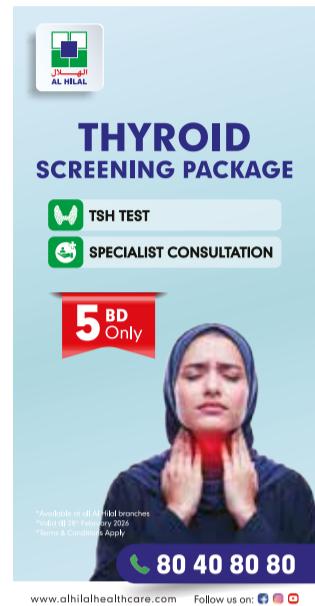


Kingdom's F1 spectacle scheduled for 10 to 12 April as part of first season in top flight's 'new era' | **P16**



## **BIC hosts F1 Gulf Air Bahrain GP 2026 launch**

**TDT** | Manama

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**

**TDT** | Manama

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.

220 fils (includes VAT)



# **Partnership growth**

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



**TDT** | 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 multisectoral 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.

## **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 Subti, 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**  
**TDT** | 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 MUNEER 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.