

**'Would be fun':
 Alcaraz, Sinner tease
 prospect of teaming up
 in doubles**

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner hinted at a doubles partnership ahead of a South Korea exhibition before the Australian Open. | P12

WORLD 6 Defiant Khamenei insists 'won't back down' in face of Iran protests

THE DAILY **tribune**

Arsenal miss chance to stretch lead in Liverpool stalemate

EU countries override France to greenlight Mercosur trade deal

**Pakistan Defence
 Minister wants
 US to "Kidnap"
 Netanyahu**

NDTV

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that the United States should 'kidnap' Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if they believe in humanity, just as Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was taken away.

He added that Turkey could also kidnap Netanyahu and that "Pakistanis are praying for it."

In a televised interview on Thursday, Asif described Netanyahu as the "worst criminal of humanity" and claimed that no atrocities in history match those committed against Palestinians in Gaza.

"No community has done what Israel has done to Palestinians in the last 4,000-5,000 years. He [Netanyahu] is the biggest criminal of humanity. The world has not seen a bigger criminal," Asif said.



**Russia joins
 Chinese, Iran
 warships for drills
 off S.Africa**

Simon's Town, South Africa

A Russian warship arrived off South Africa's main naval base yesterday to join Chinese and Iranian vessels for military exercises.

A Chinese destroyer and replenishment ship, and an Iranian forward base ship sailed into South African waters earlier this week ahead of the week-long manoeuvres due to kick off with an opening ceremony today.

China is the lead nation in the "Will for Peace 2026" drill involving navies from the 11-nation BRICS group. The United Arab Emirates was also expected to send ships. Other BRICS nations Indonesia, Ethiopia and Brazil will send observers, he said. The remaining members of the grouping are India, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



Bahrain's deserts come alive

p2

Bahrain's desert areas have seen a surge in visitors as the winter camping season gets under way, with crowds gathering around the Tree of Life and other popular sites amid cooler weather.

Locals lead

Non-Bahrainis in civil service drop 29% since 2019

Nationals dominate new hires, accounting for 95% of civil service appointments since January 2023

Specialist roles remain open to foreigners only where no suitable Bahraini candidates are available

Mohammed Darwish
 TDT | Manama

Bahrain has sharply reduced its reliance



Dr Hisham Al Asheeri, MP

on foreign workers in government jobs, with the number of non-Bahrainis in the civil service falling by 29% since 2019 as more qualified nationals step into public sector roles.

The number of non-Bahrainis employed in civil service posts dropped to 5,361 from 7,582 over the period, the Civil Service Bureau told parliament in a written reply to MP Dr Hisham Al Asheeri.

The Bureau said non-Bahrainis are appointed only on a temporary basis and only when no suitably qualified Bahraini candidates are available. Such appointments remain concentrated in highly specialised fields, particularly healthcare, education and higher education.

The Bureau said non-Bahrainis are hired only at the request of the employing body and only where an approved post exists within staffing ceilings and budget limits, with appointments governed by approved job descriptions and interview procedures.

Government bodies must report vacancies to the Bureau, which determines which posts should be advertised publicly. Six local vacancies were announced during the period.

Internal recruitment channels are also in place, including an online service, Shawaghir, which allows civil servants to apply for alternative or higher positions.

From January 2023 to date, ministries, authorities and other government bodies hired 3,884 new employees, of whom 95% were Bahrainis, the Bureau said. In the medical and health sector, education and higher education, Bahrainis accounted for 93% of the 2,850 new appointments made during the period.

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BETTER YOU KNOW

A Cabinet decision issued in September 2021 requires government entities to advertise vacancies internally through the GovEmployee application before recruiting from outside the public sector. Since January 2023, 486 internal vacancy notices have been published through the platform.

Bahrain urges support for Syria at UN Security Council briefing

TDT | Manama

Jamal Fares Al Ruwaiei, Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, participated in a UN Security Council briefing on Syria, calling on the international community to support the country during a critical transitional period.

Al Ruwaiei highlighted that Syria's security and stability are essential for regional stability. He urged backing for the Syrian government and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to complete their work and close the file on chemical weapons, noting Syria's initiatives to meet its obligations.

He reaffirmed Bahrain's support for Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, rejecting foreign interference, and stressed that international support is vital to ensure an organised political transition in line with Security Council Resolution 2254.



Russia's Oreshnik missile strike on Ukraine 'clear escalation': EU's top diplomat

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Friday Russia's reported strike on Ukraine using a new Oreshnik ballistic missile was meant to send a message to Europe and the United States.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "doesn't want peace, Russia's reply to diplomacy is more missiles and destruction," Kallas wrote on X.

"Russia's reported use of an Oreshnik missile is a clear escalation against Ukraine and meant as a warning to Europe and to the US," she wrote.



Old is gold

Taiwan becomes 'super-aged society' in a first

AFP | Taipei, Taiwan

Taiwan has become a "super-aged society" for the first time, with 20% of its shrinking population aged 65 or older in 2025, government data showed yesterday.

The island of more than 23 million people faces a looming demographic challenge, with its population falling overall as well

as ageing. There were 4,673,155 people aged 65 or older in Taiwan in 2025, or 20.06% of the population, according to the interior ministry.

That means it met the World Health Organization's criteria for a super-aged society, with one in every five citizens aged 65 or more.

The number of people aged 0-14 accounted for 11.51% of the

population, the ministry's data showed. Only 9,027 newborns were recorded in December 2025, a decrease of 27% from a year earlier, with the total number of newborns last year hitting a record low of 107,812.

The crude birth rate, based on the number

of childbirths per 1,000 people each year, came in at 4.56 last month. The government proposed last month expanding

access to assisted reproduction for single women and married same-sex female couples in a bid to boost birth rates.



Deserts come alive in Bahrain



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's desert areas have seen a surge in visitors as the winter camping season gets under

The increase in visitors coincides with the camping season, which runs from December 5, 2025, to March 25, 2026.

way, with crowds gathering around the Tree of Life and other popular sites amid cooler weather.

Families, young people, residents and foreign tourists have

been flocking to desert locations in recent days, turning them into busy leisure spots and highlighting the seasonal appeal of Bahrain's desert landscape. The increase in visi-

tors coincides with the camping season, which runs from December 5, 2025, to March 25, 2026.

The period traditionally draws large numbers of people to des-

ignated desert areas during the cooler months, with seasonal camps forming a central part of winter recreation and tourism in the kingdom.



Bahrain to welcome cricket legend **Angelo Mathews** for ICC Trophy tour

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Cricket Federation (BCF) has launched the DP World ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy Tour in the Kingdom of Bahrain, marking a major moment for cricket fans and the sporting community.

Organised in cooperation with the International Cricket Council (ICC), the three-day Trophy Tour runs until Sunday, giving the public a rare opportunity to see the iconic ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy up close.

The tour blends cricket with Bahrain's culture and heritage, featuring a royal boat parade, fan engagement activities at major malls, visits to historic landmarks, and extensive school outreach programmes aimed at inspiring young people and promoting grassroots cricket.



Throughout the tour, fans engaged with the trophy at locations including Water Garden City, The Avenues Mall, Dana Mall, and historic sporting and cultural sites across the Kingdom

Angelo Mathews to Attend

Trophy Unveiling Gala

As part of the Trophy Tour, the Bahrain Cricket Federation announced that Sri Lankan cricket legend Angelo Mathews will be in Bahrain to attend the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Tro-

phy Unveiling Gala.

The gala will be held on Saturday, 10 January 2026, at 7:00 PM at Crowne Plaza Bahrain, bringing together senior officials, corporate leaders, international cricket representatives, and members of the cricketing

fraternity. The event is being held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, President of the General Sports Authority, highlighting Bahrain's continued commitment to sports development and international sporting en-

gagement. BCF officials said the presence of Angelo Mathews adds significant prestige to the occasion and serves as inspiration for the Kingdom's growing cricket community, including more than 15,000 players and fans across Bahrain.



MPs to debate new rules for *Bahrain disability committee*

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MPs will debate on Tuesday Decree-Law No. 34 of 2025, which amends parts of the 2006 statute on disability care, rehabilitation and employment and introduces new provisions for the state committee overseeing disability affairs.

The decree-law updates Bahrain's legal framework to align with modern rights language, support the dignity and rights



Mamdouh Al Saleh, Chairman of Parliament's Services Committee

of persons with disabilities, and promote their full participation in public life. The Services Committee has recommended backing the measure.

The reforms recast the organisational structure of the committee and standardise terms across the law. Under the revised rules, the committee will be established by a Prime Ministerial decision, attached to the Ministry of Social Development, with its name, composition and term of membership defined by

that decision. The minister will chair the committee, which will include senior government officials and private-sector representatives. Members may invite experts to advise without voting rights. Internal rules will govern procedures, meetings and decision-making.

The decree-law also replaces the term "Supreme Committee" with "Committee" and updates references to the civil service in Arabic from "Diwan" to "Jihaz," while retaining "Bureau"

in English. The Legislative and Legal Opinion Commission said the updates align with national disability policy and Bahrain's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The national strategy for 2023-2027 is being revised and will be shared with MPs once finalised. The decree-law was issued on 19 August 2025 and takes effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette.

