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BUSINESS

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Bahrain Flour Mills confirms full readiness for Ramadan

Working hours for holy month



HRH Prince Salman

HM King orders prompt Ramadan aid for needy families

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Honorary President of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, issued a directive for the disbursement of the annual Ramadan provisions to all families sponsored by the RHF for the year 1447 AH (2026).

This directive comes in line with HM the King's longstanding annual tradition on the occasion of the approaching holy month of Ramadan.

He instructed the RHF to take the necessary measures to ensure the prompt disbursement of the grant, in order to support sponsored families in meeting



HM the King

their needs during the blessed month.

On this occasion, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, expressed gratitude to HM King Hamad for the continued support of the RHF and his gen-

erous care for the sponsored families.

HH Shaikh Nasser affirmed that this disbursement reflects the humanitarian approach established by His Majesty in promoting the values of social solidarity that characterise Bahraini society.

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular regarding the official working hours during the holy month of Ramadan.

According to the circular, the official working hours for the Kingdom's ministries, authorities, and public institutions will be from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. throughout the holy month.

GFH reports 18.2% increase in net profit attributable to Shareholders for 2025, reaching US\$140.11 Million



P6

Bahrain condoles with Canada over shooting victims

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The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed sympathy and solidarity with Canada following a shooting incident that occurred at a high school and a residence in the province of British Columbia in western Canada, which resulted in a number of deaths and injuries.

Bahrain condoled with the Government and people of Canada.

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Hub Activated

Gateway Gulf vision turns into daily Asia Europe operations through Bahrain

● Daily London route operational

● Entry fares from BD 39

● Cargo growth and employment

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's aviation strategy entered a new phase yesterday, with AirAsia X confirming daily Kuala Lumpur-Bahrain-London operations and naming the Kingdom its first global hub outside Asia.

The development turns Gateway Gulf commitments into operational reality, reinforcing Bahrain's role as a bridge between Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe. H.E. Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, and Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A and advisor to AirAsia X, attend the Kuala Lumpur-Bahrain-London route launch

BD50 and BD41, respectively.

Premium Flatbed seats will be available from BD 199 and BD 159 on each sector.

The promotional fares are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Service

The pricing positions the service competitively within the current long-haul market from Bahrain, especially on the London sector, where options have typically involved higher fares or connecting itineraries.

By naming Bahrain its first global hub beyond Asia and its first strategic hub for Europe, the airline integrates the Kingdom into its wider expansion plan, strengthening its position as a link between Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

“Bahrain as our strategic aviation hub allows us to connect Asia with the Middle East and Europe more effectively while

creating a scalable platform for future growth,” said Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A and advisor to AirAsia X.

The agreement also extends beyond passenger services, with Capital A, the parent group of AirAsia X (AAX), expected to scale its broader aviation businesses alongside the hub operations.

Network

This includes cargo and main-

tenance activity, as Bahrain integrates into the group's expanding regional network.

Teleport, Capital A's air cargo and logistics arm, has begun operations in the Kingdom following its recent capital raise.

The development is expected to create direct employment across aviation operations while generating wider opportunities in tourism, logistics and hospitality.

Investment

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy,

said the investment would “reinforce Bahrain's position as a key gateway linking Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe,” while delivering tangible economic benefits across multiple sectors.

With daily operations now confirmed and commercial rights secured on the Bahrain-London sector, the move shifts Bahrain's aviation ambitions from planning to implementation, embedding the Kingdom more firmly into long-haul air corridors linking Asia and Europe.

(Related story on Page 5)



Flight Schedule between Bahrain (BAH) and Kuala Lumpur (KUL):

Route	Flight No	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
Bahrain - Kuala Lumpur	D7 973	20:45	10:05+1	Daily
Kuala Lumpur - Bahrain	D7 972	22:00	00:40+1	Daily

All timings are on a 24-hour format based on local time

Flight Schedule between Bahrain (BAH) and London (LGW):

Route	Flight No	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
Bahrain - London	D7 972	02:25	06:20	Daily
London - Bahrain	D7 973	09:25	18:55	Daily

All timings are on a 24-hour format based on local time

*The promotional all-in fares are quoted for one-way travel only on a first-come first-served basis. The fares include passenger service charge, regulatory service charges, fuel surcharges, and other applicable fees. Other terms and conditions apply.



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Joint Arab action

His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, highlighted the Kingdom's commitment to continue supporting efforts aimed at strengthening joint Arab action and advancing coordination with the Arab League across various domains, particularly in development and economic sectors, in a way that contributes to achieving shared objectives. H.E. Shaikh Salman was speaking as he received Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League, on the sidelines of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2026, currently hosted by the Kingdom.

Bahrain-Qatar ties

His Excellency Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander received H.E. Nasser Abdullah Hassan Al Nassr, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Bahrain, upon his appointment as Ambassador. During the meeting, His Highness affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's keenness to expand cooperation and joint coordination for the benefit of the two peoples.

Commando course graduation

His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, attended the graduation ceremony of the 39th Orientation Commando Course and several other training courses held at the Special Security Force. The ceremony included officers, cadets and personnel from various directorates of the Ministry of Interior and the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). The ceremony was attended by the Chief of Public Security, His Highness the Governor of the Southern Governorate, and His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.

Investors' next stop: India

Bahrainis allowed to invest in Indian equities at par with NRIs

Neethu Vayalakkara
TDT | Manama

In what marks a significant shift in India's financial openness, Bahraini investors can now invest in Indian equities

almost on the same footing as non-resident Indians which was the key highlight at the Union Budget 2026 seminar held at the

Indian Embassy in Bahrain.

This development reflects a broader evolution in India's approach to opening its financial markets, making it easier for both direct investment in Indian stocks and indirect participation through Indian ETFs (exchange-traded funds) listed in the US.

This positions India as increasingly accessible not only to regional participants but also to global investors seeking a stake in its growth story.

Economy

India's \$4.13 trillion economy is projected to grow 7.4% and that the budget aims to position India as a trusted global investment destination, said His Excellency Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Building on India's strong fiscal discipline and responsible government spending, budget highlights that one of the most significant changes is easier access to the capital markets.

One of the most significant announcements for non-Indian investors is the simplification of the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS).

Previously, non-Indians needed to obtain a Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) license, which involved higher compliance and longer processing times. Not to forget the slightly higher costs.

