

BIC hosts official launch event for F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026

Kingdom's F1 spectacle scheduled for 10 to 12 April as part of first season in top flight's 'new era' | P16

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Partnership growth

Bahrain-Saudi cooperation expands across economic, social and other strategic fields



TDI | Manama

The Kingdoms of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia share a commitment to deepening cooperation across various fields.

This was emphasised by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as he met yesterday with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting took place as part of HRH Prince Salman's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Agreements

He noted the numerous agreements concluded through the Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council, which have played a key role in supporting and



HRH Prince Salman meets with HRH Prince Mohammed

strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the continued progress and development of relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, underscoring the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al

Khalifa and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

His Royal Highness affirmed the historic nature of the relationship between the two Kingdoms, which is underpinned by deep and wide-ranging multi-sectoral cooperation.

He commended the efforts of HRH Prince Mohammed in advancing the partnership towards further development and prosperity, to the benefit of both Kingdoms and their peoples.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of HM the King to

the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and to HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, along with His Majesty's wishes for Saudi Arabia and its people for continued growth and prosperity.

Greetings

In turn, HRH Prince Mohammed conveyed his greetings to HM King Hamad, as well as his wishes for Bahrain and its people for further progress and prosperity.

His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of continuing to advance the strategic partnership between the two Kingdoms, and of creating further opportunities that serve shared interests and benefit both countries and their peoples.

The meeting also reviewed ways to further advance bilateral cooperation and discussed topics of common interest.

BIC hosts F1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2026 launch

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosted yesterday evening the official launch event of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 - part of F1's highly anticipated first season in its 'new era'.

The Kingdom's sporting and entertainment spectacle is scheduled for 10 to 12 April in Sakhir, and it will be marking the fourth round of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

With sweeping new regulations coming into effect and an 11th F1 team joining the grid, the excitement and anticipation is at an all-time high ahead of the new campaign, and details of what to expect in Bahrain's F1 extravaganza were announced at today's launch.

(Detailed report on Page 16)

Working hours for Sports Day

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Following the directives of His Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Thursday, 12 February, has been designated as a half working day for all ministries, authorities, and government institutions.

The decision aims to encourage employees to take part in Sports Day activities and promote sports as part of community culture.

Bahrain-India military cooperation



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, underscored the commitment by both Bahrain and India to explore further avenues for multisectoral collaboration, particularly across military and defence sectors. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS) of the Navy of the Republic of India, at Riffa Palace. His Royal Highness highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-India relations and strategic partnership, which is supported through multisectoral cooperation. He emphasised the importance of further bolstering cooperation between the two countries across areas of mutual interest to achieve shared aspirations. During the meeting, discussions also focused on the latest regional and international developments and issues of common interest. His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, was also in attendance.

Digital safeguards

Parliament backs programme to shield children from online risks

Hasan Barakat
TDI | Manama

Parliament approved a proposal calling for a national programme to protect children from the growing risks associated with excessive and unmonitored use of modern technology, particularly smartphones.

The decision reflects broad concern over the social and psychological impact of digital exposure on younger age groups and marks a shift from debate to concrete action.

The approved proposal frames children's exposure to technology as a national responsibility rather than a private family matter.

While acknowledging the role of digital tools in developing skills and innovation, MPs agreed that unchecked use has contributed to behavioural, psychological and social challenges that can no longer be ignored.

During deliberations, attention was drawn to a range of



"Families, schools and public institutions must work together to safeguard children from digital harm."

- MP MUNEEB EBRAHIM SEROOR

threats facing children online, including cyberbullying, psychological distress, blackmail and the misuse of personal images.

MPs stressed that these risks have intensified as children spend longer periods online without adequate supervision or structured alternatives during their free time.

The proposed national programme aims to offer practical alternatives to screen dependency by expanding organised after school activities, educational initiatives and community based programmes.

Schools and activity centres are expected to play a central role in engaging children in productive environments that reduce reliance on digital devices.

MP Muneer Ebrahim Seroor underlined the need for shared responsibility, emphasising that families, schools and public institutions must work together to safeguard children from digital harm.

He noted that awareness alone is insufficient without structured programmes that guide children towards healthier routines.

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Bahrain-Singapore relations



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the growth of bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Singapore, noting that ties continue to advance in line with the mutual commitment to achieving shared aspirations. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, at Riffa Palace. During the meeting, issues of common interest, as well as the latest regional and international developments, were discussed.

Boosting aviation and logistics sector



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised Bahrain's commitment to attracting investments and strengthening partnerships to support the growth of the aviation and logistics sector, reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a leading regional hub in line with the comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. HRH Prince Salman yesterday met with Tony Fernandes, Chief Executive Officer of Capital A Berhad, at Riffa Palace. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister stressed the importance of the aviation and logistics sector as a key driver of economic development and a critical pillar in enhancing the Kingdom's overall competitiveness.

Digital roads

Parliament approves move to improve electronic traffic services and procedures

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved a proposal to improve traffic procedures through expanded digital services, reflecting growing demand for a more efficient, user-friendly system that aligns with the Kingdom's wider digital transformation goals.

The decision follows discussions highlighting both the potential and the current limitations of electronic traffic services.

MPs broadly supported digitisation in traffic management, noting that electronic systems can reduce delays, improve transparency and ease pressure on both citizens and government bodies.

However, the debate made clear that digitisation must translate into real improvements in daily transactions, rather than remaining a partial or fragmented process.

Gaps

During the session, MPs raised concerns over gaps in the existing electronic system,



“Digitisation should serve the citizen first. Systems must be simple, accessible and fair to all users.”
— MP ABDULHAKIM AL SHENO

including unclear procedures, technical difficulties with login processes, and the continued need for manual document handling in some cases.

Questions were also raised about the reliability of certain electronic cards and whether

all officially issued documents are fully recognised by traffic systems.

Attention was drawn to the need for all traffic related procedures, including payments and renewals, to be available through approved digital platforms.

MPs argued that a modern system should eliminate unnecessary paperwork movement and reduce dependence on in-person transactions wherever possible.

Digitisation

MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno highlighted that digitisation should serve the citizen first, stressing that systems must be simple, accessible and fair to all users.

He noted that technological progress loses its value if it creates new obstacles or excludes certain segments of society.

With parliamentary approval secured, the focus now shifts to implementation, with expectations that relevant authorities will refine procedures and strengthen digital integration to deliver a more responsive and effective traffic service.

Housing allowance from date of marriage

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives approved a proposal calling for the housing allowance to be paid from the date of marriage, rather than after a five year waiting period.

This move aims to strengthen family stability and ease financial pressure on newly married citizens. The decision reflects growing concern over the rising cost of living and the challenges young families face at the start of married life.

MPs agreed that housing sup-

MPs also raised concerns about fairness between different social groups, pointing out that young families with moderate incomes are often most affected by delayed housing benefits.

port is a core pillar of social stability and should align with other state benefits that begin immediately upon marriage.

Members noted that delaying

the allowance places unnecessary strain on households during a critical period when couples often manage rent, loans and essential living expenses simultaneously.

During deliberations, MPs highlighted the disparity between housing support and other allowances granted from the outset of marriage.

MP Dr. Ali Majed Al Nuaimi stressed that the family is the foundation of society and that early financial support plays a key role in reducing marital stress and discouraging delays in marriage.

Support for students with ADHD

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives approved a proposal calling on the Ministry of Education to adopt targeted educational measures and enhance the training of psychological counsellors to support students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in public and private schools.

The move reflects growing awareness of the academic and social challenges faced by affected students and their families.

MPs agreed that ADHD is not a marginal issue but a widespread condition that directly affects classroom management, learning outcomes and student wellbeing.

During discussions, members highlighted the importance of

MPs also emphasised the importance of adapting teaching methods, assessment tools and classroom environments to meet diverse learning needs.

early diagnosis and structured support, noting that many students possess strong abilities yet struggle without appropriate educational and psychological guidance.

Observations

During deliberations, MPs presented a range of observations on the need for structured and sustained support within schools.

MP Jaleela Alawi Al Sayed Hasan stressed the importance of early diagnosis and special-

ised educational approaches, noting that the condition affects a significant proportion of students in every school.

MP Dr. Ali Majed Al Nuaimi underlined the need for institutional readiness and trained counsellors capable of responding effectively to behavioural and academic challenges.

MP Mahmood Merza Fardan highlighted the pressure placed on teachers and school administrations in the absence of adequate support mechanisms.

Continuity

MP Lulwa Ali Al Rumaihi emphasised the importance of continuity in psychological and educational support beyond the early stages of schooling, while MP Muneer Ebrahim Seroor stressed the need for coordinated national programmes to protect students' mental wellbeing and educational progress.

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Safe investments

MPs approve proposal safeguarding citizens' rights in stalled property development projects

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved a proposal aimed at safeguarding the rights of citizens who purchased properties in stalled or delayed development projects, marking a significant step toward addressing long-standing concerns within the real estate sector.

The decision reflects growing recognition that buyers should not bear the consequences of disputes or failures beyond their control.

MPs highlighted that many purchasers found themselves caught between developers and administrative procedures, unable to register their properties despite fulfilling their financial obligations.

Members agreed that such situations undermine confidence in the housing market and place unnecessary strain on families seeking stability and security.

The approved proposal calls for streamlined procedures to enable buyers to complete registration processes even when projects face legal or technical obstacles.

MPs stressed that citizens who acted in good faith must be protected and that ownership rights should not remain suspended due to issues between other parties.

During deliberations, emphasis was placed on the principle of fairness, with MPs arguing that current arrangements can



Property construction projects

MPs said clear and predictable procedures are essential for sustaining investment and supporting long term economic growth.

leave buyers exposed for years without clear remedies.

The approval signals a shift towards a more balanced framework that prioritises individual rights while preserving the integrity of the property market.

Members noted that resolving such cases would not only protect citizens but also strengthen confidence in Bahrain's real estate environment. Clear and

predictable procedures, they said, are essential for sustaining investment and supporting long term economic growth.

With Parliament's approval secured, attention now turns to implementation, as relevant authorities are expected to develop practical mechanisms that translate the decision into tangible relief for affected buyers and greater stability across the sector.

Innovating production

● **UNIDO, Arab League back Kingdom's industrial and innovation vision**

● **Why global entrepreneurs are choosing Bahrain to grow**

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Bahrain will launch a state-of-the-art industrial incubator in September, known as HQ Industrial, aimed at transforming innovation into industrial-scale production, His Excellency Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, announced at the 6th World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF).

The new facility will operate as an industrial launch pad, providing a single, integrated ecosystem that supports startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from research and development through prototyping, production, and final sale.

"This is not a traditional incubator," H.E. Fakhro said. "It is designed to close the gap between innovation and industrial production."

He added that Bahrain is positioning itself not just as a gateway to the region, but as the best destination for long-term business growth, sup-

ported by competitive costs, a skilled workforce, strong logistics infrastructure, and access to regional and global markets.

Forum

The announcement came during the forum, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and attended by leaders, investors, innovators, and entrepreneurs from 86 countries.

Addressing participants, H.E. Fakhro said the global economy is undergoing profound transformation due to geopolitical shifts, climate challenges, demographic changes, and rapid technological advancement.

Traditional growth models, he noted, are under pressure, making entrepreneurship central to economic resilience.

"In today's world, competitiveness is no longer defined by size alone, but by speed, adaptability, and the ability to scale ideas into impact," he said.

He highlighted Bahrain's long-standing economic strategy based on openness, diversification, and private sector leadership, noting that non-oil sectors now contribute more than 83% of the Kingdom's GDP, while SMEs account for over 93% of registered businesses.

