection of restaurants, including Healthy Calorie, Jasmi's, Lilou, Wingman, Al Romansiah, Cafe 668, and 3 Lines, each recognised for their strong customer following and contribution to Bahrain's dining landscape.

Through initiatives such as "talabat Pro", customers benefit from added value such as free delivery and access to special offers, and guaranteed timely delivery with compensation for any delays. This is supported by dedicated customer support available around the clock, seven days a week, managed by trained specialists to ensure a smooth and seamless experi-

ence. As Bahrain continues to strengthen its position as a regional hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, talabat helps local businesses build resilience and expand their reach in an increasingly competitive market, which is an integral part of talabat's evolution from a food delivery app into a trusted part of everyday life in the Kingdom.

talabat Bahrain continues to play an everyday role in making food ordering simple and dependable for customers across the Kingdom. The platform connects users to a wide network of restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies, and talabat mart, supporting convenience and choice across their daily needs.

Stocks retrench as traders eye geopolitics, US jobs data



Traders work at the stock exchange in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany

AFP | London

Stock markets pulled back Thursday as an early-year rally ran out of steam, with investors locking in profits ahead of the release of key US jobs data this week.

The geopolitical outlook remained a major uncertainty for traders after the US toppled Venezuela's president and amid simmering tensions between China and Japan.

European defence stocks, however, gained on the geopolitical concerns, with President Donald Trump calling to hike the US defence budget by 50 percent next year.

Britain's BAE systems jumped around six percent, while Germany's Rheinmetall and Italy's Leonardo also bucked the overall weaker trend.

Investors were also awaiting the release of US data on job openings and unemployment claims later Thursday.

They are followed Friday by the closely watched reading on non-farm payrolls, a crucial guide for Federal Reserve decision-makers. They meet at the end of the month amid debate on whether they will cut interest rates for a fourth successive time.

"With a March rate cut essentially priced in as a coin-toss, tomorrow's jobs report

does provide the basis for a potential market-moving event if we see any particularly strong deviation from expectations," said Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

Equity markets in Asia struggled Thursday, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo all closing lower. Tokyo stocks were weighed down after China announced an anti-dumping probe into imports from Japan of a key chemical used in making semiconductors.

The move adds to rising diplomatic tensions between the Asian giants since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested in November that Japan may react militarily in any attack on Taiwan.

Seoul edged higher to another record close, though tech giant Samsung fell back after saying it expected its fourth-quarter profit to reach a record \$13.8 billion.

Oil prices rebounded after suffering a second steep fall in a row Wednesday on Trump's comments that Venezuela would turn over millions of barrels to the United States following its ouster of President Nicolas Maduro.

Traders will also be keeping an eye on a US Supreme Court ruling Friday on the legality of Trump's punishing tariffs.

Tejoori Al Islami 2026 Offers More Categories and more ways to win, with a USD1 Million Grand Prize



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USD 50,000. Every month, 25 customers will also receive cash prizes of USD 1,000.

To further broaden participation, the latest edition introduces a set of tailored categories designed to reflect diverse lifestyles and financial goals. These include "Tejoori Premium" category, awarding USD 10,000 to one winner each month; "Tejoori for Her" category, which features two monthly jewellery prizes in collaboration with Mattar Jewellery; and "Tejoori First Time" category offering USD 500 to 20 customers monthly who have not previously won. The scheme also comprises "Tejoori Youth" category rewarding five young savers each month with USD 500, and "Tejoori Business" category, which supports small businesses with two USD 1,000 prizes monthly. A new addition for 2026, is "Tejoori Elite"



category, developed for senior citizens aged 55 and above, awarding two USD 1,000 prizes every month.

Commenting on the 2026 Tejoori Al Islami, Mr. Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, stated:

"The Tejoori Al Islami scheme for 2026 reflects our commitment to addressing the evolving needs of our customers and broadening the spirit of saving across every

segment of society. As Bahrain's first Islamic investment savings account, Tejoori has been instrumental in fostering long-term saving while empowering individuals and businesses with valuable rewards."

The 2026 Tejoori Al Islami scheme reaffirms BisB's dedication to delivering customer-centric investment solutions that align with the principles of Islamic finance.

Google, Character.AI agree to settle suits involving teen suicide

AFP | San Francisco

Google and startup Character.AI have settled lawsuits filed by families accusing artificial intelligence chatbots of harming minors, including contributing to a Florida teenager's suicide, according to court filings Wednesday.

The settlements cover law-

suits filed in Florida, Colorado, New York and Texas, according to the legal filings, though they still require finalization and court approval.

"Parties have agreed to a mediated settlement in principle to resolve all claims between them," the Florida filing stated.

The terms of the settlement

were not disclosed.

The cases include one from Megan Garcia, whose 14-year-old son Sewell Setzer Jr. took his own life in February 2024.

Garcia's lawsuit alleged her son became emotionally dependent on a "Game of Thrones"-inspired chatbot on Character.AI, a platform that

allows users to interact with fictional characters.

Setzer's death was the first in a series of reported suicides linked to AI chatbots that emerged last year, prompting scrutiny of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and other artificial intelligence companies over child safety.