Rules

"Under the new rules, it's way easier for a non-Indian resident to invest into the Indian equity market. So now a local Bahraini individual is to a great extent at par with an Indian residing in Bahrain, in terms of the manner in which he can get access to the Indian capital market, which was not the case before," said Mr. Ihab Dalwai, Bahrain Senior Fund Manager at ICICI speaking at the session.

In short, a local Bahraini can now invest in Indian equities almost at par with non-resident Indians.

For those who want an easier



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K Jacob speaks at the event attended by experts and business leaders

option, they can always invest indirectly through Indian ETFs (exchange traded funds) listed in the US, which lets them benefit from India's growth without opening an Indian bank account or worrying about currency changes.

India's Union Budget 2026 targets growth and development across seven key manufacturing sectors - biopharmaceuticals, semiconductors, rare earth metals, chemicals, capital goods, container manufacturing, and textiles.

Infrastructure investment will strengthen highways, railways, metros, shipbuilding, and urban development.

The energy sector is supported through clean energy initiatives, while technology and AI receive a boost through cloud data centers and digital capacity-building, including tax holidays until 2047 for foreign cloud firms operating data centers in India.

The Budget also plans to redesign banking architecture to support this growth, offering extended tax holidays for offshore banking units and treasury

centers in GIFT City for the next 20 years, after which they will be taxed at 15%.

Opportunities

Addressing the crowd at the session, former Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Al Shaywa said, "The real opportunities, the real growth, the real future is next door - it is in India."

World can't agree more with this sentiment with Budget 2026 opening new avenues for investors, including in Bahrain.

Once limited in access, non-Indian residents can now explore opportunities as the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement and reformed taxes create a stable, welcoming environment for global participation in India's growth story.

The session, hosted by the Indian Embassy, brought together experts and business leaders, including Mr. Madhu Ramankutty, Country Head, State Bank of India; Mr. Ihab Dalwai, Bahrain Senior Fund Manager at ICICI; and Mr. Abdulrahman Juma, Chairman of Bahrain India Society.

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Eco-friendly future

Renewable energy projects near 500mw mark as solar use grows across Bahrain

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



Renewable-energy capacity in Bahrain has passed 141 megawatts across 372 operating projects, the Electricity and Water Affairs Ministry has told Parliament, adding that 54 more projects are under way as it works towards lifting distributed renewables to close to 500 megawatts.

The figures came in a written reply to MP Mohammed Al Rifaei, who asked for an update on renewable energy.

The ministry said around 70 rooftop solar systems have been installed on homes across the governorates, part of the wider mix of projects running on dif-

ferent types of private buildings.

Requests

It added that requests from households to connect solar systems have been rising.

Annual output from solar systems linked to the electricity

distribution network across all governorates exceeds 230 gigawatt-hours, the ministry said, with production linked to the level of sunlight available.

Muharraq was named the highest producer of solar power, followed by the Southern Governorate, then the Capital Governorate, with the Northern Governorate last.

Systems

On the spread of systems across homes and other private buildings, the ministry said there are 124 projects in the Southern Governorate, 93 in Muharraq, 88 in the Capital, and 67 in the Northern Governorate.

Applications to connect renewable-energy systems are

filed through the Benayat platform, the ministry said, with conditions also included in the Unified Guidebook for Building Permit Requirements.

Campaigns

It added that media campaigns are being run to promote renewable-energy systems.

In the wider policy frame, the ministry said Bahrain is pushing renewables in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the goal of carbon neutrality by 2060.

It noted that Cabinet adopted the National Renewable Energy Plan in 2017, which targets raising the share of renewables to 20 per cent by 2035.

37 government entities reworked since 2022



MP Ali Saeer Al Dosari

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

put the changes into effect were then issued.

It said work on organisational structures starts either with requests from the entities concerned or, where needed, from the Bureau itself when an update is required to match government direction or work needs.

The Bureau said each review is paired with a check of roles and job titles.

It said the aim is to improve how work is shared out, match roles to new tasks and specialisms, and support service quality.

In its reply, the Bureau pointed to the Civil Service Law and its executive rules as the basis for its oversight of civil staff across government bodies.

It said its remit includes central supervision, advice to entities, and administrative control.

The Bureau said senior posts and directorates, and similar units, are created by decree.

It added that vacant posts are filled through permanent, temporary, part-time or contract hiring, under rules set in the executive regulations.

The Bureau said government bodies draft their own organisational charts, which it then approves.

Three jailed, fined for VAT evasion

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama



The Head of the Tax Evasion Crimes Unit at the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution announced that the High Criminal Court has convicted three defendants of evading payment of value-added tax (VAT).

The court sentenced each defendant to three years in prison, ordered them to pay the outstanding VAT amounting to BD83,020, and imposed fines equal to the unpaid tax. The company involved was also fined BD498,121 for committing the offense in its name and for

its benefit.

Amounts

The case began after a report from the National Bureau for Revenue revealed that the defendants had collected VAT from

customers but failed to remit the amounts to the authority, despite submitting tax returns, in violation of the law.

Following investigations, including hearing testimonies from revenue officials and re-

viewing supporting documents, the defendants admitted to the charges.

They were subsequently referred to criminal court, which issued the verdict.

Plan for Ain Al Raha rehabilitation approved

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Capital Municipal Council has approved a recommendation concerning Ain Al Raha in Sitra, formally endorsing the referral of the file to the competent authorities for technical evaluation and follow up.

During its Eleventh Ordinary Meeting, members emphasised the environmental and commu-

nity significance of the spring, describing it as part of Sitra's natural and social heritage.

The discussion focused on assessing the site's current condition and determining the feasibility of rehabilitation or protective measures in line with established planning and environmental standards.

Studies

Councillors stressed that any

future intervention must be based on comprehensive technical studies clarifying structural safety, environmental impact and institutional jurisdiction.

The approved recommendation calls for relevant authorities to coordinate action and ensure full compliance with regulatory requirements.

The matter will proceed through executive channels for technical assessment.

Woman cleared of toilet assault charge

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A woman accused of attacking another woman inside the toilets of a private facility has been cleared by the Lower Criminal Court after the court said the case fell short of the standard for a conviction.

The court ruled that doubt surrounded the evidence relied on by the Public Prosecution and said the papers contained no conclusive proof linking the defendant to the alleged assault.

It therefore ordered an acquittal under Article 255 of the Criminal Procedure Law, applying the rule that doubt must be resolved in the defendant's favour.