Streets are for Bahrainis

Bahrain restricts street vending to nationals

● **One-person, one-licence rule enforced to prevent multiple applications across municipalities**

● **Strict trading rules: vendors must stay in assigned spots, maintain hygiene standards, and avoid prohibited areas and goods**

● **New system coming: ministry plans an online platform for food-truck location reservations and approval of municipal properties**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Only Bahrainis allowed to operate street vending in the kingdom, ministry confirms

Street vending in Bahrain remains strictly reserved for Bahraini nationals, with licences personal and non-transferable, the Minister of Municipalities

Affairs and Agriculture, Wael Al Mubarak, told parliament.

Under a "one-person, one-licence" rule, any attempt to apply for a second licence is automatically blocked across municipalities. "The occupancy system has been programmed so it does not accept a second application if the vendor already holds a licence in another municipality," the minister said in a reply to MP Jalal



Jalal Kadhem, MP

Kadhem.

Vendors must operate only at their assigned spot, with violations subject to licence suspension. The framework is designed to regulate locations, ensure compliance with public health and safety standards, and keep the profession confined to Bahraini citizens.

Currently, there are 31 licensed street vendors in the kingdom: 10 licences were issued in 2023, seven in 2024, and 14 in 2025, with one licence suspended by Muharraq Municipality for breaching regulations.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be Bahraini, at least 18 years old, medically fit, free of infectious disease, and not employed in the government or private sector. They must also not appear in the commercial register. Licences

run for one year and can be renewed in the final month of validity.

Trading rules

Vending is prohibited near ministries, government offices, embassies, highways, junctions, roundabouts, traffic lights, and within 500 metres of shops selling similar goods. Vendors may not sell cooked food, milk products without health authority approval, fireworks, weapons, or other banned

littering, and causing pollution are strictly forbidden.

For mobile food vehicles, operators must obtain written permission from property owners, avoid parking on road reserves, maintain spacing between vehicles and junctions, and ensure safe electrical connections. Vehicles on municipal land require approval from the relevant municipality. In residential areas, operations are restricted to 6 a.m. to midnight, with parking confined to the proper-

ty boundary.

Inspections and new scheme

Regular inspections are conducted at food-truck sites to ensure compliance. Al Mubarak said the ministry is preparing a new scheme to organise food-truck locations, including an online booking system allowing operators to reserve desired spots. Approval has already been granted for 18 mobile food vehicles to operate on municipality-owned properties.

Representative image



New housing project to begin in Muharraq's second district



TDT | Manama

Works are set to start on lands previously allocated for temporary housing apartments in Complex 221, Muharraq Governorate's second district.

MP Hamad Farouk Al-Dawi confirmed that a tender has been awarded to a real estate development company to carry out the project. He said it is the second housing initiative approved in the district in 2024, following an earlier scheme that included 300 units.

"The project is an important step in repurposing available spaces to create new housing

units, supporting urban development plans and meeting the needs of the next phase," Al-Dawi added.

He highlighted that the initiative was coordinated with the Ministry of Housing and praised the efforts of Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi and Undersecretary Fatima bint Hassan Al-Mannai, noting that their support helped approve two housing projects in the district after a 20-year gap. The MP said the projects would positively impact residents of the second district and the wider Muharraq Governorate.

Woman awarded BD8,000 for road accident injuries

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A woman who suffered a 15% disability in a road accident has been awarded BD8,000 in compensation, to be paid jointly by the driver responsible and the driver's insurance company.

The court also ordered the insurer to pay 3% annual interest on the sum, calculated from the

date the civil case was filed until full payment.

According to lawyer Ebrahim Al Doseri, the claim initially sought BD6,000 for the woman and BD1,500 for a second claimant, along with legal interest.

Court documents stated that the driver failed to exercise the care required while turning left, cutting across the path of a motorcycle without registra-

tion plates. The collision threw the rider into the pedestrian, causing injuries to the woman. Damage was also reported to both vehicles.

The court treated the driver's prior criminal conviction as binding proof of fault, noting that the judgment had become final since no appeal was filed. This ruling established the insurer's liability under

compulsory motor insurance rules.

At the hearings, both claimants and the insurance company were represented by lawyers, while the driver was absent.

The court rejected the second claimant's request for compensation, citing a lack of evidence of material loss arising from the accident.

Gulf archaeology symposium to strengthen regional cooperation



TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) hosted the Gulf Archaeology Symposium, "Gulf Archaeological Heritage: Discovery and Preservation", on 6-7 January 2026 at the Bahrain National Museum. The event brought together leading re-

searchers and specialists from GCC countries in collaboration with the GCC General Secretariat.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, BACA President, said the symposium reflects Bahrain's commitment to fostering regional cooperation in archaeology. He highlighted that shared archaeological her-

itage is central to the collective cultural identity of GCC states and underlined the importance of such forums in advancing research and preservation efforts.

The opening session featured a keynote by Dr Salman Ahmed Al Mahari, Director General of Antiquities, who outlined Bahrain's approach to managing and safeguarding archaeological

sites, while emphasising the role of regional and international collaboration.

The symposium included specialised sessions on recent archaeological discoveries, site management and conservation, and the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in heritage documentation and preservation.



Housing ministry says **job loss** alone won't cancel applications

Losing a job or financial trouble does not by itself cancel a housing application

● **Proposal to extend reinstatement: MPs will debate a plan to increase the period for reinstating cancelled applications from two years to four**

● **Support for families: Lawmakers say the extension would help households recover from temporary setbacks, reduce paperwork, and ease social and psychological pressure**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Housing Ministry has told MPs that losing a job or facing financial difficulties does not automatically



Hanan Fardan, MP

cancel a housing application, over a proposal to double the period for reinstating cancelled applications. The item was rolled over from the last parliamentary

session after time ran short.

In a written reply, the ministry said applications are only cancelled when an applicant fails to meet one of the conditions required to receive housing, at which point a formal cancellation decision is issued. Under Article 69 of Ministerial Decision No. 909 of 2015, applicants whose files are cancelled on these grounds can request reinstatement within two years of the cancellation date, except where the lost condition is Bahraini nationality.

Divorce

The ministry also noted that changes in personal status, such as divorce, do not automatically result in cancellation. Files may be retained and moved to a category that better reflects the family's situation under existing classifications.

MP Hanan Fardan, who submitted the proposal, is urging

the government to extend the two-year limit to four years, saying temporary setbacks such as job loss or economic instability can make it difficult for families to restore eligibility within the current timeframe. She added that the extension would allow households more time to recover, reduce the need to submit new applications, and ease the social and psychological pressure on applicants.

Longer reinstatement periods

An explanatory note argued that longer reinstatement periods would support family stability and lower the demand for new housing files, citing international practices that allow extended reinstatement windows. The Services and Environment Committee recommended approval, with all attending members backing the move on public-interest grounds.

Dates output at 14,000 tonnes as MPs debate observatory deal



Wael Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's dates output reached around 14,000 tonnes in 2024, official figures showed, as MPs move to ratify an agreement that would establish an International Dates Observatory in Manama to track global markets.

MPs are due to take up the draft law, attached to Royal Decree No. 64 of 2025, after the Public Utilities and Environment Committee recommended approval in principle.

The agreement, signed in Manama on September 22,

2025, would designate Bahrain as the permanent seat of the observatory, which will operate under the International Dates Council. The body is tasked with collecting, analysing and publishing global market data to support member states in policy and investment decision-making.

Under the deal, Bahrain would provide the facilities required for the observatory to carry out its work.

In a submission to the committee, the agriculture ministry said hosting the observatory would not impose any financial burden on Bahrain, with the International Dates Council covering all establishment and operating costs, including administrative, technical and logistical expenses.

The ministry said its remit is limited to dates production and does not extend to processing industries or derivative products. It put national output in 2024 at about 14,000 tonnes.

Online shift halves processing times for some welfare services

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Processing times for some welfare services have been cut by up to 50% following a shift to online applications and tighter data checks, the Ministry of Social Development told MPs, as it seeks to keep social support sustainable amid rising demand.

In a written reply to MP Muneer Seroor, the ministry said it has streamlined internal procedures and expanded electronic links with other government bodies. A growing number of applications are now handled through the national eGovernment portal, allowing beneficiaries to apply online and speeding up case completion.

The ministry said social as-

sistance is provided in line with existing laws and regulations, with eligible beneficiaries receiving monthly payments. Eligibility is reviewed through monthly electronic data matching with relevant entities to prevent duplication and safeguard public funds.

Under Social Insurance Law No. 18 of 2006, beneficiaries or their legal representatives must notify the ministry within 15 days of any change in social, economic or health status, or permanent address, that could affect entitlement. The ministry also conducts periodic reviews and submits reports to the minister, who decides whether assistance should continue, be adjusted or discontinued, with

Muneer Seroor, MP

changes taking effect from the following month.

The Social Assistance Directorate monitors cases electronically, reviewing income, marital status and household size to ensure beneficiaries continue to meet eligibility

criteria.

On disability support, the ministry said it oversees care and rehabilitation programmes through government, private and non-governmental centres, and works with the Ministry of Labour to support employment for qualified persons with disabilities. It added that partnerships with private firms have provided discounts and benefits for persons with disabilities and older people, with plans to expand such initiatives.

The ministry said it regularly reviews its services to improve efficiency and service quality.



A'ali disability complex to reopen in early 2026

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ten specialist buildings at the A'ali Comprehensive Disability Complex are set to reopen from early 2026, the Ministry of Social Development has told MPs, after plans were de-



Mohammed Janahi, MP

layed when the site was used as a Covid-19 quarantine facility.