H.E. Fakhro said Bahrain's ambition extends beyond creating startups to building scalable companies and competitive industries capable of operating regionally and globally from the Kingdom.

Call to raise housing salary cap to BD2,500

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A call to lift the maximum salary threshold for state housing services to BD2,500 has been approved by Parliament, extending eligibility beyond the current ceiling.

MPs passed the proposal in yesterday's sitting.

It was submitted by Abdulwahid Qarata, Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Ali Al Doseri and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed.

Supporters said the higher cap would allow more citizens

to access housing services and would ease pressure on household budgets as living costs rise.

They also said it could reduce reliance on extra borrowing.

During the debate, Maryam Al Saegh urged the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to review how income is counted when people apply, saying applicants should not lose their place because of routine pay rises while they wait.

"It is not acceptable that a young person applies for housing on a modest wage at the start of their working life, then has their application cancelled

because their salary later rises above the ceiling due to normal increases," she told the chamber.

She called for income to be assessed using the salary at the time of application, or through a method that accounts for gradual wage growth.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said current rules set income limits across housing services, with an upper ceiling of BD1,200.

It said a beneficiary's income must not exceed BD1,200 when a nomination certificate is issued.

Three employees sent to prison for embezzlement

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Head of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution announced that the First High Criminal Court has convicted three employees.

It sentenced each of them to three years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of BD500. The court also ordered the return of the seized items related to the crime.

They were convicted of embezzling property found in their possession during and by reason of the performance of their duties.

The Public Prosecution had received a report from the defendants' employer alleging that they had embezzled clothing from shipments they were responsible for inspecting and examining.

It subsequently launched an investigation, during which it heard witness testimony and reviewed video footage related to the incident.

The defendants were interrogated and ordered to be remanded in custody before being referred to the First High Criminal Court, which ultimately found them guilty and imposed the prescribed penalties.

Driver guilty in fatal traffic accident

● **One-year jail term**

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced a 38-year-old Asian man to one year in prison and ordered his deportation after serving the sentence for causing a fatal traffic accident that killed an Arab woman and injured her young child.

The incident occurred on November 30, 2025, when the defendant hit a woman who was crossing the road while pushing a baby stroller, resulting in her death and injuries to her child, who is under two years old.

The Public Prosecution

charged the defendant with causing the accident due to negligence and failure to exercise proper care while driving, which endangered the lives of pedestrians and caused damage to property.

Investigations showed that the victim, a 26-year-old woman, was crossing the street at a pedestrian crossing when the defendant's vehicle struck her and the stroller.

She sustained severe head injuries and died while being transported to the hospital.

The child suffered minor injuries and was treated and discharged.

Medical and forensic reports confirmed that the death resulted from traffic-related injuries, with no criminal suspicion involved.

Man cleared of public slander

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Criminal Court has acquitted a man accused of public slander and set aside a BD20 criminal order after finding the case was not proven and that doubt surrounded the allegation. The court ruled that the criminal order should fall and be treated as though it had never been issued, applying Article 255 of the Criminal Procedure law.

According to lawyer Abduladheem Hubail, prosecutors alleged his client publicly directed words at a woman and her daughter on a public road

that would harm their honour and reputation, without tying the claim to a specific incident.

A criminal order was issued imposing a BD20 fine.

Objection

The defendant objected to the order under Article 277 of the Criminal Procedure law and the dispute was heard in court.

He denied the accusation and denied any criminal intent to insult or cause harm.

The defence argued that the papers contained no decisive proof beyond the complainants' statements and that there was no neutral witness.

It also said a video clip sub-

mitted in the case did not show any clear act establishing wrongdoing.

In its reasoning, the court said it could not be satisfied to convict on uncorroborated statements and noted the family relationship between the complainants as one factor that added to doubt about the reliability of the account.

The court reaffirmed the principle that doubt is interpreted in the defendant's favour once the court has examined the case with due care, and that protecting individual rights and freedoms outweighs the risk of a guilty person avoiding punishment.

Alerts for high-tariff electricity use

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent proposal to require the Electricity and Water Authority to send alerts when a customer's electricity use moves into the third, higher-tariff band has been approved by Parliament. The proposal calls for messages to be sent by SMS or electronic notification as soon as a customer passes the first and second bands, warning that their use has reached the third band.

MP Bader Al Tameemi, who submitted the proposal, said it was meant to give households early warning before costs rise.

"Many citizens are not familiar with the stages of consumption and what costs follow," he said, adding that this "often leads to shock when bills are received".

The proposal was driven by consumer protection. "The proposal came from a desire to protect consumers from unexpected financial burdens," Al Tameemi said.

Bahraini woman sentenced for drug smuggling

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A 46-year-old Bahraini housewife was sentenced to 10 years in prison, fined BD5,000, and had the seized items confiscated by the First High Criminal Court.

She was convicted of importing and possessing drugs after a postal package from a European country was found containing food and sweets with hidden narcotics.

The public prosecutor charged her with importing marijuana for trafficking and possessing hashish for personal use, both in violation of the law.

The case began when a customs officer became suspicious of a package addressed to the woman.

An X-ray scan revealed unusual contents.

Upon opening the package, authorities found food and sweets hiding bags and containers of a herbal substance suspected to be marijuana, weighing approximately 194 grams, cleverly concealed.

The package was seized, and the woman admitted it belonged to her, saying it was sent by an Asian man. She confirmed the herbal smell was marijuana.

Housing support

Parliament backs national platform to restore homes of low-income families

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives approved a proposal calling for the launch of a national platform to support the restoration of homes belonging to low-income families across Bahrain.

This move aims to strengthen housing security and preserve social stability.

The proposal, titled “Tarmim”, was endorsed as part of wider efforts to address deteriorating housing conditions and lengthy waiting periods faced by vulnerable households.

MPs agreed that adequate housing is a constitutional right and a cornerstone of dignity and family stability.

Attention

During deliberations, attention focused on the growing number of homes suffering from structural deterioration, overcrowding and long standing maintenance issues, particularly among families who own their homes but cannot afford repairs.

MP Basma Abdulkarim stressed that the current housing framework focuses large-



An old home in need of repair

ly on financing and allocation, while neglecting families living in unsafe or unsuitable homes.

She argued that a unified digital platform would simplify pro-

cedures, ensure transparency and prioritise cases based on need.

MP Dr. Mahdi Abdulaziz Al Showaikh highlighted the

visible spread of dilapidated houses in several areas, warning that delays in intervention place residents at risk and undermine Bahrain’s social image.

The proposed platform aims to centralise applications, assessments and approvals, reducing administrative delays and duplication.

MPs noted that the initiative could also support heritage preservation in older neighbourhoods and provide opportunities for Bahraini engineers, contributing to local employment and skills development.

Fairness

Members said the platform would enhance fairness in access to housing support, protect families from unsafe living conditions and strengthen community cohesion.

They stressed that preventive maintenance is more effective and less costly than delayed intervention.

With parliamentary approval secured, the proposal will be referred to the government, as expectations grow for practical steps to implement the platform and deliver timely relief to eligible households.

Art building set for restoration

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament has approved a proposal calling for the restoration of the Bahrain Contemporary Art Society building, reaffirming the Kingdom’s commitment to preserving cultural institutions as part of its national identity.

The decision highlights growing recognition of culture as a constitutional responsibility and a pillar of social and economic development.

MPs noted that the society plays an important role in supporting artistic expression and nurturing creative talent.

Its building, members agreed, is not merely a physical space but a platform that connects artists, the public and cultural dialogue, reflecting Bahrain’s long standing engagement with the arts.

During discussions, emphasis was placed on the wider value of cultural infrastructure. MPs stressed that maintaining dedicated spaces for the arts contributes to community cohesion.

All non-Bahraini civil servants on temporary contracts

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

All 5,361 non-Bahrainis working in Bahrain’s civil service are on temporary contracts, as new figures put Bahrainis at 87 per cent of staff across ministries and government bodies covered by the Civil Service Law.

The Civil Service Bureau released the numbers in reply to a parliamentary question from MP Abdulwahid Qarata on how many Bahrainis are in post in the covered entities.

It said there are 36,292 Bahraini employees currently on the job. Almost all of them, 36,180, are on permanent terms, which the bureau put at 99.7 per cent of Bahraini staff.

A further 112 Bahrainis are employed on temporary terms across the covered bodies, the bureau said, making up 0.03 per cent of Bahraini employees. Most of them (34 staff) work at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture in posts linked to the term of municipal councils.

The bureau said those employed on temporary terms have been included in the government pension and retirement benefits system following a 2018 amendment to the law governing pensions and retirement gratuities for government employees.

It said recruitment under the Civil Service Law is driven by requests from the relevant ministries and bodies and their need to fill approved vacancies, after checks on organisational structures, staffing ceilings and approved budgets.

UNIDO ITPO marks 30 years in Bahrain

UN Secretary-General highlights private sector’s role

Focus on green, blue, and orange economies

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has once again positioned itself as a hub for global entrepreneurship, hosting over 700 delegates from 86 countries at the 6th World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum. The gathering showcased innovation, collaboration, and inclusive economic growth as central themes for shaping a sustainable future.

Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, reflected on the Kingdom’s long-standing

commitment to empowering entrepreneurs.

“For 30 years, UNIDO ITPO has supported Bahrain’s mission to provide skills, finance, and opportunities to entrepreneurs. Alongside the 25-year success of the Bahrain enterprise development model, we are demonstrating that entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of social and economic transformation,” he said.

Entrepreneurship

Dr. Hussein emphasized the need for inclusive entrepreneurship, highlighting initiatives that support entrepreneurs with disabilities, creative home-based businesses, and ventures in the green, blue, and orange economies.

“These efforts help build sustainable ecosystems, strengthen communities, and unlock opportunities for generations to

come,” he added.

Addressing the forum, Dr. Hussein noted the challenges of today’s world, including rapidly evolving technologies, climate pressures, and economic uncertainty.

“Every challenge presents an opportunity—to innovate smarter, collaborate deeper, and amplify the voices of those shaping our future,” he said.

Young innovators are increasingly leading green enterprises, embracing digital economies, and developing solutions that benefit entire communities, while women entrepreneurs continue to prove that empowering women strengthens national and global economies.

Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, highlighted the critical role of finance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MPs approve amendments to Social Insurance Law

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives approved a draft law amending provisions of the Social Insurance Law.

This move aims to refine benefit entitlements and strengthen protections for beneficiaries, including widows and dependants.

The decision followed extensive debate over financial sustainability, social justice and the impact of existing regulations on vulnerable groups.

The approved amendments focus on specific articles governing social insurance benefits. MPs stressed that the law must continue to protect widows, orphans and dependants, particularly in light of rising living costs and economic pressures.

Members underlined that any reform should preserve the social purpose of the insurance system while ensuring

long term sustainability.

Concerns

During deliberations, MPs raised a range of concerns and observations.

MP Basma Abdulkarim stressed that legislative changes must not adversely affect widows or restricting benefits would place direct pressure on families relying on these payments for basic stability.

MP Mohamed Mohamed Al Riffaei questioned the accuracy of cost calculations and called for clearer figures to avoid undermining confidence in the system.

MP Mohamed Moosa Mohamed argued that targeted benefits for widows and dependants would not impose an excessive burden on the fund if properly structured.

MP Khalid Saleh Buanaq criticised delays in committee decisions and urged greater transparency.

Road expansion

The Council of Representatives approved, in principle, a draft law endorsing the framework agreement to finance the second phase of the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Road project, marking a major step forward for one of Bahrain’s largest strategic transport developments. The approval followed the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee’s report on the agreement between the Government and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.