Prosecutors had alleged the defendant, along with an uni-

dentified woman, assaulted the complainant and caused injuries that did not result in illness or stop her from carrying out her daily activities for more than 20 days.

The complainant told prosecutors she was in the toilets at the facility when two girls appeared, shut the door and spoke to her, before the situation turned violent.

She claimed one struck her on the head with a piece of iron while the other held her and choked her by the neck until she lost consciousness.

The victim said she suffered a forehead wound that required stitches and bruising to her hands, and insisted the defendant was one of the two attackers.

Defence lawyer Eman Hassan argued the allegation did not

add up, said criminal intent was not shown, and challenged the quality of the security inquiries.

She also pointed to gaps in the investigation and said the file contained no firm proof, urging the court to clear her client.

The defendant denied the charge, saying an argument broke out between her friend and the complainant and escalated into a mutual altercation, adding she had nothing to do with any assault.

The court said the injuries noted by the security administration did not, by themselves, prove the defendant caused them, and did not support the claim that the complainant was struck with a metal object, particularly as the alleged piece of iron was not recovered from the scene.

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AirAsia X advances global expansion strategy

● Bahrain strategic hub connecting Asia, Middle East, Europe and Australia

Manama

AirAsia X (AAX) Berhad marked a significant milestone in its international growth journey as it advances its medium-haul expansion beyond Asia, positioning Bahrain as a key strategic hub to strengthen connectivity between Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Australia.

This follows the Letter of Intent signed on 3 November 2025 between Capital A Berhad and Bahrain's Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications to develop Bahrain

AAX's Middle East hub. This development reflects AAX's broader ambition to build a more globally connected long-haul network, anchored by strategic hubs beyond Southeast Asia. Bahrain's strategic location and robust aviation make it central to AAX's plans to facilitate greater flows of travellers, trade and tourism across regions.

Bo Lingam, Group CEO of AirAsia X, said: "This milestone reflects the broader transformation of AAX into a truly globally connected airline. We navigated one of the most challenging periods in aviation history and emerged from the pandemic stronger and more focused. Now, we are rebuilding with discipline - backed by a secured orderbook of 374 aircraft and counting, as well as a comprehensive five-

year growth plan that will see us steadily cementing our footprint across the regions. Bahrain fits squarely into our long-term network blueprint to link ASEAN and Asia to the world. Our focus remains on disciplined fleet expansion, strengthening core hubs, driving ancillary and digital growth, ensuring every new market strengthens the overall network. This is how we create sustainable value for the group of airlines while continuing to democratise long-haul travel."

Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A and Advisor to AAX said: "This is a defining step in the next phase of AAX's growth. Bahrain as our strategic aviation hub allows us to connect Asia with the Middle East and Europe more effectively while creating a scalable platform for future

growth. Beyond the airline, this partnership strengthens the broader aviation ecosystem, enabling Capital A businesses such as cargo and MRO services to scale alongside AAX. Today, Teleport marks an important milestone as its first flight arrives in Bahrain, following its recent USD50 million capital raise - a move that will help position the Kingdom as a key aviation and logistics hub in the region. Looking ahead, we will deepen partnerships with airports, tourism authorities and industry stakeholders to unlock new demand corridors. We are building a growth engine that balances connectivity, commercial performance and operational resilience, while staying true to our

value proposition of affordable long-haul travel."

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain said,

"This agreement with AirAsia X is a strategic decision that reflects Bahrain's

strength as an economic partner, and its role as a centre for regional and global connectivity. The investment will reinforce Bahrain's position as a key gateway linking Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, while delivering tangible economic benefits. It will create direct employment across aviation operations and generate wider opportunities across tourism, logistics, hospitality, and related services. Just as importantly, it will support skills development and long-term career pathways for Bahrainis in a global industry that continues to evolve and grow. We are proud to welcome AirAsia X as a member of Team-Bahrain."



stc pay Wins "Most Strategic Digital Payment Partnership" at the International Finance Awards 2025

Manama

Stc pay Bahrain, the Kingdom's most innovative and accessible mobile wallet for digital financial transactions, has received the Most Strategic Digital Payment Partnership award for its landmark collaboration with Mastercard at the International Finance Awards 2025. This achievement highlights stc pay's role in driving financial inclusion, accelerating Bahrain's journey towards a cashless economy, and supporting the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

As Bahrain's only all-inclusive mobile wallet, stc pay bridges financial inclusion gaps by offering secure, user-friendly services - including local and international transfers, prepaid cards, bill payments, and exclusive rewards - all licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain. Its award-winning collaboration with Mastercard has elevated customer experiences through innovative card products, such as the stc Pay Mastercard Elite card, a prepaid card accepted worldwide with premium benefits like airport lounge access, extra cashback rewards, and travel discounts. The stc Pay Mastercard Family cards extend these perks to up to five supplementary cardholders, enhancing convenience and accessibility for households.

Metin Zavrak, CEO of stc pay Bahrain, commented: "This



award is a testament to our commitment to building strategic partnerships that deliver real value to our customers and to Bahrain's economy. Through our collaboration with Mastercard, we continue to expand access to secure, inclusive, and innovative financial services, empowering individuals and businesses to thrive in the digital economy." stc pay continues to collab-

orate with global brands, government entities, and technology partners to remain at the forefront of fintech innovation. By providing accessible, secure, and feature-rich financial solutions, the company is helping shape a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous future for Bahrain, solidifying the Kingdom's position as a regional leader in digital finance.

Aster DM Healthcare unveils game changing projects set to redefine the future of healthcare for people of UAE



Dubai

In alignment with Dubai Economic Agenda (D33), Aster DM Healthcare revealed game changing projects in the pipeline, worth an investment of AED 1 billion, aimed at making worldclass healthcare locally available in the UAE and redefining the future of healthcare access for the people of the country.

One of the largest and fastest-growing integrated healthcare providers in the GCC, Aster DM Healthcare's robust integrated healthcare model today includes 15 hospitals, 126 clinics, and 338 pharmacies in the Middle East, serving all segments of society with a strong focus on providing quality care. Supported by myAster - region's leading omnichannel healthcare app, the group is scaling its footprint to serve 75 million people annually over the next five years, up from the current 17.6 million people. In addition to UAE, the company is expanding its footprint in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through a committed investment of USD 250 million across hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and digital health.