In a written reply to MP Mohammed Janahi, the ministry said the complex will operate through partnerships with gov-

ernment bodies, civil organisations and private providers, bringing a range of rehabilitation services together on one site. The ministry said the compound was taken over by the Ministry of Health during the pandemic. Following its return, the Ministry of Works assessed the buildings, identified repair needs and oversaw restoration works, which are now nearing completion.

Repairs included structural work, electrical systems, fire safety upgrades, lifts, lighting, air-conditioning, plumbing, re-

painting and flooring replacement.

The ministry said it reviewed national disability care needs last year and developed an operating plan aligned with demand, modern rehabilitation approaches and Bahrain's international obligations.

The 29,106-square-metre site will house an assessment and diagnosis centre, psychological support services and intensive physiotherapy, with capacity for about 1,300 beneficiaries a year. A post-rehabilitation club aimed at helping people with intellectual disabilities enter

the labour market will serve up to 150 beneficiaries a month.

Care home

Plans also include a residential care home for people with severe intellectual disabilities without family support, accommodating up to 50 residents a year, alongside a recreation club offering leisure activities for up to 150 participants a month.

For children, services will include a day-care centre for those with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities, a rehabilitation centre for children with cerebral palsy, and a ded-

icated autism centre providing specialist support using modern technology. Combined monthly capacity across these services exceeds 300 children.

Additional facilities will include administrative offices, a specialised health club and a multi-use building to support awareness programmes and provide shared space for disability-focused organisations.

The ministry said reopening will be phased from early 2026, depending on partnership arrangements and staffing needs, and that it will continue coordinating with parliament.

EU countries override France to greenlight **Mercosur trade** deal

A majority of the European Union's 27 nations backed the pact

● The deal will create a vast market of more than 700 million people

● Farmers in several European countries mounted a final show of anger

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU gave a long-delayed go ahead yesterday to a huge trade deal with South American bloc Mercosur championed by business groups but loathed by many European farmers -- overriding opposition led by key power France.

A majority of the European Union's 27 nations backed the pact following an ambassadors' meeting in Brussels, paving the way for it to be signed in coming days in Paraguay.

More than 25 years in the making, supporters see the deal as crucial to boost exports, support the continent's ailing economy and foster diplomatic ties at a time of global uncertainty.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen called it "proof that Europe charts its own course and stands as a reliable partner" and said she looked forward to the signing -- which Argentina said was planned January 17.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz likewise said the deal sent "an important signal of our strategic sovereignty and capacity to act," a message echoed by Spain which said it would "forge shared prosperity" with Latin America.

On the Mercosur side, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hailed "a historic day for multilateralism".

But the European Commission, which negotiated the text, failed to win over all of the bloc's member states.

Heavyweight France, where politicians across the divide are up in arms against a deal attacked as an assault on the country's influential farming sector, led an ultimately unsuccessful



Argentina's President Javier Milei, Paraguay's President Santiago Pena, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Uruguay's President Yamandu Orsi pose for a family photo during the Mercosur Heads of State Summit at the Iguazu Falls in Foz do Iguacu, Parana State, Brazil

push to sink it.

Ireland, Poland, Hungary and Austria also voted against the accord.

That was not enough to block it, however, after holdout Italy ultimately threw its weight behind the pact.

'Economic clout'

The deal will create a vast market of more than 700 million people, making it one of the world's largest free trade areas.

Part of a broader push to diversify trade in the face of US tariffs, it will bring the 27-nation EU closer together with Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, removing import tariffs on more than 90 percent of products.

This will save EU businesses four billion euros (\$4.6 billion) worth of duties per year and help exports of vehicles, machinery, wines and spirits to Latin America, according to the EU.

It will also help the bloc reduce its dependency on China for critical raw materials, said Agathe Demarais, of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank.

"The conclusion of the

EU-Mercosur trade deal is great news for Europe's global geopolitical and economic clout," she said.

Germany, Spain and other backers believe the deal will provide a welcome boost to their industries hampered by Chinese competition and tariffs in the United States.

But France and other critics opposed it over concerns that their farmers would be undercut by a flow of cheaper goods, including meat, sugar, rice, honey and soybean, from agricultural giant Brazil and its neighbours.

The deal still needs approval from the European Parliament and France has warned against any attempt to bring it into force before then -- vowing the fight is not over.

'Pain' vs 'benefits'

Farmers in several European countries mounted a final show of anger against the text's approval, marching in protest in Warsaw and blocking roads in France and Belgium.

"There is a lot of pain," Judy Peeters, a representative for a Belgian young farmers group told AFP at a protest on a motor-

way south of Brussels. "There is a lot of anger."

Over the past months, the commission has been at pains to reassure farmers and their backers that pros outweigh cons.

It stressed the accord is expected to boost EU agri-food exports to South America by 50 percent, in part by protecting more than 340 iconic European products -- from Greek feta to French champagne -- from local imitations.

It also laid out plans to set up a 6.3 billion euro crisis fund and safeguards allowing for the suspension of preferential tariffs on agricultural products in case of a damaging surge in imports.

The latter were tightened further at the last minute by member states lowering the threshold for action, in a late concession to Italy.

Angry farmers disrupted traffic in Milan with their tractors Friday, dumping barrels of straw and pouring milk on the ground in front of the regional council building.

But Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni defended an agreement she hoped would "bring benefits in many areas" and "for everyone."

US says it seized another tanker that tried to break Venezuela blockade



US Coast Guard boarding and seizing the tanker Olina in international waters east of the Caribbean Sea

Washington, United States

The United States said yesterday it seized another tanker that tried to break an American naval blockade aimed at preventing sanctioned vessels from going to or departing Venezuela, the fifth ship apprehended in recent weeks.

Washington has deployed a huge naval force in the Caribbean, striking alleged drug-trafficking boats, seizing tankers and carrying out a stunning operation to capture Venezuela's leftist leader.

The latest vessel seized was the Olina, which US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said was "another 'ghost fleet' tanker ship suspected of carrying embargoed oil" that "departed Venezuela attempting to evade US forces."

"The ghost fleets will not outrun justice. They will not hide under false claims of nationality," Noem wrote on X, saying the Coast Guard carried out the seizure.

US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), which is responsible for American forces in the region, said US Marines and Navy personnel also took part in the operation, launching from the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier.

"Once again, our joint interagency forces sent a clear message this morning: 'There is no safe haven for criminals,'"

SOUTHCOM said in a post on X that included a video clip showing US forces roping down from a helicopter and taking control of the ship.

President Donald Trump said last month that he had ordered a "blockade" of sanctioned oil vessels heading to and from Venezuela, and American forces have taken control of five ships since then, including three this week.

Among them was a Russia-linked vessel that was seized in the North Atlantic on Wednesday in an operation condemned by Moscow, after being pursued by the United States from off the coast of Venezuela.



Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves, estimated at around 303 billion barrels, surpassing Saudi Arabia, but its production has fallen sharply in recent years due to economic and political crises

Campaigner who started fighting junk food ads at 14 says McDonald's can still reach children

Manama

The activist who launched the campaign for today's junk food advertising ban when he was just 14 years old is warning the law has been gutted by corporate lobbying -- and McDonald's can still run ads that reach eight-year-olds.

Dev Sharma (20) spent six years fighting for these restrictions. He secured their inclusion in the Queen's Speech at 16. Today, as the government celebrates a "world-leading" victory, he says the victory has been stolen.

"This ban has more loopholes than a box of Cheerios," said Sharma. "McDonald's can still broadcast 'I'm Lovin' It' into the bedrooms of kids watching YouTube after school. They just can't show a burger. The manipulation hasn't stopped. It's got smarter."

The loophole: The new law bans ads showing products high in fat, salt and sugar before 9pm on TV and online at all times. But a "brand exemption" -- inserted after intense food industry lobbying -- means companies can still flood children's screens with logos, jin-

gles, mascots and emotional imagery.

"From the moment we're born, junk food marketing has us surrounded," said Sharma. "It's forced down our throats. It's the cultural wallpaper. This ban was supposed to rip that wallpaper down. Instead, we've peeled off one layer and left the rest."

"It wasn't just online," said Sharma. "I'd see a fried chicken ad on Instagram at 3:15pm, right before the school bell rang. Then I'd walk out and see the same branding on the bus stop. They built a corridor of temp-

eration from my classroom to my front door."

Sharma started campaigning from his bedroom in Leicester during lockdown, watching junk food ads interrupt his GCSE revision on YouTube.

"I was 16, trying to watch a maths tutorial on YouTube," he recalls. "I couldn't learn a quadratic equation without being interrupted by a burger ad. My phone knew I was hungry before I did." Frustrated by the bombardment, he launched an open letter to Boris Johnson -- every signature automatically

emailed Downing Street and the Health Secretary. The campaign gathered tens of thousands of signatures and the backing of Jamie Oliver. He was invited to meet ministers, and the policy was announced in the Queen's Speech. Six years on, he says the same companies are using the same tactics on the same kids.

"I was 14 when I started this. I'm now 20. This law consumed my entire teenage years. And I'm watching the food giants walk through the backdoor we spent six years trying to close." "While the government cel-

brates removing 7.2 billion calories, McDonald's is already running brand campaigns that do exactly what product ads did. The golden arches are more recognisable to British kids than the England flag. You don't need to show a Big Mac to sell one."

Sharma is calling for an immediate government review of the brand exemption within six months, with all loopholes closed by 2027.

"Children deserve protection that actually protects them. Not a ban with a backdoor."