Silah Gulf shares commences trading on Bahrain Bourse

Listing following Silah’s offering of 16,359,429 shares at BHD 0.176 per share

Manama

Bahrain Bourse announced yesterday the listing of Silah Gulf (Silah), a local portfolio company of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, under the trading symbol ‘SILAH’ on the “Mainboard Market”, where a ringing bell ceremony was held to mark the commencement of trading on Silah shares in the presence of HE Khalid Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, HE Sh. Abdulla bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat, HE Mohamed AlQaed, Chairman of Silah, Sh. Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Bourse, Mrs. Najla Al Shirawi, Group CEO of SICO, Mr. Yaser Alsharifi, Group CEO of BBK alongside the Board Members and executive management of Bahrain Bourse and Bahrain Clear, and senior representatives from various entities and stakeholders.

16.3 million shares

The Silah IPO transaction was concluded on 26 January 2026, during which 16.3 million shares were offered at a price



of BHD 0.176 per share, representing 30% of the company’s total issued post-IPO share capital, with a total value of BHD 2.9 million. The IPO has been met with strong retail & professional demand resulting in a total subscription of 4.0 times,

representing 64.9 million shares, with total demand exceeding BHD 11.4 million, of which 97% of the subscriptions received were submitted through Bahrain Clear’s eIPO Portal.

On his part, Sh. Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Exec-

utive Officer of Bahrain Bourse said: “We are pleased to welcome the listing of Silah Gulf under the Information Technology Sector on Bahrain Bourse, representing an important step in further diversifying the market sectors. This listing reflects Silah’s commitment to innovation and growth, while offering investors an opportunity to participate in the success of a leading player within the Information Technology industry landscape.”

H.E. Mohammed Al Qaed, Chairman of Silah Gulf, said: “The company’s official listing on the Bahrain Bourse under

the Information Technology sector marks a pivotal milestone in the company’s journey. This step reflects the company’s operational strength, sustainable performance, and its commitment to the highest standards of governance and transparency, reinforcing investor confidence and supporting further growth and regional expansion. This also contributes to strengthening the national economy and enhancing Bahrain’s position as a regional leader in customer experience, communications, and digital innovation, within a stimulating investment and regulatory environment aligned

with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.”

Mrs. Najla Al-Shirawi, SICO’s Group CEO said: “We are proud of our role as lead manager to the Silah Gulf IPO. Our mandate included conducting extensive due diligence, undertaking a comprehensive financial valuation, and coordinating closely with all relevant stakeholders to complete the regulatory process and obtain the required approvals. This successful listing reflects the strong collaboration among all parties involved, and we extend our sincere appreciation to our partners for their contribution to the successful execution of the transaction.”

Silah Gulf (Silah) will commence trading under the trading symbol ‘SILAH’ in the Initial Listing Market for a duration of six months according to the procedures followed in the market, and will then be transferred to the Regular Market to be traded under the Information Technology Sector. Following the listing of Silah, the total number of listed companies at Bahrain Bourse rose to 41 companies.

Silah debut rekindles investor interest

Oversubscription fuels confidence

Investor appetite returns

IPO momentum builds

Capital markets mature

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Silah Gulf’s trading debut on Tuesday was seen by market leaders as part of a wider change in the market’s direction, where renewed investor appetite and expectations of further listings suggest momentum that is beginning to take hold.

Senior banking and investment executives attending the bell-ringing ceremony said the listing offered an early indication of how Bahrain’s capital markets could evolve in the coming phase, particularly after a long gap between major public offerings.

Market momentum

Yaser Alsharifi, Group Chief Executive of BBK, said the Silah listing represented an opportunity to re-energise market interest at the start of the year. “Bahrain Bourse has been the longest-established, best-governed market in the region, and



Mr. Yaser Alsharifi

I think this is the first opportunity of the year to showcase the potential businesses that can come to market, and reactivate investors’ interests, both locally and globally, and there’s more to come Insha’Allah. We’re hopeful that this is a good start to the year and more to come,” he said.

The debut comes at a time when policymakers and market participants have been seeking to broaden the exchange’s sectoral mix and encourage more private companies to tap public capital.

Investor appetite

Ayman Gad-Allah, Head of Investment Banking at SICO, said the Silah IPO sent a strong signal about market readiness and demand for new issuances, pointing to the response from investors.

“It’s a good signal for the growth of the market as we add



Mr. Ayman Gad-Allah

one more company to the stock exchange, and we expect more to come. Silah Gulf was a successful IPO and it’s a witness of the strengths of the market and the possibility of more growth stories like Silah to come and for private businesses to list on the stock exchange,” he said.

He added that the level of demand underscored pent-up appetite in the market.

“The oversubscription is a witness of the market readiness for such IPOs and for the hunger of the market, for new issuances, especially in different sectors such as the services sector. In the F&B sector last year, we saw the IPO of AlAbraaj,” Gad-Allah said.

“The good thing is we kept the momentum and a year after we have an IPO after four or five years of gap. We are happy to see a momentum post AlAbraaj and now we have Silah, and



Mr. Feras Ahmed

there is more in the pipeline. We hope, Insha’Allah, 2026 will bring more companies to the stock exchange.”

Growth ambitions

For Silah Gulf, the listing represents more than just a market debut, according to its Chief Executive Officer Feras J. Ahmed, who outlined three core reasons behind the move.

“We’re very pleased on the commencement of trading of our shares today on Bahrain Bourse. Being listed has three meanings for us. One is this is a capital increase, first and foremost for us, and this capital increase aims to fund our investment in AI and latest technologies as well as fund our ambitions for inorganic growth,” he said.

“Second is that any listed company has to comply with certain corporate governance

and transparency principles. Being a listed company means that we are transparent, we are open, and that we uphold the highest standards of corporate governance in compliance with the local regulations.”

He said the third dimension was the company’s role in Bahrain’s broader economic landscape.

“We are part of a bigger ecosystem of economic development in Bahrain and we are part of an economic plan. We are a Bahraini company we are part of the the overall economy, contributing to job creation and economic growth, and we are very proud to be a part of this job,” Ahmed said.

Wider exposure

Ahmed added that opening the offering to both Bahraini and non-Bahraini investors reinforced the openness of Bahrain’s capital markets and expanded the company’s visibility.

“Our offering was open to both Bahraini and non-Bahraini investors. Of course, the capital markets in Bahrain are open. It’s an open market, and we hope to have investors from outside Bahrain as well,” he said.

“Looking forward, this means that we are now on the radar and are now being tracked. It brings more exposure, visibility, and awareness about the company.”

He said the listing also en-

hanced credibility with clients and staff alike.

“Even for our clients, being a traded company means that you are dealing with a very reputable organization. For our staff, it means that we are a credible organization, and they look forward to working with an organization which is listed on Bahrain Bourse.”

Ahmed said the company was entering a new phase marked by both opportunity and responsibility.

“So exciting times ahead. Challenging times, in terms of growth and in terms of new opportunities, but again, this will present us with the right exposure, to conquer these challenges in the markets.”



Bahrain’s capital markets have historically seen relatively few IPOs over long stretches, which means each new listing, like Silah Gulf’s, is notable and signals growing investor interest.



As part of Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C.'s (Alba) commitment to social responsibility, a group of female employees from the Alba Community Service Committee organised a visit to the Hope Institute for Special Education on 05 February 2026. The visit featured a variety of recreational activities for the children, along with the distribution of gifts, creating an atmosphere filled with joy and positivity. This initiative forms part of a series of community programmes led by Alba's female employees, reaffirming the Company's dedication to supporting various segments of society and promoting a culture of volunteerism among its staff. The participants expressed their pride in the positive impact the visit had on the children and looked forward to continuing similar initiatives in the future. For their part, the Hope Institute's administrators expressed their appreciation for the visit, praising Alba's pioneering role in serving the community and supporting special education institutions.

Bahrain Water and Beverages Company renews ‘Made in Bahrain’ Certification

Manama

Bahrain Water and Beverages Bottling Company W.L.L. announced the renewal of its “Made in Bahrain” certification issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in recognition of its commitment to local man-

ufacturing and its compliance with the approved standards under the “Made in Bahrain” programme. This certification reflects the company’s commitment to implementing the highest standards of quality and safety in its production processes, as well as its reliance on local content

in manufacturing its water and beverage products. This enhances consumer confidence in national products and supports their competitiveness in local and regional markets. The CEO of Trafco Group Mr. Azzam Moutragi – added that renewing the “Made in Bahrain” certification re-

flects the group’s continuous commitment to supporting the national industrial sector and contributing to achieving the goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, particularly in the areas of economic diversification and strengthening national industries. The “Made in Bahrain” pro-



gram is considered one of the strategic national initiatives of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It aims to highlight national products, encourage Bahraini factories to expand and grow, and enhance the presence of Bahraini products in local and regional markets.

BisB, Visa, and Innovate for Bahrain announce winners of Innovation Studio Programme

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the winners of the Innovation Studio programme held in collaboration with Visa and Innovate for Bahrain. The announcement was made during the programme’s Final Celebration Day hosted at Marassi Galleria on 8th February, marking the conclusion of a three-month creative and entrepreneurial journey. The programme showcased six finalists, three from the fashion track and three from the jewellery track, who were selected for their unique design concept, storytelling, communication, pitch clarity, understanding of the customer requirements, and growth potential. The event brought together ecosystem partners, industry leaders, media, and the wider community to celebrate Bahrain’s emerging design talent and its growing creative economy. Following final presentations and jury evaluations, one winner was selected from each track. The Fashion Track winner, Maryam Haji, Founder of bella and blue, was awarded a four-day immersion in New York with internationally renowned designer Reem Acra, providing exposure to global fashion markets and high-end design practices. The Jewellery Track winner, Sara Buhaimeed, Founder of Sarah Jewellery, received a four-day experience at the Van Cleef



Mr. Ahmed ElKaffass, Visa's Country Manager in Bahrain



Mr. Bader Sater, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain FinTech Bay



Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB



& Arpels factory in the United Kingdom, offering an exclusive opportunity to gain insight into fine jewellery craftsmanship and heritage excellence. Commenting on the programme’s success, Ms. Fate-ma AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB, said, “We extend our congratulations to the winners of Innovation Studio, whose exceptional creativity and originality position them

to establish a strong presence in Bahrain’s market and beyond. This initiative reflects BisB’s commitment to empowering Bahrain’s creative entrepreneurs by offering practical pathways to turn their innovative ideas into market successes. Our involvement in this project serves our vision to nurture local talent and strengthen Bahrain’s standing as a leading regional hub for creative enterprises.”

From his end, Mr. Bader Sater, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain FinTech Bay; under which Innovate for Bahrain operates, added, “The calibre of talent showcased during the Final Celebration Day demonstrates the strength of Bahrain’s creative ecosystem. The Innovation Studio programme demonstrated how cross-sector collaboration can unlock new pathways for talent, transform

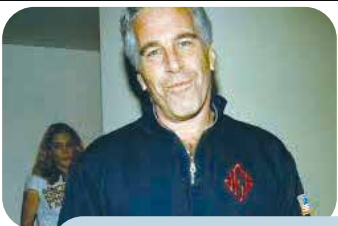
creativity into commercially viable businesses, and strengthen the Kingdom’s position as a hub for innovation-driven entrepreneurship.” Ahmed ElKaffass, Visa’s Country Manager in Bahrain remarked, “Seeing these designers reach this milestone is a powerful reminder of what is possible when talent is matched with the right support. We congratulate the winners and commend all

participants for their dedication and vision. Visa is pleased to be part of a programme that opens doors, builds confidence, and helps creative Bahraini entrepreneurs take their first steps onto the global stage.” The Innovation Studio programme reaffirms BisB’s dedication to nurturing homegrown talent, fostering cross-sector innovation, and contributing to Bahrain’s long-term economic diversification – particularly through investment in the creative industries.