Commenting on Aster's

progressive plans, Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare said, "For nearly four decades, Aster has been guided by a single purpose - to make quality healthcare accessible to every community we serve. Today's announcement reflects our deep commitment to the UAE, a country that has consistently championed innovation, excellence and patient-centricity in healthcare. Through these projects, we are strengthening local capacity, bringing advanced treatments closer to patients, and contributing to the UAE's long-term vision of being a global hub for healthcare. We are thankful to our partners like Fajr Capital and consortium of investors who believed in our vision and have been supporting us in our journey across the region."

Speaking at World Health Expo (WHE) 2026, Ms. Alisha Moopen, Managing Director & Group CEO, Aster DM Healthcare said, "The future of healthcare will be defined by advanced clinical capability and intelligent digital integration - and the UAE is setting the pace for this transformation. Our AED 1 billion pipeline is not only about adding beds or infrastructure; it is about enabling world-class care pathways locally, supported by technology, specialized talent and a connected patient experience. The new hospitals, three new robotic surgery platforms being added to the existing network, advanced robotic rehabilitation centre bringing in 18 super specialized robots and Sharjah's first private multi-organ transplant centre, are few of the projects that will help us stay ahead of the curve in meeting fast evolving patient needs and enhance outcomes; while we continue working with the government and partners to redefine industry standards."

Major UAE expansion: Two New hospitals and expansion of Aster Hospital Al Qusais

Aster DM Healthcare announced plans to open two new multi-specialty hospitals in Dubai, located in Studio City and Discovery Gardens, adding over 250 beds to the group's current ~920-bed UAE capacity. Once operational, the new facilities are expected to serve over 560,000 additional patients annually, while creating 675+ new healthcare jobs.

GFH reports 18.2% increase in net profit attributable to Shareholders for 2025, reaching US\$140.11 Million

Net profit attributable to shareholders, reaching US\$38.84 million in Q4 of 2025 and US\$140.11 million for the year ended 31 December 2025

Credit & Financing Income grew by 38.9% year-on-year and 120.9% in Q4 2025 when compared with the corresponding period of 2024, driven by disciplined loan growth and a high quality credit mix.

Manama

GFH Financial Group yesterday announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and 12 months ended 31 December 2025.

Net profit attributable to shareholders was US\$38.84 million for the fourth quarter of 2025, compared with US\$30.56 million in the fourth quarter



The diversification of the Group's activities and its geographic footprint have supported performance stability and balanced results across its business lines. In this context, the Board continues to work closely with the executive management to oversee the effective execution of approved plans and enhance operational efficiency across the Group.

MR. ABDULMOHSEN RASHED AL RASHED, CHAIRMAN, GFH FINANCIAL GROUP

of 2024, representing an increase of 27.1%, driven by higher contributions from Wealth & Investment Management, Credit & Financing Income and Treasury & Proprietary Income activities. Earnings per share for the quarter stood at US Cents 1.09, compared with US Cents 0.84 in Q4 2024, representing an increase of 29.8%.

Total income for the fourth quarter amounted to US\$190.29 million, reflecting an increase of 0.9% compared with US\$188.55

million in the corresponding period of 2024, supported by Wealth & Investment Management, Credit & Financing Income, and Treasury & Proprietary Income activities. Consolidated net profit for the quarter reached US\$40.55 million, compared with US\$32.96 million in Q4 2024, marking a growth of 23.1%. Total expenses for the quarter declined by 3.8% to US\$149.74 million, compared with US\$155.59 million in the same period last year.

For the year ended 31 Decem-



Looking ahead, the Group remains focused on executing approved operational plans, maintaining asset quality, developing products and services within applicable regulatory frameworks, and supporting balanced growth across core markets.

MR. HISHAM ALRAYES, CEO AND BOARD MEMBER, GFH FINANCIAL GROUP

ber 2025, the Group reported net profit attributable to shareholders of US\$140.11 million, compared with US\$118.50 million in 2024, representing an increase of 18.2%, driven by strong performance in Wealth & Investment Management services, higher proprietary income from Credit & Financing activities, treasury performance and contributions from subsidiaries. Total Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2025 amounted to US\$186.1 million, compared with US\$122.9

million in 2024, reflecting an increase of 51.2%.

Earnings per share for the year rose to US Cents 3.92, compared with US Cents 3.27 in 2024, reflecting a growth of 19.9%. Total income for the year reached US\$719.54 million, an increase of 8.1% compared with US\$665.36 million in the previous year, reflecting solid performance across all business lines. Consolidated net profit for the year was US\$145.50 million, compared with US\$128.51 million in 2024, representing a

growth of 13.2%. Total expenses for the year amounted to US\$574.04 million, compared with US\$536.85 million in 2024, reflecting an increase of 6.9%.

Total equity attributable to shareholders reached US\$1,020.77 million as at 31 December 2025, compared with US\$980.94 million at the end of 2024, representing an increase of 4.1%. Total assets stood at US\$12.20 billion as at 31 December 2025, compared with US\$11.03 billion as at 31 December 2024, reflecting a growth of 10.6%.

In line with the Group's performance, the Board has recommended the distribution of cash dividends totalling 10.11% of the nominal value (US\$0.0268 per share, excluding treasury shares, including \$0.0053 interim cash dividends paid earlier), subject to regulatory and shareholders' approval.

The Group currently manages approximately US\$23.63 billion in assets and funds, comprising a diversified global investment portfolio across the MENA region, Europe, and North America, spanning logistics, healthcare, education, technology, and real estate sectors.

Recommendation of Declaration of Dividends

The Board of Directors of GFH Financial Group B.S.C. resolved, on 11th February 2026, to recommend the distribution of dividend for the year ending 31st December 2025 to the shareholders whose names are registered on the Group's register on the Record Date. This is subject to the approval of the Group's shareholders on the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The proposed distribution is as follow:

To distribute cash dividends for the year 2025 of up to \$100 million (representing 10.11%, excluding treasury shares), corresponding to a distribution of \$0.0268 per share. This includes the interim cash dividends of \$0.0053 distributed to the shareholders on 11th September 2025.

Below are the key dates to be taken note of:

Event	Date*
Annual General Meeting Date Shareholders' approval date	16 th March 2026
Cum-Dividend Date Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends	30 th March 2026
Ex-Dividend Date First day of trading without entitlement to dividends	31 st March 2026
Record Date for Bahrain Bourse, Dubai Financial Market and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange listed shares The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends	1 st April 2026
Record Date for Boursa Kuwait listed shares The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends	2 nd April 2026
Payment Date The Day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders	15 th April 2026

*The dates are subject to quorum being met on the meeting date.