News in brief

Kurdish fighters refuse to leave Syria's Aleppo after truce



◆ **Kurdish fighters rejected a call to leave Syria's Aleppo yesterday** after the government announced a truce in deadly fighting that forced thousands of civilians to flee. Since Tuesday, government forces had been fighting the US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Aleppo, the country's second city. The violence killed 21 people and was the latest challenge for a country still struggling to forge a new path after Islamist authorities ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad just over a year ago.

◆ **Rescue workers searched yesterday for dozens of people buried under a mountain of garbage that collapsed at a landfill in the central Philippines, killing at least two.**

About 50 sanitation workers were buried when the towering pile of refuse toppled onto them at Binaliw Landfill, a privately operated facility in Cebu City, on Thursday. "There are signs of life," Cebu Mayor Nestor Archival told a news briefing yesterday, adding that hundreds of rescuers already on site would be joined by "another 500" for search efforts he expected to last through to Sunday.

Two dead, dozens missing after Philippine dump site collapse



France has right to say 'no' to US, Paris says



◆ **France has the right to say "no" to its historical ally the United States when it acts in a way deemed unacceptable, the foreign minister said yesterday, warning that the European political order was "in danger".** In his annual address to France's ambassadors, Jean-Noel Barrot warned that the European Union was threatened by adversaries from the outside, and also hit back at US claims Europe faced "civilisational erasure". European leaders are juggling multiple priorities as they try to come up with a plan to help end nearly four years of Russia's war against Ukraine and formulate a coordinated response to Washington's increasingly assertive foreign policy posture including Donald Trump's designs on Greenland.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

New Zealand's rare flightless parrot begins breeding again



New Zealand's critically endangered kakapo parrots

AFP | Wellington

New Zealand's critically endangered flightless parrot, the kakapo, started breeding last week for the first time in four years, the government conservation department said.

Only 236 of the rotund and regal-looking green parrots remain in three breeding populations on some of New Zealand's most remote southern islands.

That includes 83 breeding age females, with high hopes this year could bring the most hatched chicks since records began.

"It's always exciting when the breeding season officially begins, but this year it feels especially long-awaited after such a big gap since the last season in 2022," said Deidre Vercoe, the Department of Conservation's kakapo recovery operations manager.

"Now it is underway, we expect more mating over the next month and we are preparing for what might be the biggest breeding season since the programme began 30 years ago."

In 1995 the Department

of Conservation and indigenous Maori tribe Ngai Tahu launched the Kakapo Recovery Programme, with a population of just 51 birds at serious risk of extinction.

By 2022, numbers had rebounded to 252, but 16 birds died over the past four years.

This mating season is the 13th in the past 30 years, with the bird breeding every two to four years.

"Kakapo are still critically endangered so we'll keep working hard to increase numbers," Vercoe said.

"But looking ahead, chick numbers are not our only measure of success. We want to create healthy, self-sustaining populations of kakapo that are thriving, not just surviving."

"This means with each successful breeding season we're aiming to reduce the level of intensive, hands-on management to return to a more natural state."

Tane Davis, a Ngai Tahu representative on the recovery programme, said it was hoped kakapo would one day thrive throughout New Zealand's South Island.

Defiant Khamenei insists 'won't back down' in face of Iran protests

Supreme Leader labels demonstrators "vandals"

● **Iran hit by largest protests in weeks**

● **Nationwide internet blackout imposed**

● **Government buildings set on fire**

AFP | Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday insisted the Islamic republic would "not back down" in the face of protests after the biggest rallies yet in an almost two-week movement that has shaken the clerical authorities.

Chanting slogans including "death to the dictator" and setting fire to official buildings, crowds of people opposed to the leadership marched through major cities late Thursday.

Internet monitor Netblocks said authorities had imposed a total connectivity blackout and added early yesterday that the country has "now been offline for 12 hours... in an attempt to suppress sweeping protests".

The demonstrations represent one of the biggest challenges yet to the Islamic republic in its over four-and-a-half decades of existence, with protesters openly calling for an end to its theocratic rule.

But Khamenei struck a defiant tone in his first comments on the protests that have been escalating since January 3, calling the demonstrators "vandals" and "saboteurs", in a speech broadcast on state TV.

Khamenei said US President Donald Trump's hands "are stained with the blood of more than a thousand Iranians", in apparent reference to Israel's June



Protesters wave the national flag of Iran as they gather for a demonstration against the Iranian regime's crackdown on protests, in central Paris (file photo)

war against the Islamic republic which the US supported and joined with strikes of its own.

He predicted the "arrogant" US leader would be "overthrown" like the imperial dynasty that ruled Iran up to the 1979 revolution.

"Last night in Tehran, a bunch of vandals came and destroyed a building that belongs to them to please the US president," he said in an address to supporters, as men and women in the audience chanted the mantra of "death to America".

"Everyone knows the Islamic republic came to power with the blood of hundreds of thousands of honourable people, it will not back down in the face of saboteurs."

Trump said late Thursday that

“Last night in Tehran, a bunch of vandals came and destroyed a building that belongs to them to please the US president. Everyone knows the Islamic republic came to power with the blood of hundreds of thousands of honourable people, it will not back down in the face of saboteurs”

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI

"enthusiasm to overturn that regime is incredible" and warned that if the Iranian authorities responded by killing protesters, "we're going to hit them very

hard. We're ready to do it." In the Fox News interview, Trump went as far as to suggest 86-year-old Khamenei may be looking to leave Iran.

"He's looking to go somewhere," he said.

'Red line'

The son of the shah of Iran ousted by the 1979 Islamic Revolution, US-based Reza Pahlavi, said the rallies showed how "a massive crowd forces the repressive forces to retreat" and called for even bigger protests yesterday evening.

But judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei warned that punishment of "rioters" would be "decisive, the maximum and without any legal leniency".

Trump says he scrapped new Venezuela attack after prisoner release

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he called off a second wave of attacks on Venezuela after the government, whose leftist president was removed by Washington, began releasing prisoners.

Trump made the comments as he prepared to meet major oil corporations that he said will invest at least \$100 billion in Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves.

Trump was implicitly making clear he is ready again to use force to get his way in Venezuela, which he has vowed to force to enrich the United States, especially oil companies.

"Venezuela is releasing large numbers of political prisoners as a sign of 'Seeking Peace,'" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"Because of this cooperation, I have cancelled the previously expected second Wave of Attacks," he said.

The United States yesterday



An officer stands guard at the entrance to El Helicoide - a facility and prison owned by the Venezuelan government

also announced that it had seized another tanker near Venezuela as it enforces an embargo on its oil, which makes Washington the undisputed power on its key export.

Prisoners' release

Venezuela began releasing

prisoners on Thursday in the first such gesture since US forces removed and detained president Nicolas Maduro in a deadly January 3 raid, with his deputy Delcy Rodriguez taking over.

Former Venezuelan opposition candidate Enrique Marquez -- who opposed Maduro in the

contested 2024 presidential election -- was among those released Thursday.

"It's all over now," Marquez said in a video taken by a local journalist of him and his wife, accompanied by another released opposition member, Biagio Pilieri.

The White House quickly took credit for winning the prisoners' freedom.

Trump had earlier played down democracy as a motivating factor for the attack, despite years of the United States saying that Maduro was illegitimate elections were filled with fraud.

But Trump said he would meet next week with Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, whom he earlier brushed aside as a "very nice woman" who lacked the "respect" to lead Venezuela.

"I understand she's coming in next week sometime, and I look forward to saying hello to her," Trump told Fox News host Sean Hannity in an interview.

Julius Caesar defies the Roman Senate and crosses the Rubicon, uttering "alea iacta est" (the die is cast), signalling the start of civil war and his appointment as Roman dictator for life



Catholic Order of the Golden Fleece is founded in Bruges in celebration of the prosperous and wealthy domains of Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy

Stephen III of Moldavia defeats the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Vaslui

"Common Sense" pamphlet by Thomas Paine is published advocating American independence

Russian strikes cut Kyiv heating

Kyiv mayor calls for temporary evacuation after Russian strikes

- Massive Russian missile and drone attack on Kyiv
- Heating cut to half the capital's apartments
- Four people killed, 24 wounded

AFP | Washington

Russian strikes cut heating to half of the Ukrainian capital yesterday, prompting the mayor to issue an exceptional call for residents to temporarily leave the city with temperatures at -8C and set to drop further.

Four people were killed in the capital in a massive missile and drone attack that ripped open apartment blocks and also saw Moscow fire its feared Oreshnik ballistic missile at western Ukraine, drawing condemnation from Europe.

The barrage came hours after Moscow rejected a plan by Kyiv and its Western allies to deploy peacekeeping forces to Ukraine should a ceasefire be reached.

AFP journalists in Kyiv saw residents running for shelter as the air raid siren echoed and heard Russian drones exploding into residential buildings and missiles whistling over the capital.

"A clear reaction from the world is needed. Above all from the United States, whose signals Russia truly pays attention to," President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media.

"Russia must receive signals that it is its obligation to focus on diplomacy, and must feel consequences every time it again



Smoke rises from a building after Russia launched an attack with drones and missiles on Kyiv

focuses on killings and the destruction of infrastructure," he added.

Zelensky said 20 residential buildings in Kyiv had been damaged, adding that a Russian drone had damaged the Qatari embassy building.

Around half of all apartment blocks in the capital were left without heat due to "due to damage to the capital's critical infrastructure caused by a massive enemy attack," Klitschko said.