News in brief

♦ Egypt blocked plans

yesterday for a nightclub event themed around US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's notorious parties, and arrested its organiser, the interior ministry said. The event, promoted as "A Day on Epstein's Island" had been scheduled for Tuesday. The event had been announced on social media with free entry for women, the ministry said. The statement added that the gathering had been advertised "without obtaining the necessary permits from the competent authorities". Alongside the statement, authorities released blurred photos of the detained organiser as well as the promotional flyer. When contacted by AFP using the phone number printed on the flyer, the nightclub insisted it had no connection to the event. One of the three DJs listed also denied any involvement.

**Egypt blocks
Epstein-themed
party, arrests event
organiser**♦ Iran security
chief meets
Oman ruler after
US talks

Iran's top security official met the Sultan of Oman in Muscat yesterday, days after a first round of talks there between officials from Washington and Tehran last Friday. Ali Larijani, who heads the Supreme National Security Council, and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq "discussed the latest developments in the Iranian-American negotiations", the official Oman News Agency said. Larijani also met Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi, who mediated Friday's indirect talks between US and Iranian officials, according to photos shared on Larijani's official Telegram channel. Larijani and Sultan Haitham also explored "ways to reach a balanced and just agreement between the two sides, and emphasised the importance of returning to the table of dialogue and negotiation". During his trip to Muscat Larijani also met Mohammad Abdulsalam, the spokesperson for Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthi rebels.

**Launch to ISS
delayed again over
weather: NASA**

♦ **NASA is now** aiming to launch four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday, in another delay over weather conditions, the US agency announced yesterday. It is targeting February 13 for the lift-off of Crew-12's mission aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with a window opening at 5:15am local time (1015 GMT). "Mission teams completed a weather review Tuesday morning and have waived off the Thursday, Feb. 12, launch opportunity due to forecast weather conditions along Crew-12's flight path," NASA said in a statement. Weather at the site in Florida has been in fact favorable, NASA officials told a briefing Monday, but higher winds forecast across the rest of the East Coast are to blame for the delays. These winds could complicate any potential emergency maneuvers, like an early splashdown of the spacecraft carrying the astronauts, for example. If Friday's launch goes as planned, the astronauts should arrive at the space station by approximately 3:15 pm on Saturday.

SPOTLIGHT

**Man arrested in Thailand for smuggling
rhino horn inside meat****A DNP officer unpacking rhino horns confiscated by customs from a Vietnamese traveler at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.**

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

Thai authorities arrested a man for allegedly smuggling more than 11 kilograms of rhino horns inside wrapped meat, in a case officials linked yesterday to an international wildlife trafficking network.

The 36-year-old Vietnamese man was detained on Monday after landing at Bangkok's main international airport on suspicion of illegal wildlife imports, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said in a statement.

He was travelling from Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo to Laos, transiting through Ethiopia

and Thailand, according to the department.

Airport authorities and police seized six pieces of rhinoceros horn and around 12 kilograms of unidentified meat used to conceal them inside a polystyrene icebox.

"There were some irregularities in the X-ray scan of the checked luggage so the authorities checked it," the department said.

Sadudee Panpakdee, director of the department's CITES division, told AFP officials were unsure of the value of the seized horns or what type of meat was used to conceal them.

The items were sent to a wildlife forensic laboratory for examination, officials said.

**Macron says wants 'European
approach' in dialogue with Putin**

Macron said last year he believed Europe should reach back out to Putin

● The Kremlin said
Tuesday it welcomed
Macron's approach● The French and
Russian presidents
last spoke in July

AFP | Paris, France

French President Emmanuel Macron has said he wants to include European partners in a resumption of dialogue with Russian leader Vladimir Putin nearly four years after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

He spoke after dispatching a top adviser to Moscow last week, in the first such meeting since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"What did I gain? Confirmation that Russia does not want peace right now," he said in an interview with several European newspapers including Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

"But above all, we have rebuilt those channels of discussion at a technical level," he said in the



Putin, Macron

interview released on Tuesday.

"My wish is to share this with my European partners and to have a well-organised European approach," he added.

Dialogue with Putin should take place without "too many interlocutors, with a given mandate", he said.

Macron said last year he believed Europe should reach back out to Putin, rather than leaving the United States alone to take the lead in negotiations to end



Russia's war against Ukraine.

"Whether we like Russia or not, Russia will still be there tomorrow," *Süddeutsche Zeitung* quoted the French president as saying.

"It is therefore important that we structure the resumption of a European discussion with the Russians, without naivety, without putting pressure on the Ukrainians -- but also so as not to depend on third parties in this discussion."

The Kremlin said Tuesday it welcomed Macron's approach and was awaiting a concrete proposition for further talks.

"Russia has always advocated maintaining dialogue, which, in our view and firm belief, can help resolve the most urgent and most difficult problems," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, including AFP.

After Macron sent his adviser Emmanuel Bonne to the Kremlin last week, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had said Putin was ready to receive the French leader's call.

"If you want to call and discuss something seriously, then call," he said in an interview to state-run broadcaster RT.

The French and Russian presidents last spoke in July, in their first known phone talks in over two-and-a-half years.

The French leader tried in a series of phone calls in 2022 to warn Putin against invading Ukraine and travelled to Moscow early that year.

He kept up phone contact with Putin after the invasion but talks had ceased after a September 2022 phone call.

Bangladesh police deploy to guard 'risky' polling centres

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's police chief said yesterday that more than 150,000 officers will be deployed for this week's elections, warning that more than half of polling stations were flagged as vulnerable to violence.

Police records show that five people were killed and more than 600 injured in political clashes during the campaign period from December 11 to February 9.

More than 157,000 police officers, backed by 100,000 soldiers and other security forces, will guard Thursday's vote -- the first since a mass uprising toppled the autocratic government of Sheikh Hasina in 2024.

"We are 1,000 percent confident about doing our part," Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam told reporters in Dhaka.

The country of 170 million has remained in political turmoil since the uprising against Hasina,

**Workers sort ballot papers and other polling materials for distribution ahead of Bangladesh's general election in Dhaka**

when police carried out a deadly crackdown during her failed bid to cling to power.

Alam said police had assessed that "more than 24,000 polling centres have been marked as either high-risk or moderately risky" for possible unrest, violence or ballot stuffing -- more

than half of the 42,000 centres nationwide.

"The location of some centres is very remote, and there is intense competition, and hostility among candidates and their supporters," he said, adding that 1,300 police guns looted during the 2024 unrest have still not

been recovered.

"In high-risk and moderately risky centres, police will carry out patrol duty with body-worn cameras for the first time."

Rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra counted 158 people killed and more than 7,000 injured in political violence between August 2024 and December 2025.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) raised concerns over the law-and-order situation, accusing parties of forming "mobs" and setting up road-blocks.

Alam said the police were determined to ensure the polls were peaceful, but said he accepted that distrust of his force remained.

"It is quite understandable why people do not trust the police," he said. "Over the last 15 years, based on what we have delivered -- in fact, for the last 150 years, our predecessors mostly beat people."

China says Japan's Takaichi must show 'actions' for dialogue

AFP | Beijing, China

China insisted yesterday that Tokyo must first show "concrete actions" after Japan's newly elected prime minister Sanae Takaichi said she was "open to various dialogues" with Beijing, effectively rejecting her overtures.

Those actions included a retraction of Takaichi's November comments that Tokyo could



intervene militarily in any Chinese attack on self-ruled island Taiwan, which have fuelled a months-long diplomatic standoff with Beijing.

A day after winning a landslide election, Takaichi told reporters Japan was "open to various dialogues with China".

Asked about her comments Tuesday, China's foreign ministry said "genuine dialogue should be

built on respect for one another".

"Proclaiming dialogue with one's mouth while engaging in confrontation -- no one will accept this kind of dialogue," spokesman Lin Jian told a regular news briefing.

"If Japan truly wants to develop a strategic and mutually beneficial relationship with China, it's very easy and clear: withdraw Takaichi's erroneous remarks about Taiwan," he said.

Traditional date for the founding of Japan by Emperor Jimmu

First vision of the Virgin Mary to 14-year-old Bernadette of Lourdes, France



Declaration of Liberated Europe is signed at the Yalta Conference by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin, declaring that liberated nations are to establish democratic governments through free elections

Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the British Conservative Party



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Gravely concerned by reported decision of Israeli security cabinet to authorize a series of administrative & enforcement measures in the occupied West Bank. I call on Israel to reverse these measures & on all to preserve the only path to lasting peace: a negotiated two-State solution in line with international law.

@antonioiguterres

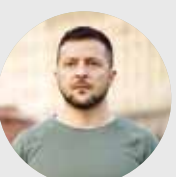
02



VP and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev (@presidentaz) sign the Charter on Strategic Partnership between the Government of Azerbaijan and the Government of the U.S.

@RapidResponse47

03



Reliable security guarantees are the only real foundation for peace and for preventing the Russians from breaking agreements through strikes or hybrid operation of some kind.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Today, the memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking. I thank the religious and all those who are committed to combating and eliminating current forms of slavery. Together with them, I say: peace begins with dignity! #PrayAgainstTrafficking

@Pontifex

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

South Korea police raid spy agency over drone

Pyongyang says it shot down a surveillance drone

● South Korea initially denied any official involvement

● Investigators raided 18 locations of interest

● Photos showed the wreckage of a winged craft

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Investigators raided South Korea's spy agency yesterday as they searched for the source of a drone incursion into North Korea, an incident that threatens to blight efforts to mend relations with Pyongyang.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has sought to repair ties with his nation's nuclear-armed neighbour, vowing to stop the drones that buzzed across the border under his predecessor.

Pyongyang says it shot down a surveillance drone near the industrial hub of Kaesong in January, accusing Seoul of dispatching the aircraft to glean intelligence on "important targets".

South Korea initially denied any official involvement, with Lee saying such an act would be tantamount to "firing a shot into the North".

But a joint military-police task force said Tuesday it was investigating three active-duty soldiers and one spy agency staffer in an effort to "thoroughly establish the truth".



Photos showed the wreckage of a winged craft scattered across the ground next to a collection of grey and blue components that allegedly included cameras.

Investigators raided 18 locations of interest, including the Defense Intelligence Command and the National Intelligence Service.

The North Korean military downed a drone carrying "surveillance equipment" in early January, according to a statement published by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Photos showed the wreckage of a winged craft scattered across the ground next to a collection of grey and blue components that allegedly included cameras.

The drone had stored footage of "important targets" including border areas, a military spokesman said in the statement.

South Korea's disgraced ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol was accused of using unmanned drones to scatter propaganda leaflets over North Korea in 2024.

Lee has vowed to mend ties with North Korea by stamping

out such provocations, and has even suggested a rare apology may be warranted.

"I feel I should apologise, but I hesitate to say it out loud," he said in December.

"I worry that if I do, it could be used as fodder for ideological battles or accusations of being pro-North," he added.

Any government involvement in the January drone incursion would run counter to those efforts.

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young has previously suggested the incursion may have involved government officials still loyal to former hardline leader Yoon.

Three civilians have already been charged for their alleged role in the drone scandal.

One of them has publicly claimed responsibility, saying he acted to detect radiation levels from North Korea's Pyongsan uranium processing facility.

Israel PM to meet Trump with Iran missiles high on agenda

● So far, Iran has rejected expanding the scope of its talks

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday the top priority in his talks with US President Donald Trump would be the ongoing negotiations with Iran, as he presses for a tougher US approach to Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

So far, Iran has rejected expanding the scope of its talks with the US beyond the issue of its nuclear programme, though Washington also wants Tehran's ballistic missile programme and its support for regional militant groups on the table.