Note: The acceptance of requests for share transfers across all financial markets will be suspended for a period of four days between the 'Cum-Dividend Date' and the 'Record Date' at Boursa Kuwait, depending on the date the quorum for the meeting is met.



Bahrain Flour Mills confirms full readiness for Ramadan



Manama

Bahrain Flour Mills Company has confirmed its full readiness to meet market demand during the holy month of Ramadan, reaffirming its longstanding commitment to food security and uninterrupted supply of flour products across the Kingdom.

Commenting on the Company's preparations, Mr. Basim Mohammed AlSaie, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Flour Mills Company, stated:

"Since its establishment in 1972, Bahrain Flour Mills has remained committed to ensuring the continuous availability of its products throughout the year, with particular focus on the holy month of Ramadan. As part of our annual approach, the Board of Directors and Executive Management place strong emphasis on early planning to meet the increased demand witnessed during this period."

He explained that the Company has proactively secured adequate quantities of wheat

and flour products to meet anticipated market requirements, especially in light of the increased consumption typically observed during Ramadan.

"In line with the directives of the wise Government and in support of the Kingdom's food security, the Board and Executive Management have prioritized maintaining sufficient strategic stocks of wheat and flour products. This ensures that the needs of the local market are met without interruption, including key products such as harees, semolina, all-purpose flour, pastry mixes, and luqaimat mixes," Mr. AlSaie added.

The Chairman further noted that Bahrain Flour Mills has ensured the availability of its full product range across major retail outlets and primary markets, supported by adequate inventory levels to guarantee continuous shelf availability throughout the holy month.

As part of its preparations, the Company completed the import and storage of a wheat shipment aligned with Ramadan demand, which was suc-

cessfully received on 5 February 2026. The shipment consists of high-quality wheat sourced from leading global suppliers, in line with the Company's established quality standards.

Mr. AlSaie also highlighted that Bahrain Flour Mills, as one of the companies under the Ghitha Group, continues to coordinate closely with its sister companies to ensure consumer needs are met during Ramadan.

"Through group-wide planning and coordination, we are committed to ensuring that 'Ghitha' remains a trusted name synonymous with quality and reliability for consumers across the Kingdom," he said.

In conclusion, Mr. AlSaie expressed his appreciation to the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to the wise leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain for their continued support and encouragement, which enables us to fulfill our role in supporting food security and serving the community," he added.



Consolidated Financial Information

for the year ended 31 December 2025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 December 2025 / (US\$ 000's)

	31 December 2025	31 December 2024
ASSETS		
Cash and bank balances	249,230	459,966
Treasury portfolio	5,291,923	4,851,634
Financing contracts	2,529,917	2,058,157
Proprietary Assets	3,075,844	2,430,667
Receivables and other assets	1,000,405	1,173,386
Property and equipment	54,796	57,215
TOTAL ASSETS	12,202,115	11,031,025
LIABILITIES		
Clients Accounts	335,400	512,732
Placements from financial institutions	3,044,067	2,444,459
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	1,280,091	1,392,804
Term financing	2,523,516	2,149,758
Other liabilities	563,891	435,364
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,746,965	6,935,117
QUASI EQUITY		
OWNERS' EQUITY		
Share capital	1,015,637	1,015,637
Treasury shares	(158,578)	(90,692)
Statutory reserve	73,379	59,368
Investment fair value reserve	(27,370)	(40,546)
Other reserve	-	(26,189)
Retained earnings	107,358	56,918
Share grant reserve	10,342	6,440
Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Bank	1,020,768	980,936
Non-controlling interests	116,453	134,155
TOTAL OWNERS' EQUITY	1,137,221	1,115,091
TOTAL LIABILITIES, QUASI EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY	12,202,115	11,031,025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2025 / (US\$ 000's)

	2025	2024
Wealth and investment management	174,121	171,248
Credit & financing	155,156	111,747
Treasury and proprietary	390,262	382,365
Total income	719,539	665,360
Other operating expenses	267,490	252,526
Finance expense	279,368	266,023
Impairment allowances	27,177	18,297
Total expenses	574,035	536,846
Profit for the year	145,504	128,514
Profit attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Bank	140,110	118,504
Non-controlling interests	5,394	10,010
	145,504	128,514
Earnings per share		
Basic and diluted earnings per share (US cents)	3.92	3.27

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 December 2025 / (US\$ 000's)

	31 December 2025	31 December 2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit for the year	145,504	128,514
Adjustments for:		
Treasury and proprietary assets	(563,755)	(530,874)
Foreign exchange (gain) / loss	(4,535)	1,916
Finance expense	506,752	404,840
Impairment allowances	26,846	18,297
Depreciation and amortisation	14,637	12,791
	125,449	35,484
Changes in:		
Placements with financial institutions (original maturities of more than 3 months)	95,248	(129,242)
Financing contracts	(307,803)	(216,974)
Receivables and other assets	(156,003)	(93,822)
CBB reserve and other assets	(8,513)	(9,316)
Clients accounts	(177,332)	102,813
Placements from financial institutions	599,608	121,242
Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	(112,713)	432,754
Quasi equity	337,112	(470,189)
Other liabilities	53,256	(210,256)
	448,309	(437,506)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale of property, plant and equipment, net	321	2,097
(Purchase) / Sale of proprietary assets, net	(294,972)	152,036
Cash paid on acquisition of subsidiary, net	-	(39,534)
Cash transferred on deconsolidation of a subsidiary	-	(677)
Cash acquired on acquisition of subsidiary	-	5,584
Sale of treasury portfolio, net	143,235	401,311
	(151,416)	520,817
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Term financing, net	381,453	(123,111)
Finance expense paid	(538,589)	(457,746)
Dividends paid	(93,858)	(60,636)
(Purchase) / sale of treasury shares, net	(78,086)	34,840
	(329,080)	(606,653)
Net cash generated used in financing activities		
	(32,188)	(523,342)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January*	1,165,081	1,688,423
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	1,132,893	1,165,081
Cash and cash equivalents comprise: *		
Cash and balances with banks (excluding CBB Reserve balance and restricted cash)	155,951	375,197
Placements with financial institutions (original maturities of 3 months or less)	976,942	789,884
	1,132,893	1,165,081