He called on "residents of the capital who have the opportunity to temporarily leave the city for places with alternative sources of power and heat to do so."

AFP journalists at train and bus stations in the capital saw no signs of large crowds or panic.

Russia fires rarely-used missile

Authorities in Kyiv said four

"A clear reaction from the world is needed. Above all from the United States, whose signals Russia truly pays attention to

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

people were killed -- including a medic who died at a building that was struck in a repeat attack -- and that 24 people were wounded.

Nina, 70, who lives in one of the buildings hit, told AFP she was angry that the world was talking about a possible deal to end the conflict at a time when Russia was launching such deadly barrages.

"Where is Europe, where is America? It doesn't hurt them

the same way," she said.

Her neighbour, 58-year-old Kostiantyn Kondratchenko fought the second-floor blaze from a drone hit with a hose used to water flowers, he told AFP.

The barrage is just the latest to batter Ukraine as diplomats wrangle for a breakthrough in what has been Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II.

Russia, which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, has shown no sign of slowing down its ground offensive or aerial bombardments.

Moscow's defence ministry said it had used the Oreshnik ballistic missile on "strategic targets" -- only the second time the new weapon, which the Kremlin says is impossible to stop, is known to have been used.

Ukrainian authorities said a ballistic missile travelling "at about 13,000 kilometres (8,000

YOU KNOW WHAT

Russia used its new, highly hypersonic "Oreshnik" ballistic missile, which travels at approximately 13,000 km/h (8,000 mph), for only the second known time, striking a facility in western Ukraine near the Polish border

miles) per hour" had struck an "infrastructure facility" near the western city of Lviv.

Ukraine's SBU published pictures of fragments from what it said were the missile, found in the Lviv region, close to Ukraine's border with EU member Poland.

It said Russia had attacked "civilian infrastructure", without specifying the target or extent of any damage.

The regional military administration said that radiation levels were within normal range.

The European Union and Germany condemned the use of Oreshnik.

"Russia's reported use of an Oreshnik missile is a clear escalation against Ukraine and meant as a warning to Europe and to the US," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on social media.

Across the border in Russia's Belgorod, the governor said more than half a million people were without power or heating after a Ukrainian attack targeted the region's utilities.

'War is back in vogue,' Pope Leo says

AFP | Vatican City

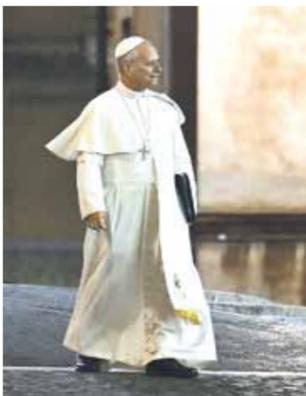
Pope Leo XIV warned Friday that war was "back in vogue" and highlighted the "ambition of belligerents", as his own country the United States flexes its military muscles.

In a New Year's message to diplomats at the Vatican, his first since becoming head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics last May, Leo lamented the weakness of multilateralism, saying dialogue was being replaced by a "diplomacy based on force".

He did not name the US but said rising tensions in the Caribbean and Pacific were "cause for serious concern", particularly in Venezuela -- where US forces recently seized the president.

He was speaking just hours after US President Donald Trump said land operations against drug cartels were on the way following maritime attacks in the eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

Leo issued an appeal "to respect the will of the Venezue-



Pope Leo XIV walks to his residence

lan people, and to safeguard the human and civil rights of all", following Trump's suggestion the US could effectively control Venezuela -- and its vast oil reserves -- for years.

The pope's address rounded up a year of increasing global tension, from the Russia-Ukraine war to US strikes in several countries, and rising fears in Europe of a possible US takeover of Greenland.

Storms spark travel mayhem and power cuts in northern Europe

AFP | Paris

Gale-force winds and storms barreled through northern Europe yesterday, disrupting air and rail travel and cutting power to hundreds of thousands in freezing temperatures.

Some 50 flights were cancelled in London's Heathrow airport, affecting thousands of passengers, with air travel disrupted across Europe from the Czech Republic to Moscow.

Forecasters from Britain to Germany urged people to stay indoors as they issued weather warnings, including the rare, highest-level red wind alert for the British Isles of Scilly and Cornwall in southwestern England.

All trains were cancelled in Cornwall yesterday.

Some 57,000 homes in the UK remained without electricity, according to the National Grid energy provider, after Storm Goretti brought strong winds and heavy snow to parts of the



A huge wave crashes on the jetty of the harbor of Le Conquet, western France

country overnight.

More than 250 schools remained closed across Scotland, which has struggled through bad weather for much of the first week back after the Christmas break.

In France, Goretti cut power to some 380,000 homes, most of them in the northern Normandy region, the Enedis power provider said.

Overnight, gusts of up to 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles

per hour) were registered in France's northwestern Manche region, authorities said.

The winds felled trees with at least one crashing on residential buildings in France's Seine-Maritime region, without injuries, authorities said.

Gusts of up to 160 kph lashed England and Wales with the Met Office forecasting agency warning of "very large waves" bringing "dangerous conditions to coastal areas".



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



In Damascus today with @eucopresident . After decades of fear and silence, Syrians began a long journey toward hope and renewal. Europe will do everything it can to support Syria's recovery and reconstruction.

@vonderleyen

02



Must be nice to be able to tweet from Europe and be able to use the Internet freely to publicly disagree with leaders, without being arrested, beaten or having the country's telecommunications disabled. That's the sort of thing people in Iran's streets are asking for...

@RobertaMetsola

03



It's time for the President of the United States to act like a President for ALL the United States.

@GavinNewsom

04



I've seen a lot of dishonest coverage from the media during my time in politics, but the last 24 hours may have set a new low.

@JDVance

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

CAMPUS

Pakistan School hosts Scholarship Award Ceremony

Manama

A Scholarship Award Ceremony was held on 3rd January 2026 at Pakistan School, aimed at motivating students to achieve academic excellence and pursue their goals with dedication. During the ceremony, 46 scholarships were awarded to outstanding students from Grades 9 to 11 who had excelled in the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Examination 2024-25.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, His Excellency Honorable Aneel Zafar, Head of Chancery of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Distinguished Guests of Honour, Honorable Sheikh Sajid, Chairman Pakistan Club Mr. Afzal Bhatti, and Honorable Ali Haider, First Secretary of the Embassy of Pakistan, were also present to inspire and encourage the students. The event was further honored by the presence of distinguished community elders. Their presence highlighted the importance of academic achievement and the



role of hard work in shaping a successful future.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome by the Chairman Board of Management, emphasizing the significance of education, perseverance, and dedication.

The students, filled with excitement and pride, were called to the stage to receive their scholarships. The Chief

Guest, Guests of Honour, and members of the Board of Management personally presented the awards, shaking hands and congratulating each student.

Mr. Sami ur Rehman, Chairman of the Board of Management, along with other board members and the principal, lauded the students for their exceptional performance, recognizing their commitment, re-

silience, and outstanding efforts in academics.

The Board of Management unanimously applauded the Principal's and teaching faculty's practical and effective strategies, and their efficient implementation, the students' relentless hard work, and the continued support of parents in making this achievement possible.

AUBH Launches DBA Program



Manama

The American University of Bahrain has announced the launch of its Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program, in response to the growing demand for qualified leaders capable of formulating innovative and sustainable solutions to today's economic and administrative challenges.

Spanning three to five years, the DBA program is specifically designed to equip experienced professionals with advanced research and leadership skills, enabling them to navigate the complexities of today's highly competitive and fast-evolving global business landscape.

The DBA program focuses on innovative strategies that improve institutional performance, enhance sustainability, and support ethical decision-making. It also enables students to conduct valuable research that contributes to the development of knowledge at both academic and professional levels, preparing graduates to assume senior leadership roles across their respective industries.

The University has also announced the opening of admissions for the Spring semester of the 2025-2026 academic year, inviting students to apply for its comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The deadline for submitting applications is set for the end of January 2026.

The University offers thirteen undergraduate programs, two master's programs, and a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) across three colleges, namely the College of Business and Management, the College of Engineering and Computing and the College of



Media and Design. Postgraduate programs are delivered outside regular working hours and during weekends, providing greater flexibility for working students.

AUBH has also introduced several distinguished new academic programs at the undergraduate level recently. These include the Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and the Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.

Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the American University of Bahrain, emphasized that the launch of the DBA program aligns with the University's mission to provide students and professionals with advanced knowledge and the ability to transform ideas into innovative, market-responsive solutions that address societal needs. She noted that the program is expected to serve as an ideal pathway for professionals seeking to consolidate their practical expertise within an advanced academic framework, and to obtain a prestigious qualification that empowers them to lead their organizations toward broader horizons of success and positive impact—locally, regionally, and globally.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Welcomes Al Jabriya School Students to Explore Career Paths and Technical Skills

Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo welcomed students from Al Jabriya Secondary Technical Boys School as part of the company's ongoing commitment to supporting youth development and inspiring future talent. The visit took place in two groups, with a total of 40 students participating.

The students began their visit at the Ebrahim K. Kanoo Training Center, where they were introduced to the company's state-of-the-art facilities and learned about the technical and professional skills that drive the automotive industry.

The tour continued at the Toyota Plaza, where the students explored the spare parts and service center, along with the body and paint facilities, gaining firsthand insight into real-world operations and customer service processes.

The students also received an overview of the company's history, its board members, and the wide range of



brands and services it offers in Bahrain.