The two leaders are to meet in Washington on Wednesday,



their sixth such encounter in the United States since Trump returned to office a year ago.

They also met in Jerusalem in October when Trump announced a ceasefire in Gaza.

Wednesday's meeting comes days after arch-foes Iran and the United States held talks in Oman, after which Trump said another round of negotiations would follow.

Netanyahu and Trump will also meet amid growing international outrage over Israeli measures to tighten control of the occupied West Bank by

allowing settlers to buy land directly from its Palestinian owners.

"On this trip we will discuss a range of issues: Gaza, the region, but of course first and foremost the negotiations with Iran," Netanyahu said, in a video statement before his departure.

"I will present to the president our views regarding the principles for the negotiations."



Israeli officials argue that Iran could strike Israel with little warning and also overwhelm the country's air-defence systems in a sustained conflict.

Thai man's prison term for royal insult extended to 50 years

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

A Thai court yesterday extended the prison sentence of a man convicted for criticising the country's king to 50 years, one of the longest terms imposed under the kingdom's strict royal insult law, a legal rights group said.

Thailand's lese-majeste law shields King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his family from criticism and carries a maximum sentence of up to 15 years per offence.

The criminal court sentenced Phuritikon Sarakul to 30 years under the law over posts made on his social media account between 2021 and 2022, Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) said in a statement.

In December, the 43-year-old who lives outside of Thailand was sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison for the same offence over separate internet posts, the rights group



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn

said.

The combined sentences, totalling five decades in prison, meant he had received one of the "harshest sentences under Section 112 in history", TLHR said, referring to the law by its provision in the penal code.

Rights groups and critics say the lese-majeste law has long been used to stifle dissent and silence political opponents.

At least 289 people have been charged under the law since 2020, according to TLHR.

OpenAI starts testing ads in ChatGPT

AFP | Paris, France

OpenAI has begun placing ads in the basic versions of its ChatGPT chatbot, a bet that users will not mind the interruptions as the company seeks revenue as its costs soar.

"The test will be for logged-in adult users on the Free and Go subscription tiers" in the United States, OpenAI said Monday. The Go subscription costs \$8 in the United States.

Only a small percentage of its nearly one billion users pay for its premium subscription services, which will remain ad-free.

"Ads do not influence the answers ChatGPT gives you, and we keep your conversations with ChatGPT private from advertisers," the company said.

Since ChatGPT's launch in 2022, OpenAI's valuation has



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman

soared to \$500 billion in funding rounds -- higher than any other private company. Some analysts expect it could go public with a trillion-dollar valuation.

But the ChatGPT maker burns through cash at a furious rate, mostly on the powerful computing required to deliver its services.

Moscow chokes Telegram as it pushes state-backed rival app

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia's internet watchdog yesterday announced it was throttling the Telegram messenger platform for alleged legal violations, as Moscow tries to push its citizens into using a more tightly controlled domestic online service.

Moscow has been threatening a host of internet platforms with forced slowdowns or outright bans if they do not comply with Russian laws.

Those laws require data on Russian users to be stored inside the country, and for efforts to be made to stamp out their use for what Moscow calls "criminal and terrorist purposes".

Critics and rights campaigners say the restrictions are a transparent attempt by the Kremlin to ramp up control and surveillance over internet use in Russia, amid a sweeping crackdown on dissent during the Ukraine offensive.

The Roskomnadzor agency



said in a statement cited by state media that it will "continue to introduce phased restrictions" on Telegram, which it said had not complied with the laws.

Telegram is widely used across Russia, both as a messaging app and as a social media service.

Almost all major public figures, including government bodies and the Kremlin, post regular updates on the platform.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) continues its support for the CPISP



His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, the Advisor for Political and Economic Affairs at the Court of the Crown Prince, and Board Member and Head of the Financial and Administrative Committee of the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP), today received Yaser Alsharifi, Group Chief Executive of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK). During the meeting, the Group Chief Executive presented HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa a cheque that represents BBK's continued commitment of its social role in supporting Bahraini youth as part of BBK's Platinum sponsor status. HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa affirmed the unwavering support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the CPISP, highlighting His Royal Highness' commitment to investing in the Kingdom's youth by supporting their development and empowering them with diverse skills and knowledge.

EU eyes bloc-wide app to tackle online bullying

AFP | Strasbourg, France

The European Commission on Tuesday announced plans for a bloc-wide app to help young victims of online bullying safely report abuse and receive help.

Part of a broader EU push to shield minors from online harm, the app proposal is part of an "action plan" against a phenomenon afflicting as many as one in six children between the ages of 11 and 15, the commission said.

It is still at early stages: as a first step, the EU executive said it will develop an app blueprint for the bloc's 27 member states to adapt for local use -- drawing on successful existing models such as France's "3018" app and helpline.

But ultimately, it should let children confidentially report bullying to a national helpline, safely store and send evidence, and receive help from law enforcement, education or child protection services.



President of the United Nations General Assembly Annalena Baerbock addresses members of European Parliament during a formal sitting, in Strasbourg, eastern France

"Children and young people have the right to be safe when they are online," said EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen. "Cyber-bullying undermines this right, leaving them feeling hurt, lonely, and humiliated. No child should be made to feel this way."

The proposal comes as the EU pushes on multiple fronts to shield children from harmful social media impacts -- from exploring a bloc-wide ban for younger teens, to working on a new age verification tool, to clamping down on "addictive" features in apps.

Beyond the app proposal, its bullying "action plan" calls for targeted enforcement of existing EU laws to help curb the phenomenon.

That includes toughening rules under the bloc's mammoth Digital Services Act (DSA) to protect minors from harmful content, and backing targeted enforcement of its AI Act to help combat the use of deepfakes for bullying.

Lebanon, Jordan seek solutions after Damascus bans non-Syrian trucks

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon and Jordan are seeking a solution with Syria after the latter barred foreign trucks from entering its territory, officials from both countries told AFP yesterday.

Damascus had issued a decision on Saturday stipulating that "non-Syrian trucks will not be allowed to enter" the country, and that goods being imported by road must be unloaded at specific points at border crossings.

The decision exempts trucks that are only passing through Syria to other countries.

Dozens of trucks unable to enter the country were lined up on the Lebanese side of the Masnaa border crossing on Tuesday, an AFP photographer saw.

Ahmad Tamer, head of land and maritime transportation at the Lebanese transport ministry told AFP that discussions were



Lebanese truck drivers block the road on the Lebanese side of the Masnaa border crossing in protest against Syria's decision to ban non-Syrian trucks from entering its territory

underway with Damascus over the decision.

He said the issue was not specifically targeting Lebanon -- which is trying to reset ties with Damascus after the fall of Bashar al-Assad -- adding that he hoped to hold a meeting with the Syrian side soon.

In Jordan, also affected by the decision, transport ministry spokesperson Mohammed al-Dweiri told AFP that "discussions are currently underway, and we are awaiting a response from the Syrian side regarding allowing foreign trucks to enter and cross".

Dweiri said that Jordanian trucks were continuing to unload their cargo at the free zone at the Nassib border crossing with Syria despite some "confusion".

Around 250 Jordanian trucks travel to Syria daily, according to him.

A source in the Syrian General Authority for Ports and Customs told AFP that the decision aimed to "regulate the movement of cargo through the ports".

Representatives of unions and associations in Lebanon's transport sector denounced the decision on Tuesday and warning

of "negative repercussions", according to the state-run National News Agency.

Syria is the only land route Lebanon can use to export merchandise to wealthy Gulf markets.

As part of continued attempts to rekindle ties, the two countries signed an agreement on Friday to hand around 300 Syrian convicts over to Damascus.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Lebanon sends around 500 trucks to Syria per day, according to Tamer.

Bahrain and Singapore Bolster Security Ties
During High-Level Ministerial Meeting



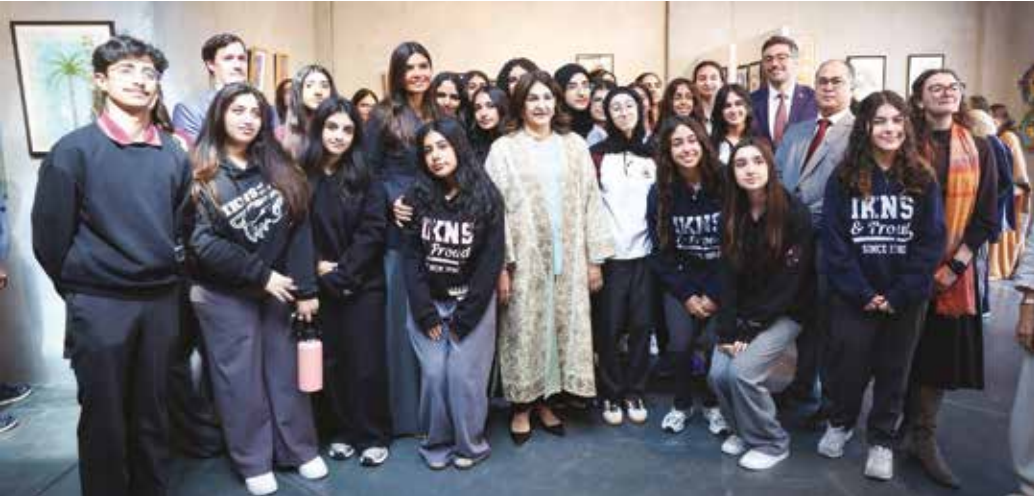
Lieutenant General His Excellency Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, received His Excellency Mr. K. Shanmugam, Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, along with an official delegation. The reception, held at the Police Fort in the presence of senior Ministry officials, began with a formal ceremonial salute performed by a police unit in honor of the visiting delegation. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed various aspects of bilateral relations and explored avenues for deeper strategic partnership.

Youth Minister Reviews Bahrain Youth Hostels
Association's Strategic Plans



Her Excellency Ms. Rawan bint Najib Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, received Ms. Saeeda Al-Jowder, President of the Bahrain Youth Hostels Association, to discuss the organization's recent achievements and current year's roadmap. The Minister emphasized that the association is an integral part of Bahrain's youth ecosystem, fostering creativity and global cultural exchange. She specifically lauded the "Overseas Travel Program," which enabled 197 young Bahrainis to visit several countries last year, enhancing their leadership skills and cultural openness.

Child and Motherhood Welfare Society Launches Palm Leaf Exhibition 6



The Child and Motherhood Welfare Society, in collaboration with Makan Art Gallery, inaugurated "Palm Leaf Exhibition 6". The event was attended by Ms. Sarah Ahmed Buhejji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, and heritage supporters. Ms. Buhejji emphasized the role of such initiatives in strengthening Bahraini identity through national crafts. This edition showcases innovative artworks by 37 artists and 28 students from Ibn Khaldoun National School, marking the first time school students have participated. A highlight of the exhibition is that all artworks were created on paper manufactured from palm fronds. Sheikha Hind bint Salman Al Khalifa, President of the Society, highlighted the exhibition's focus on nurturing young talent and environmental awareness through natural materials and recycling.



Al Rawabi School Triumphs at Al Mahd Inter-School Football Tournament



Al Mahd School, Saar, successfully hosted its Inter-School Football Tournament, featuring Under-12 and Under-15 categories. Nine prominent schools competed in the three-day event, which opened with a ceremony led by Managing Director Mr. H. G. Sharma. Al Rawabi School dominated the tournament, clinching championship titles in both age divisions. In the Under-12 category, Al Rawabi defeated runners-up Sacred Heart School, with Mohammed Jaffar emerging as top scorer. In the Under-15 category, Al Rawabi again took first place, while host team Al Mahd School secured the runners-up position. Individual honors went to Sulaiman Yaser (Under-15 top scorer) and Mohammed Yaser (Best Goalkeeper). General Manager Mr. Rajiv Gautam presented the trophies during the closing ceremony.