* net of expected credit loss of US\$ 76 thousand (31 December 2024: US\$ 50 thousand)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2025 / (US\$ 000's)

	Attributable to shareholders of the Bank										
	Share Capital	Treasury shares	Statutory reserve	Cashflow hedge reserve	Other reserve	Investment fair value reserve	Retained earnings	Share grant reserve	Total	Non-Controlling Interests (NCI)	Total owners' equity
Balance at 1 January 2025	1,015,637	(90,692)	59,368	-	(26,189)	(40,546)	56,918	6,440	980,936	134,155	1,115,091
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	140,110	-	140,110	5,394	145,504
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	26,189	-	13,176	-	-	39,365	1,222	40,587
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	26,189	13,176	140,110	-	179,475	6,616	186,091	
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,204	-	15,204	-	15,204
Issue of shares under incentive scheme	-	11,302	-	-	-	-	(11,302)	-	-	-	-
Transfer to zakah and charity fund	-	-	-	-	-	(1,500)	-	(1,500)	-	(1,500)	-
Dividends declared for 2024	-	-	-	-	-	(61,000)	-	(61,000)	-	(61,000)	-
Interim dividends declared for 2025	-	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	-
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	14,011	-	-	(14,011)	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(292,684)	-	-	-	-	-	(292,684)	-	(292,684)	-
Sale of treasury shares	-	213,496	-	-	-	-	2,120	-	215,616	-	215,616
Reduction in NCI on account of additional stake in subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(19,664)	(19,664)	-
Reduction in NCI on account of dividend payment	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,721	-	4,721	(4,654)	67
Balance at 31 December 2025	1,015,637	(158,578)	73,379	-	(27,370)	107,358	10,342	1,020,768	116,453	1,137,221	

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2024 / (US\$ 000's) (continued)

	Share Capital	Treasury shares	Statutory reserve	Cashflow hedge reserve	Other reserve	Investment fair value reserve	Retained earnings	Share grant reserve	Total	Non-Controlling Interests (NCI)	Total owners' equity
Balance at 1 January 2024	1,015,637	(125,525)	47,518	(2,135)	(13,612)	(46,103)	105,831	7,930	989,541	84,821	1,074,362
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,504	-	118,504	10,010	128,514
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	2,135	(12,577)	5,557	-	-	(4,885)	(756)	(5,641)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	2,135	(12,577)	5,557	118,504	-	113,619	9,254	122,873
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000		

News in brief

◆ **Indonesian President**

Prabowo Subianto will attend the inaugural meeting of US President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" in Washington this month, Jakarta's foreign ministry said yesterday. The board, of which Trump is the chairman, was originally intended to oversee the rebuilding of the Gaza Strip after two years of war, but its charter appears to extend beyond the Palestinian territory. Indonesia, which is in the process of negotiating a trade deal with Washington, said this week it could send troops to Gaza as part of a US-backed plan to end the Israel-Hamas war. Prabowo attended the "Board of Peace" launch last month at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, along with other heads of state and senior officials. Around 19 countries have signed up. The first meeting is scheduled to take place on February 19 in Washington.



**Indonesia
president to join first
meeting of Trump
'Board of Peace'**

**Qatar
ruler discusses
de-escalation
with Trump, Iran
security chief**

◆ **Qatar's ruler discussed** regional de-escalation on a call with US President Donald Trump and later met with Iran's top security official, the emir's office said in two separate statements yesterday. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Trump focused on "the current situation in the region and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and strengthening regional security and peace", one statement said. The leaders also discussed "supporting diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving crises through dialogue and peaceful means", it added. Later, the emir's office said Sheikh Tamim had met Ali Larijani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council in Doha. The pair discussed "developments in the region, efforts to reduce escalation and enhance regional security" according to a statement, with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani also in present.

◆ **Russia threatened** to take

military "countermeasures" if the West boosts its own military footprint on Greenland, Moscow's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said yesterday. Several European countries have sent small contingents of troops to Greenland in recent weeks after President Donald Trump repeatedly said he wanted to annex the Arctic island. "Of course, in the event of the militarisation of Greenland and the creation of military capabilities aimed at Russia, we will take adequate counter-measures, including military-technical ones," Lavrov said in a speech to Russian lawmakers. Greenland -- home to some 57,000 people -- has been an autonomous Danish territory for decades.



**Russia will take
measures, 'including
military ones', if Greenland
militarised: FM**

SPOTLIGHT

AI cracks Roman-era board game

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

A smooth, white stone dating from the Roman era and unearthed in the Netherlands has long baffled researchers.



A smooth, white stone dating from the Roman era and unearthed in the Netherlands has long baffled researchers.

Now with the help of artificial intelligence, scientists believe they have cracked the mystery: the stone is an ancient board game and they have even guessed the rules.

The circular piece of limestone has diagonal and straight lines cut into it.

Using 3D imaging, scientists discovered some lines were deeper than others, suggesting pieces were moved along them, some more than others.

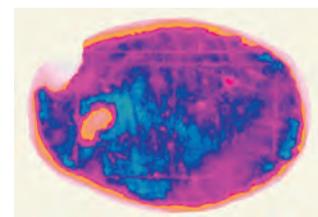
"We can see wear along the lines on the stone, exactly where you would slide a piece," said Walter Crist, an archaeologist at Leiden University who specialises in ancient games.

Other researchers at Maastricht University then used an artificial intelligence programme that can deduce the rules to ancient games.

They trained this AI, baptised Ludii, with the rules of about 100 ancient games from the same area as the Roman stone.

The computer "produced dozens of possible rule sets. It then played the game against itself and identified a few variants that are enjoyable for humans to play," said Dennis Soemers, from Maastricht University.

They then cross-checked



the possible rules with the wear on the stone to uncover the most likely set of movements in the game.