This visit reflects Ebrahim K.

Kanoo's ongoing dedication to nurturing young talent, fostering curiosity, and encouraging

students to explore career opportunities within the automotive sector.

BIS Students Excel in National-Level Mathematics Competition

Manama

Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) proudly announces the exceptional achievement of its students in the Aryabhata Ganit Challenge, a prestigious annual international-level Mathematics competition conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for students of Classes VIII to X. The competition is designed to enhance logical reasoning, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students.

CBSE currently has 31,937



affiliated schools in India and abroad. This test was conducted across all CBSE schools. This year, more than 2000 schools from the Delhi East Region, including over 250 foreign schools, participated in the Aryabhata Ganit Challenge. From this vast pool of participants, only the top 100 students in each region were awarded Merit Certificates.

In this highly competitive contest, Arnav Tushar Yeola (Grade X) secured an impressive 11th position, while Kushagra Sah (Grade IX) achieved the 12th position in the CBSE Delhi East

Region.

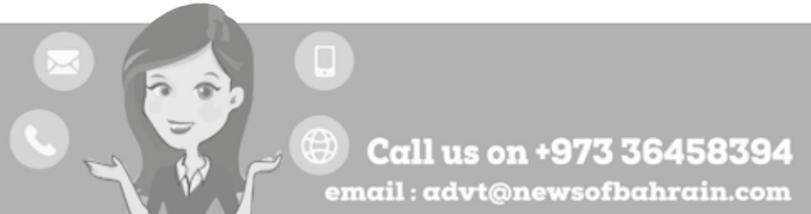
Expressing his pride, Director Mr Himanshu Verma stated, "It is a matter of immense pride that two students from Bahrain Indian School have secured 11th and 12th positions among the top 100 merit holders, placing them in the Top 15 out of participants from over 2000+ schools in the Delhi East Region." He also acknowledged the vital role played by the teachers, adding, "This achievement reflects the students' strong mathematical aptitude and the culture of encouragement, dedication, and high expectations fostered by

the school."

The Director, Ms Ritu Verma, also expressed her immense pride in the accomplishments of Arnav and Kushagra. "This remarkable achievement brings great honour not only to Bahrain Indian School but also to the Kingdom of Bahrain," said Ms Ritu Verma.

Principal Mr. Saji Jacob commended the students for their perseverance and dedication, and appreciated the Mathematics faculty for their continuous mentoring, commitment, and invaluable guidance in nurturing academic excellence.

Classifieds



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THE DOMAIN HOTEL AND SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16000000 or FATEMA@THEDOMAINHOTELS.COM

ORYN MOBILE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33297332 or MASHFARE@YAHOO.COM

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

A J INNOVATION CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699066 or JANAH18989@HOTMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN ICECREAM FACTORY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251700 or badrx005@gmail.com

MASOOMA STAR FACILITIES SUPPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39395894 or MUHAMMAD-AYYAN3440@GMAIL.COM

TWO SEAS ELCTRO MECHANICAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17540777 or anu.gulffhousegroup@gmail.com

SHADAB MENS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33627526 or imranhafeez455@gmail.com

Indian Delights Restaurant Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250300 or deepa161@yahoo.com

AL AMAYRA INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36872945 or TECHNICALFUNDA90@GMAIL.COM

NASSER ABD MOHAMMED B.S.C(CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FORKLIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700888 or admin@nasserco.net

HAWAR PETROL STATION has a vacancy for the occupation of FUEL STATION ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783399 or hr@aldaaysiholding.com

AL GHALIA SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77082884 or FATEMA.RAJAB@GMAIL.COM

AL-NAMAL CONTRACTING & TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17251444 or NAMALCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

Rahal Perfumes W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66668633 or HONESTYCONTRACTING@GMAIL.COM

ALMUHARRAQ PICKLES AND SPICES FACTORY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17333664 or almuharraq.pickle@gmail.com

STEEL CARE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17242599 or STEELCARE11995@GMAIL.COM

GULF ESTEEM CONTRACTING CO. bahraini partnership co has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35586225 or GECWLL

BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

MESHAL PRIDE TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33739955 or ZAHER@MESHAPIONEER.COM

DR. NUTRITION CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33303848 or MHSYSYS@GMAIL.COM

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or Imra@mmtc.com

BAHZAD ELECTRICAL & CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700333 or BEHZADCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

AMMAR OPTICIAN COMPANY - VISUAL & HEARING AIDS (BAHRAINI PARTNER has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33399111 or ABOAMMAR72@HOTMAIL.COM

SANTY EXCAVATION AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (SITE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17401013 or hrmanager@santyconstruction.com

MEGA MART has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17341070 or ANIL.NAWANI@BABASONS.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

DREAM MILES SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34481523 or NAWAZHANIF53@GMAIL.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.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

PLANNERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or m.vishal@exibah.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@BH.NESTLE-WATERS.COM

DISTINCT STUDENT CENTER PRINTING SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MACHINE LABELLER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33324222 or TARADA14@GMAIL.COM

ASK REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211180 or karimyazji@askventures.net

MUBASHIR KHAN COMBINE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37415010 or SHABAZHUSAIN786@GMAIL.COM

NAVEEL INTERIOR DECORATION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33502933 or Tafco-building@gmail.com

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

ALSALAM GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13307772 or HR@SALAMGAS.COM

ABDULAZIZ ALSAYED TRADING & CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33747598 or AHMEDALSAYED88@HOTMAIL.COM

HASSAN JASIM ESSA SARHAN has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact

39070284 or SHIKA.SARHAN@GMAIL.COM

BANARSI RESTAURANT & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34107122 or JAVEDRRRF@GMAIL.COM

Switz Master Baker Trading Co W.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36371418 or TAYYEB1937@GMAIL.COM

TWISTED SCISSORS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33214923 or CHANDRAROV9742@GMAIL.COM

WASEEM & USMAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38045248 or RAFAAQTALIK71@GMAIL.COM

AL TAQANI FOR REQUISITES OF CURTAIN has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17342336 or ABO-ALIB2@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDAASAKI ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ELECTRICIAN/WIREMAN), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36390003 or ALDAASAKI@OUTLOOK.COM

IMRAN NOOR TRADITIONAL BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35435266 or BALOSHIG2266@GMAIL.COM

NEW More Computer Technology has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39079163 or MORECT@GMAIL.COM

MANAS DOCUMENT CLEARANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33257979 or MANASDCPT@GMAIL.COM

SALWA HADEEL FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33511220 or KMYOUSUF2001@YAHOO.COM

GODOLIYASGENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33255371 or akiyalove4@gmail.com

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

NEXUS EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (MARKETING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39009910 or DAVID@NEXUSGROUP.BH

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

TWO MAX BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33568192 or AYHY9463@GMAIL.COM

Lux Light W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636425 or INFO@STEADFAST-BAHRAIN.COM

MJD CLEANING AND FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 77087232 or info@mjdgroupbh.com

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREENAGROUP.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

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17272676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

KRONOS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a va-

cancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441273 or MRK1313@GMAIL.COM

SIDRAT AL JAZEERA SWEETS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39422535 or SIDRATALJAZEERAS@GMAIL.COM

BLACK NANKANA COMBINED FACILITIES ACTIVITIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMMID777MP@GMAIL.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

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREENAGROUP.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

DELO CAR CARE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34422403 or JANAT-MARTWLL@GMAIL.COM

ANOWAR SARDAR MOBILE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66343207 or ANOWAR9@GMAIL.COM

AMARANZ INFRA TECH WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33530717 or PVSASI@MANARAGLOBAL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of ROOM ATTENDANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

RIAD BOUTIQUE SPA BY RUQAYA has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36556522 or RUQAYAMAWADH@GMAIL.COM

LAGOONA BEACH RESORT&SPA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660383 or INTERMILAN_1984@HOTMAIL.COM

ALSHEHAB ALUMINIUM AND WROUGHT-IRON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GLASS CUTTING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36644449 or alshehabaluminium@gmail.com

ASTRO FROM CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37347034 or ALIABINAL112@GMAIL.COM

Future Gardens Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(GARDENING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36004546 or futuregardens.bh@gmail.com

Al Helli Supermarket B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

AARC INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17297429 or AARKWLL@GMAIL.COM

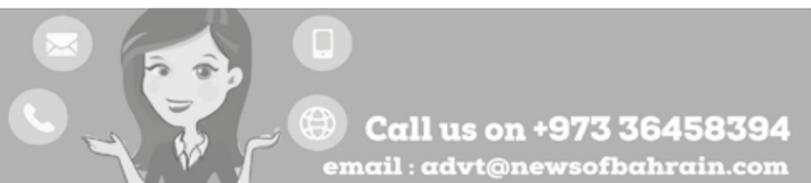
GEMS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or HR@SEVEN-ENERGY.COM

SWAR SUPPLY MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001271 or swar.supplymanpower@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hrd1@macbh.com

Al Helli Supermarket B.S.C Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877209 or HANAN@ALHELLI.COM

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

SSP Bahrain WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210389 or tomas@sspfbahrain.com

BLACK LADDER CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39002508 or THOMASUCA@GMAIL.COM

MUHAMMAD SAJID SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36198182 or ALEEMASGHAR577@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED AHMADI CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER-CLEANING-(HAND & CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17268111 or hrd1@macbh.com

LANDMARK FITNESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SPORTS TRAINER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33184197 or INFO.PRO@ARG.COM.BH