GSS Bahrain Hosts Vibrant Desert Camp at Tree of Life



The Gurudeva Social Society (GSS), based in Salmaniya Kanu Garden, organized an energetic "Members' Night" desert camp recently. Held at a specially arranged tent near Bahrain's iconic Tree of Life, the event drew a large number of families for an evening celebrating community and Arabian winter. The camp featured a diverse lineup of activities, including competitive games, a traditional campfire, and an upbeat performance by the Sahridaya Nadanpattu team, whose folk songs added a rhythmic local touch to the festivities. Society Chairman Saneesh Koorumullil and General Secretary Binuraj Rajan emphasized that such gatherings are essential for easing the monotony of expatriate life and strengthening family bonds. The event was coordinated by the society's Board of Directors, with Sub-committee Conveners Raj Krishnan and Bino Raveendran leading the proceedings.

Society

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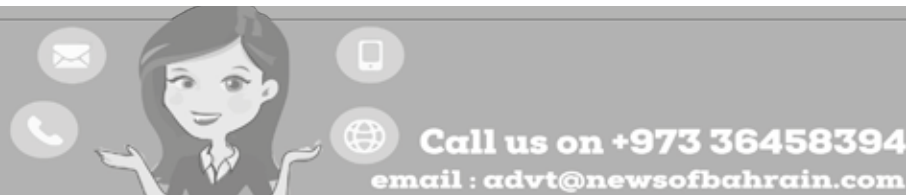
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R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or AL-TRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

MAHDI HASAN AHMED SALEEM has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39606689 or MAHDISALEEM300@HOTMAIL.COM

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

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAIL-BAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

NIKAPOL EXPRESS CARGO W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY VEHICLE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13112414 or ops.team@nikapol-express.com

AL YASEEN ELECTRIC CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17291154 or A_Y_A_Y@HOTMAIL.COM

Bahrain Apparel Trading W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER-SHOW CASES-(DISPLAY ARTIST), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33536117 or HUSAIN.FARDAN@APPARELGROUP.COM

ISABILA DECOR CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33386770 or ibellab@gmail.com

Giwar Middle East Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36994577 or MNASR@MEC-CAC.COM

BRUU FOOD TRANSPORTATION 1 has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33202130 or DAYAN-FASHIONBH@GMAIL.COM

M K A MECHANICAL CONTRACTS has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR (FORK-LIFT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39611612 or MKA.MC.BAH@GMAIL.COM

DERAMS SCISSORS MAN SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33133188 or KINDNESS-H@HOTMAIL.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

WADDAH RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17693024 or EBTSAM_12E@HOTMAIL.COM

KINGDOM BUILDING PAINTING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17640222 or KBPC2004@GMAIL.COM

WADI ALJANNAT RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (RESTURANTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39677877 or SAMINAKHAN0763@GMAIL.COM

ALIHA FASHION DESIGNING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37779151 or EOINMORGAN49@GMAIL.COM

GULBERG CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34621555 or MESHSYNERGIES@GMAIL.COM

ARYA UPHOLSTERY CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39688395 or ARYAUPHOLSTERY@GMAIL.COM

E KON CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454342 or SHAKEEL8607@YAHOO.COM

HAIDER EXPO has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17785149 or HAIDERWOODENFACTORY@GMAIL.COM

RABEYA BOUTIQUE AND TAILORING CO-BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP CO has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33034405 or GOLAM.JILANY405@GMAIL.COM

AL MAWATNEEN SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66914266 or MAWATNEEFASHION@GMAIL.COM

ATOMIQ CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING SPECIALIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34103069 or PRASHANT@ATOMIQGROUP.COM

LA PASTA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36596969 or lapasta.gtc@gmail.com

SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HOUSEKEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17170000 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

AL NAMAL CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33522100 or MTAHIRNAWAZ786@GMAIL.COM

Zarood Contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33566335 or info@ZaRoodGROUP.com

white bridge contracting has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17591939 or WHITE-BRIDGE4424@GMAIL.COM

RELIABLE CHOICE REPAIRING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36145772 or parveenkhan1290@gmail.com

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or lmra@mmetc.com

AQ CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33631755 or BOXBIRD.BH@GMAIL.COM

KING HAMAD AMERICAN MISSION HOSPITAL N.P.C has a vacancy for the occupation of NURSE(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39748885 or CATHERINE@AMH.ORG.BH

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

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

TURKISH STYLE SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38492002 or FAREED-MUHAMMAD197@GMAIL.COM

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

ALI ABDULHUSAIN KUHUDHUR CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 65000056 or ahkcontracting@outlook.com

SAUDI GEOPHYSICAL CONSULTING OFFICE COMPANY BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33326575 or PUBLICRELATION@SAUDIGEO-PHYSICAL.COM

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

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

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

BURAO FOOD TRANSPORTATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36575667 or MALIKASIFLAWA05@GMAIL.COM

SAHIL MUMTAZ FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33070461 or MIFTIKHAR087@GMAIL.COM

KING KARAK CAFETERIA W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33496925 or HHASHIMPP@GMAIL.COM

ZONESKY SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66304324 or SHAHIDARSHAD448@GMAIL.COM

FAST AND MOVE TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39484066 or GULFBAHRAIN33@GMAIL.COM

NESTO SUPERMARKET & DEPARTMENT STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39151200 or WESTERNBAHRAIN2021@GMAIL.COM

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

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DU-AIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

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

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DU-AIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

ANDALUSIAN ORNATE DECOR CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17408014 or ornatdecor.bh@gmail.com

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy

for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

MODERN COMPANY FOR ALUMINIUM AND CARPENTRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ALUMINIUM TECHNICIAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700356 or al-takatuf.bh@gmail.com

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DU-AIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

QUALITY WIRE PRODUCTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR & GEN. FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874000 or hr@qualitywire.com.bh

Westcom Technology Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295603 or sales@dynamicssolutionsgroup.com

KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.com

megna construction has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39998223 or HUSSAIN.ALMAHMEED@GMAIL.COM

Bewe Delivery Services has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32131121 or ABBAS@BW-BH.COM

EVER BUILD TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700939 or JEHAN@EVERBUILD.NET

TECHNICO DIESEL EQUIP. MAINTENANCE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36444405 or TC@AL-QABAS.NET

AL-SAIRAFI GOLDSMITHING AND JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36060360 or M_ALSAIRAFI@HOTMAIL.COM

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DU-AIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

ALAKHYAR CONTRACTING & MAINTENANCE CO. W. has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17685727 or INFO@AKHYAR-GROUP.COM

GULF TOBACCO COMPANY. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39666544 or amani.alaradi@gmail.com

HIMALAYAN TOP CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 13115811 or KARANLAMAT716@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

HONEST HANDS AUTO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32382185 or TARIQKHANBH@GMAIL.COM

SHAHZAIB JO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMMID777MP@GMAIL.COM

THE FOG PRINTING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874720 or binglypc@gmail.com

ADAM SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17784080 or sandra@tammam.com

WISHAM CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33523333 or WISHAM-MARKET@GMAIL.COM

AL SAFEER TOWER HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17827999 or info@regholding.com

TARAR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33271233 or SHAMREZ.AHMED@HOTMAIL.COM

BILAL AHMAD INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35611842 or BILALAHMAD4342@GMAIL.COM

LUXE LUMINOSITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36726854 or MIANHAROOM327@GMAIL.COM

SHAMA ESSA M. RAIS (193522) has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33008054 or RAYMUSTAFA1919@GMAIL.COM

MAHARANI JEWELLERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17212909 or MAHARANI-BAH@GMAIL.COM

AL HADEED BUILDING EQUIPMENTS HIRING

has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33773065 or RIZWANYOUNES@HOTMAIL.COM

CREATIVE CLICKS MARKETING AND PROMOTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77994442 or SHEIKHSHEIKH146@GMAIL.COM

BBH SERVICE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32083818 or HK425493@GMAIL.COM

ZINC FACILITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66613536 or SAQIBILYASBX@GMAIL.COM

Al - Shami Al - Aseel Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36305009 or FBOKAI@HOTMAIL.COM

RAJPOT BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888023 or chshafiq581@gmail.com

RIDER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34570702 or info@riderbh.com

LASANI ALUMINIUM AND STEEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34000274 or SAMEER.SKYPPOINT@GMAIL.COM

BAKHT MUNIR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34417645 or NOORULISLAM4589@GMAIL.COM

FREE MAN SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIR DRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39727083 or THIOMICHAEEL533@GMAIL.COM

GOLDEN MAN GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39319199 or LUL-WASHAMS@GMAIL.COM

VELVET TOUCH BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33366038 or masooma.shubber.1990@gmail.com

MUHAMMAD FAIZAN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66308852 or HAJIFAIZAN23@GMAIL.COM

Seventy Seven For Sale-Trade of Electrical Machinery WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33433238 or HARDEEPSARAT1980@GMAIL.COM

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262725 or hr@delta-ss.me

ALBI GENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35456508 or DEVKARTIK546@GMAIL.COM

ROYAL SARAY RESORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77707070 or hrm@seven-sholding.com

ESSA ALNACHAS CAR SERVICE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17554401 or ALNACHAS333@GMAIL.COM

ZONESKY SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66304324 or SHAHIDARSHAD448@GMAIL.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

ADNAN KHAN CARGO HANDLING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33908104 or PRINCEDOHA786@GMAIL.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

BELGRADE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441637 or desihandirestaurant@GMAIL.COM

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BAZOOKA FRIED CHICKEN & BURGERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783399 or HR@ALDAAYSIHOLDING.COM

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EYANA FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33900155 or

MOHAMMADSHERIEF499@GMAIL.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

AL AREEN LEISURE AND TOURISM CO THE LOST PARADISE OF DILMUN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17845151 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPDOWATERPARK.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

mr. sparkle cleaning has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33331155 or JSHAIBANI@GMAIL.COM

white restaurants has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39456969 or UMZAA1975@GMAIL.COM

ROTI SHOTI MEALS ON WHEELS RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of RESTAURANT MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17341122 or JASSIM96@YAHOO.COM

SHERANI ABAD TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34444813 or MIANQASIM2478@GMAIL.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

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

ABU SAMI TRD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34110375 or ABUSAMITR.D2022@GMAIL.COM

Bayanco Contracting Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39329326 or BAYANCOGM@GMAIL.COM

AL-KHARDAWI MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33338302 or abonoor75@yahoo.com

NABAA AL KHAIR FOR VEGETABLES AND FRUITS has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39119131 or ALTAJCLCLEARANCE@GMAIL.COM

MILTEX POWER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33522100 or mtahir-nawaz786@gmail.com

LAL MUHAMMAD SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33716905 or LALMUHAMMAD77221@GMAIL.COM

ALFAISALIYA CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39460682 or HUSAINASSER939@GMAIL.COM

ALEZZ CONTRACTING & MECHANICAL SERVICES CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17258381 or admin@alezzco.com

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

PANORAMA CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING SERV I has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729935 or AHMED@PANORAMABH.COM

PIZZA HUT has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262998 or SSALEH@AMERICANA.BH

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

ADDRESS CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39055666 or ADDRESS.CONS@GMAIL.COM

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

AL-AHLIA CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737000 or h.s.m1111@gmail.com

SAZEON ElectroMechanical Contracting Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32117224 or SAZEONEMCC@GMAIL.COM

