

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. "Cyberbullying 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 spe-

cifically 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.



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