HESTON MANPOWER COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17537742 or KHADIJA.HUBAIL@HESTON.NET

mbf foods w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-ORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35440903 or admin@mbffoods.com

AL HAKEEM CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34310405 or JUSTICELLLAW@GMAIL.COM

ALSHEHAB ALUMINUM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34444162 or ALSHEHABALUMINIUM@GMAIL.COM

WALEED HUSSEIN ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVERTISING SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66311009 or WALEED.ALY@MEDTREQ.COM

RIISING STAR ADVERTISING CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PRINTER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33601173 or RSADVERTISING-BH@GMAIL.COM

RSM Bahrain has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ANALYST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17537787 or info@rsm.bh

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

ASIAN GATE SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35069139 or SHAHADCHOHAN8@GMAIL.COM

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17536275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

CARZONE PROMOTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34120380 or CARZONEWLL@GMAIL.COM

AL AMAAN CLEANING SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39285469 or KOROTHSHAMSEER@GMAIL.COM

SHAHEEN ELECTROMECHANICAL W.L.L (SEMCO) W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17813535 or hrd@shaheengroup.com

SPA SOCIAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANICURIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17823232 or KHALIDAR@KAR-GROUP.COM

Pride aldiar Hydraulic w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17375958 or diyarhyd@gmail.com

LINKED CARE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36008131 or

AHMEDJAFARADAM@GMAIL.COM

bombay for advertising has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33284867 or bh.vs2023@gmail.com

CHWEIHA CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36600550 or CHWEIHA@GMAIL.COM

SEEKH BURGER SEEKH TIKKA has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66355825 or ABDULLAY165@GMAIL.COM

ZESHAN MAHER CONSULTANCY DANI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33900451 or FATIMAILYASKHASTTAB@GMAIL.COM

HADABAT WAQIF AUTO ELECTRICAL REPAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39673979 or ALAHMEDBAHRAIN1960@GMAIL.COM

ABU SAAD GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34394945 or SOHAILYASIN795@GMAIL.COM

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

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 TDAINEH@GMAIL.COM

BRIJNEET SWAG FASHION HOUSE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33112395 or PESO.BAHRAIIN@GMAIL.COM

ALBASHIQ BARBER SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39667161 or marayem09@gmail.com

VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008217 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33888886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMOILFIELD.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERVI has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

MARALA ADVERTISING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADVERTISING SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39202314 or MUHAMMADNADEEMAWAN58@GMAIL.COM

EFEL IRONING has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33345110 or FAOOOHA75@HOTMAIL.COM

TEA TIME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36960999 or HASH2H2@GMAIL.COM

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

SAMANTA JEWELLERY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKERS(JEWELLERY & PRECIOUS METAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33025409 or SUSANTA826@GMAIL.COM

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TRADE / VOCATIONAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEOPHYSICAL.COM

DESI SHERAZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37034219 or SHERAZ-SALEEM613@GMAIL.COM

KHANA ZARA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or KHANAZARABH44@GMAIL.COM

KHANA ZARA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified

applied applicants can contact 35137132 or KHANAZARABH44@GMAIL.COM

al mezal tower construction & trading has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33667922 or BINZAAL1@BATELCO.COM.BH

MALIKA KUSAR TAILORING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 30806050 or JAAIMMALIK90@YAHOO.COM

HARJIT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39820273 or HARJITKUMAR605@GMAIL.COM

SSP Bahrain WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210389 or tomas@sspfbahrain.com

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

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

ELLIAN SALON BEAUTY has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33355855 or AMOOL.86@HOTMAIL.COM

CLEAR VIEW SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17660141 or CLEARVIEWBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742858 or hussain@mercuryulif.com

MAHDI AUTOWORK has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37744721 or GROUP-DIXSON@GMAIL.COM

AUTO TECH SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66382620 or USMAN_PRINCE2@YAHOO.COM

HARON HASSAN CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38473248 or abdulrahman110511@gmail.com

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batsco.net

NADIR HASMAT COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN (GROCERY OR COLDSTORE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33424934 or YSMNKHAN.87@GMAIL.COM

Al fateh cleaning and Maintenance Company w.l.l has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830078 or kanakaraj.pk@horizonintlgroup.com

ALABRAJ RESTAURANT BSC has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38700027 or salwa@al-abraaj.com

FORT MUNRO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or FORTMUNROBH@GMAIL.COM

BATSCO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783886 or hr@batsco.net

SHAHI CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38060144 or AMJCONSTRUCTION782@GMAIL.COM

ARD AL BAHAR CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17210500 or HUSSAINMIRZADAWOOD@GMAIL.COM

FRESH LIFE INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34406920 or FRESHLIFEENTERPRISES@GMAIL.COM

FORT MUNRO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PAINT FINISHER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or FORTMUNROBH@GMAIL.COM

MASHGAL FLAKLOOR LELJALABIYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33738989 or FLAKLOOR.FASHIONS@GMAIL.COM

TAIMOUR GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39001765 or DANA44012@GMAIL.COM

SAYYAR TRADING AGENCIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290111 or OFFICE@SAYYAR.BH

HARON HASSAN CONSTRUCTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38473248 or abdulrahman110511@gmail.com

GLAM HEAVEN BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36617771 or EXPLORE.HOLIDAYS.ACC@GMAIL.COM

METRO TOWER CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66906887 or METROTOWER-CARGO@GMAIL.COM

ESHAAL BUSINESS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33057289 or CH7935405@GMAIL.COM

FIX UP MECHANICAL WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LATHE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34393502 or PARDEEPSINGH885@YAHOO.COM

burj mohammed contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34169404 or BURJMUHAMMAD786@GMAIL.COM Millennium ME CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39723000 or INFO@OREEM.COM

FORT MUNRO CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137132 or FORTMUNROBH@GMAIL.COM

COOK BOOK RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39411185 or A7MED.JANAHI@HOTMAIL.COM

HIGH NEW STYLE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33200880 or newstyle.ali@gmail.com

MOHAMED ABDEL BASSET FOR MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34049421 or MOHAMED.ALANTABLY@GMAIL.COM

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

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Arsenal miss chance to stretch lead in Liverpool stalemate

Gunners fail to capitalise as Liverpool hold firm in storm-hit Emirates stalemate

● Arsenal miss chance to go eight clear

● Liverpool strike crossbar through Bradley

● Stormy conditions blunt both attacks

AFP | London

Arsenal wasted the chance to move eight points clear at the top of the Premier League as Liverpool came to life in a 0-0 draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The Reds are one of only two sides to beat Mikel Arteta's men this season and came closest to breaking the deadlock when Conor Bradley hit the crossbar.

Arsenal failed to score for the first time at home all season but did enough to extend their advantage over second-placed Manchester City to six points.

Three consecutive draws for City over the past week had opened the door for Arsenal to close in on their first league title in 22 years.

The Emirates was bouncing before a ball was kicked in anticipation, but the spectacle between the defending champions and apparent champions elect fell flat.

Both sides struggled to deal with the treacherous conditions as Storm Goretti unleashed torrential rain and swirling winds.



Arsenal's Brazilian striker #09 Gabriel Jesus reacts after a final chance at the back post from a corner as the last action of the game

Liverpool have long since fallen out of the title race since beating the Gunners at Anfield in August, but are now 10 games unbeaten to consolidate their place in the top four.

The visitors were penned in for much of the first 45 minutes but still came closest to opening the scoring before the break.

William Saliba's backpass nearly caught out David Raya and, with the Spanish goalkeeper stranded, Conor Bradley's lob came back off the underside of the crossbar.

The roles were reversed in the second period as Liverpool

“Every time you don't win (it is a missed opportunity). I have to really praise the team for what they have done in this Christmas period. To come out of this period with all the issues we had the boys deserve all the credit. We are in a really strong position and we have to go again

MIKEL ARTETA

dominated possession and territory.

However, the Reds were shorn of three of their biggest attacking threats with Alexander Isak and Hugo Ekitike out injured and Mohamed Salah away at the Africa Cup of Nations.

That lack of firepower in the final third showed as Arsenal were only ever troubled by the pace of Jeremie Frimpong, who lacked the final ball to make his dangerous bursts count.

Dominik Szoboszlai's stunning free-kick separated the sides when the last met and

YOU KNOW WHAT

Arsenal increased their lead over Manchester City to six points despite failing to score at home for the first time this season, benefiting from City's recent run of three consecutive draws

nearly repeated the trick with a powerful effort that dipped just too late.

At the other end, Viktor Gyokeres was hauled off by Arteta after another poor performance as his goal drought from open play extended to 10 games.

Arteta had to turn to his wealth of options off the bench to try and turn the tide as Gabriel Jesus, Noni Madueke, Eberechi Eze and Gabriel Martinelli were all introduced in the hunt for a winner.

But they took until stoppage time to register a shot on goal in the second half as Jesus and Martinelli fired too close to Alison Becker.

A point edges fourth-placed Liverpool three points clear of Newcastle and Manchester United in the battle for a place in next season's Champions League.

Swiatek wins in 58 minutes as Poland reach United Cup semis



Iga Swiatek
AFP | Perth

World number two Iga Swiatek defied a partisan crowd to thrash Australian Maya Joint in Sydney yesterday and help take Poland into a United Cup semi-final clash with the USA.

Joint is a talent at age 19 but she was blown away by the six-time Grand Slam champion, Swiatek teaching her a lesson in a 6-1, 6-1 victory in 58 minutes.