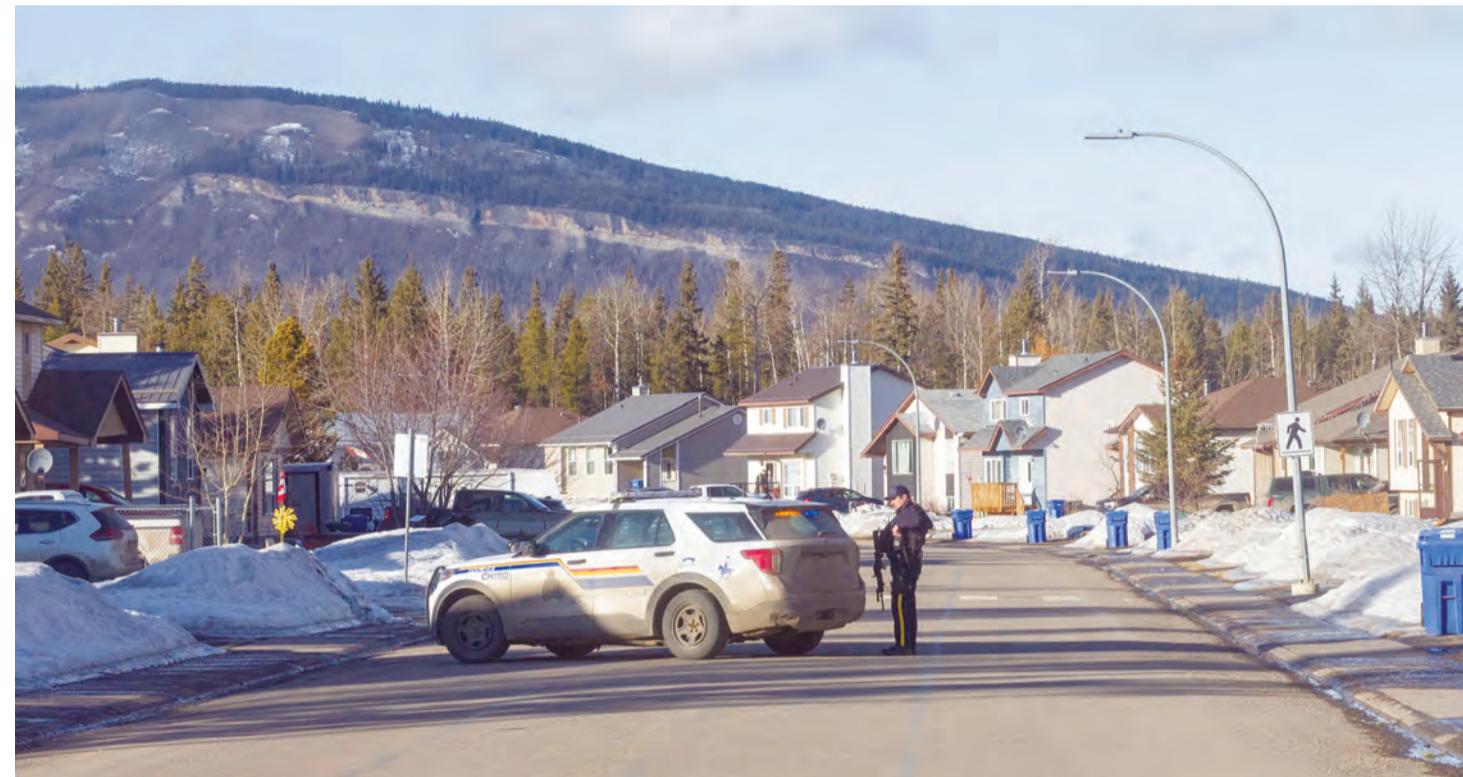
However, Soemers also sounded a note of caution.

"If you present Ludii with a line pattern like the one on the stone, it will always find game rules. Therefore, we cannot be sure that the Romans played it in precisely that way," he said.

The aim of the "deceptively simple but thrilling strategy game" was to hunt and trap the opponent's pieces in as few moves as possible.

Canada stunned by deadliest school shooting in decades

Emergency responders found six people shot dead



A place near the middle school and high school building where a shooting took place

● **Seventh person died
in transit to hospital**

● **Two others
were killed at a
nearby residence**

● **The suspect, a "female
in a dress with brown
hair," was found dead**

AFP | Toronto, Canada

Canada was in mourning yesterday, Prime Minister Mark Carney said, after a lone shooter killed at least nine people, including seven at a school, and injured dozens more in a remote western town.

An emotional Carney said in brief remarks to reporters that "the nation mourns" with British Columbia's Tumbler Ridge after Tuesday's shooting. "Canada stands by you."

He said he had requested flags to be lowered to half-mast for

seven days over the tragedy, among the deadliest shootings in Canada's history, and that numerous world leaders had reached out to offer their condolences.

Tumbler Ridge, a small town of about 2,400 residents, lies in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies near the provincial border with Alberta, hundreds of kilometers from any major city.

Emergency responders found six people shot dead at the town's secondary school on Tuesday, while a seventh person died in transit to hospital, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Two others were killed at a nearby residence, while at least 25 people sustained injuries in the attack.

The suspect, described by police in an initial emergency alert as a "female in a dress with brown hair," was found dead with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound at the school.

Police have not yet released any identifying information about the shooter or the victims.

"We will get through this. We will learn from this. But right now, it's a time to come together, as Canadians always do in these situations, these terrible situations, to support each other, to mourn together and to grow together," Carney said.

King Charles, the monarch of Canada, said in a statement that he and Queen Camilla were "profoundly shocked and saddened" to learn of the attack.

"In a such a closely connected town, every child's name will be known and every family will be a neighbour," he said.

While several mass killings have occurred in recent years in Canada, deadly attacks on schools are very rare, especially compared to the neighboring United States.

In 1989, a self-described anti-feminist man killed 13 female students and a secretary at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique.

After the country's deadliest shooting attack, which left 22 people dead in Nova Scotia in 2020, Canada banned some 1,500 models of assault weapons.

'Off the rails'

Tumbler Ridge student Darian Quist told public broadcaster CBC that he was in his mechanics class when there was an announcement that the school was in lockdown.

He said that initially he "didn't think anything was going on," but started receiving "disturbing" photos about the carnage.

"It set in what was happening," Quist said.

He said he stayed in lockdown for more than two hours until police stormed in, ordering everyone to put their hands up before escorting them out of the school.

Trent Ernst, a local journalist and a former substitute teacher at Tumbler Ridge, expressed shock over the shooting at the school, where one of his children has just graduated.

He noted that school shootings have been a rarity occurring every few years in Canada compared with the United States, where they are far more frequent.

Prince William tours nature reserve on final day of Saudi visit

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Britain's Prince William was set yesterday to wrap up his final day of a visit to Saudi Arabia, where he toured the oasis city of AlUla.

The prince, an environmentalist, visited conservation sites focused on protecting local wildlife populations in the area, as well as land restoration projects, Saudi Arabia's official press agency reported.