ABUOBAID CONTRACTING & TRADING GROUP has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700204 or abuobaiddgroup@gmail.com

Havelock One Interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified

applicants can contact 17832022 or HAMIDA.ALHUBAIL@HAVELOCKONE.COM

KENZ PALACE DECORE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39255014 or sameer@kenzfurnishing.com

MAJESTIC HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17510120 or INFO@IMPERIAL-GROUPBH.COM

ALHAMRA PLAZA has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39999900 or mohammed.alkh@gmail.com

ALLAQ RESORT COMPANY BSC CLOSED SOF-ITEL BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALA has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINEE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17631660 or ahmed@jazayani.com

SHEER GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17246636 or SHEER.GARAGE@GMAIL.COM

STEERING GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GARAGE MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33446033 or MANAMA@YAHOO.COM

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

ANWAR PARIS GATE CAFETERIA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39828050 or Kaattmajeed@gmail.com

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

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

MILLENIUM CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35588880 or milleniumbh183@gmail.com

BURJ DUBAI MANAGEMENT CONSULTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36946728 or AFSARAF-SARKHAN253@GMAIL.COM

ASILA JEWELLERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of JEWELRY GOLDSMITH (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37444411 or hr@asilajewelers.com

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAIL-BAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

HAWK EYES MEDIA has a vacancy for the occupation of DESIGNER(COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17275252 or MOHANAD@HAWKEYESBH.COM

Juffair Grand Hotel W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17827600 or HRD@THEJUFFAIRGRAND.COM

LOCATION ME CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39785588 or ABUZAHA993@GMAIL.COM

Royal Ambassdor Property Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(CUSTOMER SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or pasha@kcbahrain.com

ABU FAJER RESTAURANT W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33129919 or ZUBAIRP797@GMAIL.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMENA.MAILBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

AL ENSEAB BOUTIQUE & TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39577146 or ALENSIAB@HOTMAIL.COM

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

DURRAT AL MUHARRAQ CLEANING & MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535158 or bucheer5@gmail.com

GOLDEN TRESSES HAIR AND BEAUTY LADIES SALON W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33879004 or ANKO41@OUTLOOK.COM

ABU HASHIM REPAIR OF ELECTRONIC W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35563190 or UMAR04372@GMAIL.COM

BU HAROON SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36828500 or AQEEL603@GMAIL.COM

CAFE LILLOU has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710271 or habib@alghalia.com

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India look forward to Pakistan ‘challenge’ after World Cup U-turn

The team’s focus is on bringing their “best game” to the high-stakes fixture

● India assistant coach welcomes match’s reinstatement

● Acknowledges challenge of playing in Colombo

● Match saved after ICC and diplomatic pressure

AFP | Mumbai

India said yesterday it would be “a challenge” to face a “quality” Pakistan team in Colombo after Islamabad U-turned and decided to play the blockbuster T20 World Cup clash.

The Pakistan government late Monday ended a week-long stand-off by rescinding its order for the cricket team to boycott the February 15 match.

“It’s great that the game is back on, we kind of never changed the preparation,” said India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

India will face a second Group A match against Namibia on Thursday in New Delhi before flying to Sri Lanka.

It means a quick turnaround for Sunday’s match, the biggest and most lucrative clash in world cricket.

“It’s going to be a challenge going to Colombo where Pakistan have been for the last two weeks,” added Ten Doeschate.

“We are delighted to have another chance to play against a quality side in the first phase of the tournament.

“We are fully focused on just



India's Hardik Pandya (2nd L) shakes hands with Pakistan's Naseem Shah (R) (file photo)

bringing our best game to that fixture.”

Pakistan’s decision to go ahead with the match was hailed yesterday as an outbreak of “good sense” and “good for cricket”.

A frantic weekend of negotiations saw International Cricket Council (ICC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chiefs fly to Lahore on Sunday for talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The governments of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka both wrote to the Islamabad government on Monday urging it to change its stance and allow the game to go ahead.

After “multilateral discussions, as well as the request of friendly countries, the Govern-

ment of Pakistan hereby directs the Pakistan National Cricket Team to take the field on February 15”, the Islamabad government said on its official X account late Monday night.

The decision had been taken with the aim of “protecting the spirit of cricket”, it added.

‘Good for cricket’

Former India cricketer Madan Lal said yesterday that it was “good for cricket”.

“We want strong teams to play so that the charm of the World Cup is not lost,” he added.

Sri Lanka, who will host the match which generates multi-millions of dollars in advertising, broadcast rights, sponsorship and tourism, also praised

the decision.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, in a social media post, thanked Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for “ensuring the game we all love goes on”.

Veteran Indian journalist Pradeep Magazine told AFP “good sense has prevailed on all sides”.

Financial considerations would have been taken into account, he added.

“Everyone realised that losing the revenue from an India-Pakistan match would have been a loss-loss situation for all ICC member nations.”

The 20-team tournament has been overshadowed by an acrimonious political build-up.



The India-Pakistan clash generates huge global revenue through broadcasting, sponsorship and tourism, making it one of cricket’s most commercially significant fixtures

Bangladesh, who refused to play in India citing security concerns, were replaced by Scotland.

As a protest, the Pakistan government ordered the team not to face co-hosts India in the Group A fixture.

Pakistan, who edged out Netherlands in the tournament opener on Saturday, would have conceded two points if they had forfeited the match.

Pakistan will play all their T20 World Cup matches in Sri Lanka as part of an International Cricket Council deal that ensures the two nations only meet on neutral territory.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav said on Friday before their opening win against the USA that his team would travel to Colombo for the clash, whether the game was on or not.

“We haven’t said no to playing them,” Suryakumar said. “Our flights are booked and we are going to Colombo.”

New Zealand set new T20 World Cup record partnership to crush UAE



New Zealand’s Tim Seifert (L) and Finn Allen run between the wickets

AFP | Chennai

Finn Allen and Tim Seifert posted a T20 World Cup record partnership of 175 as New Zealand crushed the United Arab Emirates by 10 wickets with almost five overs to spare in Chennai yesterday.

Chasing the UAE’s 173-6, Seifert struck an unbeaten 89 and Allen scored 84 not out as they pummelled the UAE bowling to all parts of the ground in an unbroken opening stand.

The opening pair crashed 78 from the first six-over power play and posted their century stand off only 8.3 overs.



Fatima Kalawadh proud celebrates her Taekwondo gold

Budaiya taekwondo trio lift Bahrain medal tally

TDI | Manama

Bahrain’s taekwondo athletes delivered a stand-out performance at the Arab Women’s Sports Tournament in Sharjah, UAE, adding three medals to the kingdom’s growing tally as the event heads into its final day tomorrow.

Fatima Sadeq Kalawadh claimed gold in the under-49kg category, Hanan Yusuf Al-Sheroqi secured silver in the under-57kg division, while Sara Jallab earned bronze in the under-67kg event, with all

three representing Budaiya Club.

The latest successes raised Bahrain’s overall medal count to nine—four golds, two silvers and three bronzes.

Founded in 2012, the biennial Arab Women’s Sports Tournament is the only event of its kind dedicated exclusively to women’s sport and is held under the patronage of Her Highness Shaikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, chairperson of the organizing committee and wife of the Ruler of Sharjah.



Sara Jellab in action during her bout en route to a bronze-medal finish



A silver salute for Hanan AlSheroqi as Bahrain’s flag is raised in Sharjah

Martin Garrix to headline Bahrain F1

Superstar DJ and producer Martin Garrix to perform live at F1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2026

● **Multi-platinum-selling hit-maker to take centre stage at BIC on the Friday night of F1 weekend on 10 April**

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, announced today that multi-platinum DJ and producer Martin Garrix will perform live at the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026.

The highly anticipated F1 spectacle is scheduled for 10 to 12 April in Sakhir, and Garrix

will be taking to the stage on the Friday night of race weekend on 10 April. His epic show will be open to all grand prix ticket-holders at no extra cost.

Garrix is one of the youngest and most successful DJs and producers championing the pop and electronic scene. He has been ranked number one on DJ Mag’s Top 100 DJs list in multiple years, and his hits have generated more than a billion streams online.

Garrix has collaborated with major stars including Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, Bono and The Edge of U2, Bebe Rexha, Khalid, Macklemore, and Avicci, to name only a few.

He is the first top international artists announced by BIC who



Martin Garrix

will be putting on a mega concert at this year’s F1 weekend. Those wishing to experience Garrix’s concert but have yet to purchase their tickets are advised to do so at the earliest to avoid missing out on the Kingdom of Bahrain’s biggest event of the year.

Tickets can still be purchased but there is only very limited availability. BIC’s Main Grandstand and Turn 1 Grandstand are already 95% sold out, while tickets to the Beyon Grandstand, University Grandstand, and Victory Grandstand are selling out fast. Tickets can also be purchased online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Martin Garrix is more than a decade into a career that began

with the Dutchman bursting through the electronic dance music scene by debuting the single ‘Animals’ in 2013, a hit which soared to the top of the charts internationally. He has performed at major global events including The Winter Olympics, Coachella, Lollapalooza, Ultra Music Festival and Tomorrowland.

Garrix’s live performance at BIC can be enjoyed along with plenty of other off-track entertainment attractions at the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026.

For more information on the Kingdom’s F1 weekend or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s social media channels.

Farhan, spinners lead Pakistan to easy USA win in T20 World Cup

AFP | Colombo

Opener Sahibzada Farhan hit a solid half-century while spinner Usman Tariq grabbed three wickets as Pakistan downed the United States by 32 runs in a T20 World Cup Group A game in Colombo yesterday.

The 29-year-old hit five sixes and six fours in his 41-ball 73 and was aided by a brilliant 32-ball 46 by Babar Azam (four fours, one six) to guide Pakistan to a strong 190-9 total at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Their spinners then checked the inexperienced USA batting with Tariq taking 3-27 and Shadab Khan 2-26 to restrict their opponents to 158-8 in 20 overs.



Pakistan's Babar Azam (R) and Sahibzada Farhan run between the wickets

The win avenged Pakistan’s shock defeat at the hands of USA in the T20 World Cup two years

ago and handed them a second win in as many games following their close three-wicket

win over the Netherlands on Saturday.

For the USA, Shubham Ranjane top scored with a valiant 30-ball 51 including three sixes and as many fours before he fell to pace bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, who was playing his 100th T20 international.

Opener Shayan Jahangir muscled his way to an attractive 34-ball 49 studded with two sixes and five fours while Milind Kumar scored 29 before United States were derailed from 123-3 to lose the match.

Earlier, Farhan and fellow opener Saim Ayub, who scored a 17-ball 19 with two sixes, put on 54 in five overs.

Pakistan then lost two wickets in the sixth over of their innings, bowled by Shadley van Schalkwyk.

Bahrain’s Volleyball Supremacy Up For Grabs



Al Ahli and Dar Kulaib celebrate key points in yesterday’s wins

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s volleyball powerhouse Dar Kulaib and Al Ahli will face each other tomorrow in the semi-finals of the 2026 West Asia Men’s Clubs Volleyball Championship (WAVA) after both secured strong wins yesterday in Kuwait. The domestic showdown promises to decide the kingdom’s top contender for the title.

Dar Kulaib, coached by Ivan Joksimovic from Montenegro, competed in Group C and extended their campaign with a 3-0 victory over Iraq’s Ghaz Al Junoob, taking the sets 25-19, 28-26, 25-17. The Bahrainis had opened the tournament with a 3-1 win over Oman’s Al Seeb, followed by a 3-0 sweep of Kuwait’s Borgan SC, before suffering a narrow 3-2 defeat to Saudi Arabia’s Al Ittihad.