The 24-year-old Swiatek will be among the favourites when the Australian Open starts on January 18 and this showed why as she won a third match in a row.

Alex de Minaur defeated Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the men's singles to level the quarter-final at 1-1 and give the hosts hope.

However, Poland won the deciding mixed doubles to set up a last-four showdown with reigning champions the United States in a repeat of last year's final.

That tees up Swiatek against world number four Coco Gauff.

The other semi-final on Saturday is between Belgium and Switzerland.

The United Cup is a mixed-teams competition featuring 18 countries and serves as build-up to the Australian Open.

Wawrinka gets Melbourne wildcard but Kyrgios to play doubles only

AFP | Melbourne

Former champion Stan Wawrinka was handed a wildcard yesterday for the Australian Open in his final season but home favourite Nick Kyrgios will play only doubles.

With Kyrgios saying he was not ready for singles matches after injury, the final three wildcards went to three-time Grand Slam winner Wawrinka and Australians Jordan Thompson and Chris O'Connell.

Switzerland's Wawrinka, 40, is playing his last season before retiring.

He won the first of his majors at Melbourne in 2014, a season during which he peaked at world number three, and reached two other semi-finals.

"To have the chance to play the AO at the beginning of my final year on tour means the world to me," said Wawrinka, now ranked 156.

The 2022 Wimbledon finalist Kyrgios made his comeback after an injury-ravaged three years in Brisbane this week but lost in the opening round to American



Stan Wawrinka in action

Aleksandar Kovacevic.

Despite being in the running for a wildcard at his home Grand Slam starting on January 18, the Australian showman said he was not ready.

"After some good conversations with TA (Tennis Australia) I've made the call to focus on doubles for this year's Australian Open," he said on Instagram.

"I'm fit and back on court but

five-setters are a different beast and I'm not quite ready to go the distance yet."

The defeat to Kovacevic was his first singles ATP Tour match since March last year and he conceded afterwards that he would never be the player he once was.

Kyrgios, who has tumbled to 670 in the rankings after reaching a high of 13 in 2016, said he

“After some good conversations with TA (Tennis Australia) I've made the call to focus on doubles for this year's Australian Open. I'm fit and back on court but five-setters are a different beast and I'm not quite ready to go the distance yet

NICK KYRGIOS

was happy to give the opportunity to someone else.

"This tournament means everything to me but I'd rather give my spot to someone who's ready to make their moment count," Kyrgios said.

While giving singles a miss, Kyrgios will play doubles with fellow Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis.

He has previously committed to playing singles at the Kooyong Classic in Melbourne, which gets under way on Tuesday.

Real Madrid's Mbappe fit to play Super Cup final: Alonso

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said that superstar French striker Kylian Mbappe is fit to play in the Spanish Super Cup final against Barcelona after a knee sprain.

The forward was left out of Madrid's travelling party to Saudi Arabia, with Los Blancos beating city rivals Atletico Madrid 2-1 in the semi-final on

Thursday to set up a Clasico final on Sunday.

"(Mbappe) is a lot better, he is feeling good, and he has the same chance of playing as his team-mates," Alonso said in Jeddah.

Alonso said Mbappe would fly to join the squad yesterday.

The 27-year-old is Madrid's top goalscorer with 29 goals this season across all competitions in 24 appearances.

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'Would be fun': Alcaraz, Sinner tease prospect of teaming up in doubles

AFP | Seoul

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner teased yesterday the prospect of teaming up for doubles as the world's top two prepare to open their seasons with a lucrative exhibition match in South Korea, a week before the Australian Open.

The pair dominated men's tennis in 2025 and contested all four Grand Slam finals between them, with Spain's Alcaraz winning the French and US Opens and Italy's Sinner triumphing at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Speaking on the eve of their match in Incheon, the friends and rivals floated the idea of pairing up as a formidable team.

"I think it would be fun at least one time to share the court in different ways, on the same side," said Sinner, the world number two behind top-ranked Alcaraz.

"Of course the schedule, and we are so focused on singles that it's very difficult because if then you go deep in singles and then you don't have the right recovery.

"But for one tournament I



Italy's Jannik Sinner (L) plays table tennis with Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (R) during a welcome event at Hyundai Card headquarters in Seoul

think it's great to do it, and we're going to talk about it maybe this

year at a certain time where we feel like, or next year."

Alcaraz was also receptive to the idea, saying it had crossed

”
I think it would be fun at least one time to share the court in different ways, on the same side. Of course the schedule, and we are so focused on singles that it's very difficult because if then you go deep in singles and then you have to play doubles, you don't have the right recovery

JANNIK SINNER

his mind "once or twice".

"At least once would be fun," he said.

"I think I'm playing forehand and he's playing backhand."

Alcaraz and Sinner will be on opposite sides of the court when they square off again on Saturday, when they will play their only warm-up before the Australian Open starts on January 18.

The 22-year-old Alcaraz has been critical of tennis's packed schedule and pulled out of the

Shanghai Masters in September because of "physical issues".

He said playing in South Korea was "a great way to get ready" for Melbourne, where he is looking to go beyond the quarter-finals for the first time.

"I think coming here for two, three days, keep preparing, keep getting yourself ready for the new season, I think it was a great idea," he said.

"I'm just really happy that I'm able to do this event, this match with Jannik."

Their rivalry has drawn comparisons with the "Big Three" of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, who ruled tennis for the early part of this century.

Sinner said he and Alcaraz "want to make our own story".

"We need to see how long we can keep up this level," said the 24-year-old, who won six titles last year despite missing three months over a doping ban.

"What the big three has done, we cannot compare ourselves with them, and we also don't want to.

"We are just ourselves and we want to make our own story."

Rybakina has little hope of change to tennis schedule



Elena Rybakina in action

AFP | Brisbane

Former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina said yesterday she agreed with Aryna Sabalenka's description of the tennis schedule as "insane" -- but does not see it changing.

Speaking after her surprise loss to Karolina Muchova in the Brisbane International, world number five Rybakina said Sabalenka's criticism of the packed WTA Tour calendar was correct.

WTA rules stipulate that top players must play all four Grand Slams, 10 WTA 1000 events and six WTA 500 tournaments, unless they have a valid reason such as injury.

Players who don't meet these requirements risk being fined.

Sabalenka said Thursday that she was prepared to be punished by the WTA in order to rest her body and not risk

injury.

"The season is definitely insane," four-time Grand Slam champion Sabalenka said.

Rybakina, who beat Sabalenka to win last year's season-ending WTA Finals, said players should be able to choose their schedules more freely.

"We all want to have more freedom of choosing what to play, what not to play," said the Moscow-born Kazakh, the 2022 Wimbledon winner.

"You're kind of forced to play most of the tournaments, so it is not ideal.

"You don't need to force anyone to play so many tournaments since it's so tough on the body.

"It's not easy to show the same good results, be healthy all the time.

"But it's a topic which we have had for a long time, and I don't see much changing."

Man City win race to sign forward Semenyo

AFP | London

Manchester City added to their attacking arsenal yesterday with the signing of Antoine Semenyo from Bournemouth for a reported £65 million (\$87 million).

The 26-year-old, who has scored 10 Premier League goals this season, has signed a five-and-a-half-year deal.

Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham were amongst the other clubs interested in the London-born Ghana international, who had a buyout clause that would reportedly expire on Saturday.

"I am so proud to have joined Manchester City," said Semenyo.

"I have watched City over the last decade under Pep Guar-



Antoine Semenyo applauds the fans after a match (file photo)

diola, and they have been the dominant team in the Premier Cup.

"They have set the highest of standards and it's a club with

world-class players, world-class facilities and one of the greatest managers ever in Pep."

His final act after three years with the Cherries was scoring a stoppage-time winner to beat Tottenham 3-2 and end an 11-game winless run on Wednesday.

City are hoping Semenyo can boost their challenge for silverware on four fronts in 2026.

Guardiola's men trail Arsenal by six points at the top of the Premier League and have FA Cup, League Cup and Champions League fixtures in the coming weeks.

City's options in the wide areas are currently limited with Savinho out injured and Omar Marmoush representing Egypt at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Sabalenka gets revenge over Keys in repeat of Australian Open final

AFP | Brisbane

World number one Aryna Sabalenka sent an Australian Open warning as she beat Madison Keys yesterday in Brisbane in a repeat of last year's Melbourne final.

Keys stunned Sabalenka nearly 12 months ago but the Belarusian took revenge on the American with a statement 6-3, 6-3 victory to reach the semi-finals.

Keys was playing less than 24 hours after her marathon three-hour win over Russia's Diana Shnaider and had heavy strapping on her thigh.

She turned in an uncharacteristically error-strewn performance and struggled on serve as Sabalenka struck a series of



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka hits a return against USA's Madison Keys

superb returns.

Sabalenka, aiming for her third Melbourne title in four years when the Australian Open

begins on January 18, said the Brisbane tournament was helping her find form ahead of the first major of the year.

"I'm just trying to bring on court things I have been working on the pre-season, such as coming to the net," she said.

"I was working on my serve and it seems that it's working a little bit better.

"I'm just trying to get some matches, get some wins, get the rhythm going again."

Sabalenka will play Czech surprise package Karolina Muchova in the last four after the 11th seed held her nerve to see off world number five Elena Rybakina 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Muchova raced through the first set against an out-of-sorts Rybakina, who eventually found some rhythm to claim the second.