Al Ahli, coached by Brazilian Renato Castro, also booked their semi-final spot with a 3-0 win over Al Ittihad Jeddah (25-21, 25-18, 25-17) in Group B. The Manama-based side had earlier beaten Qatar’s Al Wakrah 3-0, Lebanon’s Jeunesse Sportif Batroun 3-0, and recorded a tight 3-2 victory against Kuwait Club to finish

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KNOW WHAT

Both Bahraini teams are vying for the 2025 Asian Volleyball Confederation Men’s Champions League. It will take place in Indonesia on May 13-17.

Naafo Stunner Ends Sitra’s Campaign

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Sitra’s AGCFF Gulf Club Champions League campaign came to a heartbreaking end last night after a 1-0 defeat to UAE’s Al Ain at Khalifa Sports City, with a spectacular late strike condemning Bahrain’s sole representatives to elimination.

The result was always an uphill task for the side sitting eighth in the Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League. Al Ain entered the match as runners-up in the UAE Pro League and had already beaten Sitra 4-1 in the opening group fixture.

Al Ain had the better of the first half and created the clearest chance before the break. In the 39th minute, Jonas Naafo found space inside the box but failed to connect cleanly with a free header, sending a volley wide as the Emirati side pressed for the opener.

Ali Abdulmajeed’s Sitra side came out with renewed intent after the interval and almost struck immediately. Captain Vincent Emmanuel tried an audacious outside-the-boot effort from distance just moments af-



Jonas Naafo wheels away in celebration after Al Ain’s spectacular late winner

ter the restart, but the attempt slid narrowly wide.

The hosts continued to show flashes of promise, though winger Kennyd de Lucas was forced off through injury and replaced by Bekaye Wade. Karl Namnganda later tested Al Ain

goalkeeper Hassan Sani with a long-range strike, but the shot was comfortably dealt with.

Just when it seemed Al Ain might break the deadlock, the 84th minute brought drama. The referee called for a pitch-side VAR review to check a poten-

tial penalty on Sitra, ruling that Carlos Cavafe Fernandez had clipped Mohammed Awadalla inside the box. Awadalla stepped up for the spot kick but blazed it high over the bar, giving Sitra a reprieve and keeping their slim hopes alive.

Those hopes were dashed in the 90th minute by a moment of brilliance. A long ball was worked wide before a short cross was headed on by Ibrahim Ndiaye. Nineteen-year-old Jonas Naafo cushioned the ball in midair and executed a stunning overhead kick into the top corner, leaving Sitra goalkeeper Youssef Habib with no chance.

The late winner lifted Al Ain to nine points in Group A, cementing their position as one of the competition’s strongest sides. Sitra, meanwhile, remain bottom with two points from five matches and are now mathematically eliminated.

The Bahraini side will now travel to Iraq for a dead-rubber final group match against already-qualified group leaders Zakho on February 17 at 6:30pm, offering one last chance to close out the campaign on a positive note.

BIC hosts official launch event for F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026

● Kingdom's F1 spectacle scheduled for 10 to 12 April as part of first season in top flight's 'new era'

● Turn 1 Grandstand sold out with Main Grandstand 98% sold; BIC's Corporate Lounges and Champions Club hospitality also sold out

● F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 slogan: 'The Island of Racing Passion'

● Superstar DJ and producer Martin Garrix to perform live on the Friday night of F1 weekend

● Incredible support series programme on track plus plenty of off-track family entertainment awaits race-goers

● BIC all set for six days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 starting on Wednesday with first of two three-day sessions

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosted this evening the official launch event of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 – part of F1's highly anticipated first season in its 'new era'.

The Kingdom's sporting and entertainment spectacle is scheduled for 10 to 12 April in Sakhir, and it will be marking the fourth round of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

With sweeping new regulations coming into effect and an 11th F1 team joining the grid, the excitement and anticipation is at an all-time high ahead of the new campaign, and details of what to expect in Bahrain's F1 extravaganza were announced at today's launch.

In attendance at the BIC Media Centre as a special guest for this evening's event was Andrea Stella, Team Principal of back-to-back F1 Constructors' World Champions McLaren.

Also on hand were BIC Chief Executive Sheikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Gulf Air CEO Martin Gauss, and world-renowned F1 presenter and commentator David Croft.

Stella shared his thoughts about the upcoming F1 campaign, with the top flight's teams all rolling out brand-new cars that are smaller, narrower, and



lighter than previous years, making them more agile and thus promoting more exciting action on track.

The cars will also boast more environmentally friendly power units featuring a 50-50 split between international combustion engine and electric power along with new active aerodynamics with different modes and a boost button to overtake.

A replica of the 2026 F1 car in stunning Bahrain livery was unveiled during this evening's launch.

Also entering this campaign, an all-new team in Cadillac will be competing in the world championship, joining McLaren, Mercedes, Red Bull Racing, Ferrari, Williams, Racing Bulls, Aston Martin, Haas, Alpine, and Audi, who have rebranded after racing last season as Kick Sauber.

Turn 1 Grandstand sold out with Main Grandstand 98% sold and Corporate Lounges and Champions Club also sold out

This year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix promises to be one of its biggest yet.

After welcoming a record sell-out crowd for a third straight year in 2025, Sheikh Salman revealed today that tickets for the 2026 race weekend have been selling fast, with Turn 1 Grandstand sold out and main grandstand 98% sold with two months still to go before the grand prix.

Shaikh Salman commented: "We are looking very positive for 2026, reflecting the incredible popularity of motorsport in Bahrain and around the world. Our Turn 1 Grandstand is already sold out, the main grandstand 98% sold, with the others are not far behind. In addition to the sell out of our Corporate Boxes and Champions Club hospitality, we are set for an incredible weekend of racing and entertainment in April.

Tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 can be purchased online at the circuit's official website bahraingp.com, or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Hospitality options are also

still available with F1 Paddock Club and The Dome by F1 Experiences. More details on these offerings are available on bahraingp.com or by calling +973-17451086.

F1 race slogan: 'The Island of Racing Passion'

Shaikh Salman revealed this evening the slogan for this year's grand prix as "The Island of Racing Passion".

Shaikh Salman explained that this reflects Bahrain's rich history in motorsport, which goes back decades before BIC hosted the region's first-ever F1 grand prix.

"We are really proud of our racing history, not just as the first F1 race to be held in the Middle East back in 2004, but you can go way back to 1954 when the Bahrain Motor Federation was founded – that passion has been there for a long time," Shaikh Salman said.

"At the same time, we also wanted our slogan to recognize the growing passion of the fans and the generation in Bahrain who have grown up with F1 as part of their lives.

Gulf Air continued support for Bahrain's biggest global event

At the press conference, Gulf Air CEO Martin Gauss spoke of the partnership between Formula 1 and The Kingdom's national carrier.

"We are extremely proud of our longstanding partnership with the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix – a relationship that dates back to the very first race in 2004. As Bahrain's national carrier, we are honoured to play a role in elevating the Kingdom's global profile and welcoming visitors from every corner of the world to experience this iconic international event," stated Gauss.

Stacked grid of F1's superstar drivers, including four World Champions

This season, a star-studded field of 22 F1 drivers – including four F1 Drivers' World Champions from past and present – will be lining up on the BIC grid for the 57-lap night race.

They will be led by reigning

World Champion Lando Norris, who will be looking to defend his crown alongside Oscar Piastri at McLaren.

The pair will be facing stiff challenges from Mercedes with George Russell and Kimi Antonelli, Red Bull Racing with four-time World Champion Max Verstappen and new teammate Isack Hadjar, Ferrari with seven-time World Champion Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc, Williams with Carlos Sainz and Alexander Albon, Racing Bulls with Liam Lawson and rookie Arvid Lindblad, Aston Martin with two-time World Champion Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, Haas with Oliver Bearman and Esteban Ocon, Audi with Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto, Alpine with Pierre Gasly and Franco Colapinto, and Cadillac with the returning star tandem of Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez.

Piastri was last year's winner in the Kingdom, delivering the first-ever victory in Sakhir for McLaren. Hamilton, Alonso, Verstappen, and Leclerc have also won past editions of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, while Perez was a winner at BIC in the only time the F1 Sakhir Grand Prix was held as part of an historic F1 double-header in 2020.

Wide variety of colourful off-track family entertainment

Just as it is every year during F1 weekend, BIC has put together a fantastic programme of all kinds of off-track attractions for the whole family to enjoy.

As a major part of this year's entertainment lineup, a water spectacular circus will be putting on an incredible show for race-goers.

There will also be plenty for the younger fans attending with their family and friends, such as live shows on stage featuring a variety of performers such as Hot Wheels, Barbie, Blippi, and many other popular characters.

The fan-favourite Ferris Wheel is also back to offer a memorable carnival ride for all those attending, while a wide variety of roaming acts will be interacting with attendees across BIC's F1 Village.



For motorsport enthusiasts, F1 Fan Zone will be bringing them closer to the sporting experience with all kinds of motorsport activations.

These and so much more is in store at the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026.

Garrix becomes first of a series of top international artists announced by BIC for F1 weekend

The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix experience would not be complete without the mega concerts taking place to celebrate the massive occasion.

BIC also announced that multi-platinum DJ and producer Martin Garrix will be performing live on the Friday night of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026.

His epic show will be open to all grand prix ticket-holders at no extra cost.

Garrix is just the first international artists announced by BIC who will be setting a celebratory mood off the track at this year's F1 weekend.

The 29-year-old is one of the youngest and most successful DJs and producers championing the pop and electronic scene. He has been ranked number one on DJ Mag's Top 100 DJs list in multiple years, and his hits have generated more than a billion streams online.

Garrix has collaborated with major stars including Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, Bono and The Edge of U2, Bebe Rexha, Khalid, Macklemore, and Avicii, to name only a few, and he has performed live at major events worldwide such as the Winter Olympics, Coachella, Ultra Music Festival and Tomorrowland.

International support series line-up ensures non-stop racing

The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 will feature plenty more thrilling action on track throughout the race weekend from the three international support series, including the FIA Formula 2 Championship, the FIA Formula 3 Championship, and the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East (PCCME).

Both F2 and F3 are the chief feeder series to F1, boasting talents who are to become the future stars of the top flight. F2 will be staging the second of 14 rounds in 2026 in Bahrain, while

F3 will be staging the second of 10 rounds in its season at BIC.

After holding its opening round at BIC in November of last year, the PCCME – which was born and bred at BIC – returns for its fifth and penultimate meeting of this year's championship.

F1 pre-season testing at BIC over six days, with tickets still on sale for fans' open days

Aside from the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, BIC will also be hosting six days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026.

The tests will be divided into two three-day sessions, with the first starting from tomorrow, Wednesday, and continuing until Friday. The second will be held next week from February 18 to 20.

Fans will be able to access the tests on the last two days of each session, including on Thursday and Friday (Editor's note: 12 and 13 February) this week and then again on 19 and 20 February. Tickets cost BD10 per day for adults and BD5 per day for children.

There is also free access on both open days of the second Bahrain test on 19 and 20 February for all who purchased their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 during BIC's Early Bird promotion. This means that fans who had bought tickets before 8 September last year will have access to both public days of the second test.

There are exclusive hospitality packages for testing, featuring the best views of the action along with incredible, five-star cuisine and beverage selection throughout the day. The hospitality lounge is located right above the F1 pit lane, and more information is available on bahraingp.com or by calling +973-17451086.

All those attending the tests will also have a chance to enjoy off-track activities with racing simulators and Batak and stick catching games. The replica 2026 F1 car in Bahrain livery will also be on display for all to see up close.

For more information on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026, or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.