AlUla is home to the Hegra archaeological site, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its ancient Nabataean tombs dotted amid the pristine sandstone mountains and valleys.

Saudi authorities have been pushing in recent years to make



Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud meeting with Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales in the old district of Diriyah on the outskirts of the Saudi capital Riyadh.

AlUla a top-tier destination for luxury travellers and art exhibitions.

More broadly, they want to turn Saudi Arabia into a tourism hub as part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform agenda.

Warm ties have long existed between the Saudi and British royals, with Saudi Arabia seen as one of Britain's most important partners in the Gulf.

The late Queen Elizabeth II hosted Saudi royals during four state visits, on par with other key allies such as France and Germany. The last senior royal to make an official visit to Riyadh was William's father, King Charles III, when he was Prince of Wales in 2014.

1700

Great Northern War begins in Northern Europe between Denmark-Norway, Saxony, Russia, and the Swedish Empire

1912

The last Qing Emperor of China, Puyi (age 6), abdicates after losing the support of the Chinese people and thus the "mandate of heaven"



1947

French fashion designer Christian Dior presents his first influential collection, named the "New Look"

1999

US President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the Senate in his impeachment trial

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



It was wonderful meeting Mr. Tufan Erginbilic, CEO of Rolls-Royce earlier today. We welcome Rolls-Royce's enthusiasm towards scaling up its activities in India and partnering with our innovative and dynamic youth.

@narendramodi

02



Equality in the sciences is essential for humanity's progress. Despite advances in access to education, only one in three researchers is female. Let's ensure that women & girls can realise their scientific ambitions – for their rights & for the benefit of all.

@antonio_guterres

03



You're there to play a sport and you're there to represent your country and hopefully win a medal. You're not there to pop off about politics – so when Olympic athletes enter the political arena, they should expect some pushback.

@VP

04



My message to the European Industry Summit in Antwerp: I'm ready to build the strongest business case for your industries to choose Europe. With speed. With scale. With access to affordable energy and new markets

@vonderleyen

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

20 killed as powerful cyclone batters Madagascar

Cyclone Gezani made landfall on Tuesday



An aerial view of the city of Toamasina, on the east coast of Madagascar, struck by Tropical Cyclone Gezani

AFP | Antananarivo, Madagascar

A cyclone packing violent winds killed at least 20 people as it struck Madagascar, toppling houses and causing major flooding, the Indian Ocean island's disaster authority said yesterday.

Cyclone Gezani made landfall on Tuesday, slamming into the country's second-largest city, Toamasina, with winds reaching 250 kilometres (155 miles) per hour.

The National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNRGC) said it recorded 20 deaths, many after houses had collapsed.

Fifteen people were missing

and at least 33 had been hurt, it said, updating earlier tolls.

Drone footage shared by BNRGC on social media showed major flooding in the east coast city of 400,000 people, about 220 km northeast of the capital Antananarivo, with roofs ripped off buildings and trees uprooted.

There had been massive damage in the Atsinanana region around the city, the authority said, adding that post-disaster assessments were still under way.

"It's total chaos: 90 percent of house roofs have been blown off, entirely or in part," said the head of disaster management at the Action Against Hunger

humanitarian group, Rija Rambanisoa.

"The roads are completely inaccessible because of trees on the ground, sheet metal," he told AFP.

The cyclone weakened on landfall but continued to sweep across the island, posing the risk of flooding.

A Toamasina resident told AFP by telephone late Tuesday that the winds had collapsed solid walls. "It's monstrous," the resident said.

The country's new leader Colonel Michael Randrianirina, who seized power in October, was in the city on Wednesday to assess the situation.

94 million need cataract surgery, but access lacking: WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

More than 94 million people suffer from cataracts, but half of them do not have access to the surgery needed to fix it, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

Cataracts -- the clouding of the eye's lens that causes blurred vision and can lead to blindness -- are on the rise as populations get older, with age being the main risk factor.

"Cataract surgery -- a simple, 15-minute procedure -- is one of the most cost-effective medical procedures, providing immediate and lasting restoration of sight," the WHO said.

It is one of the most frequently performed surgeries undertaken in high-income countries.

However, "half of the world's population in need of cataract surgery don't have access to it," said Stuart Keel, the UN health agency's technical lead for eye care.

The situation is worst in the WHO's Africa region, where

A cataract is a clouding of the eye's natural lens and is the leading cause of blindness worldwide, yet it is highly treatable -- a short surgical procedure can restore vision in most cases, often within days.

three in four people needing cataract surgery remain untreated.

In Kenya, at the current rate, 77 percent of people needing cataract surgery are likely to die with their cataract blindness or vision impairment, said Keel.

Across all regions, women consistently experience lower access to care than men.

US says Mexican cartel drones breached Texas airspace

Houston, United States

"security reasons," only to lift the closure after less than 24 hours.

The report of a drone breach comes some five months into a US military campaign targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats, and could provide a pretext for President Donald Trump to follow through on his threats to expand the strikes to land.

Trump has specifically threatened to attack cartels inside Mexico.

India-New Zealand partnership grows with landmark defense advisor posting

Forum

New Zealand recently appointed its first resident defense advisor to India, highlighting the nations' burgeoning partnership.

Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) Commodore Andy Dowling, who began his three-year posting to the New Zealand High Commission in late January 2026, noted India's growing focus on defense collaboration and other strategic partnerships under its Act East Policy.

"We're seeing the Act East with the Indian Navy in particular," he stated. "They're deploying out of the Indian Ocean, exercising with other countries and visiting New Zealand and Australia. They're getting out and about and that's only going to increase in the coming years."

His role as New Zealand's first full-time defense advisor to India "will allow us to understand their system better to identify and explore opportunities for our two nations to work together."



Dowling noted similarities between the nations' navies, including in air operations and refueling at sea. "They have P-8 aircraft like us, they operate the MH-60 helicopter which we're getting and they have the C-130J Hercules," he said. "Their hydrographer training is similar; they operate

a sea training group very like our Maritime Training Group. So, they have structures and capabilities that we recognize."

Dowling's appointment came a month after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon announced a major free trade agreement

and spotlighted progress in defense cooperation.

In the first half of 2025, as part of the United States-led multinational Combined Maritime Forces, the RNZN led a counternarcotics task force in the Western Indian Ocean, with the Indian Navy second in command. The Indian Navy

frigate INS Tarkash seized more than 2,500 kilograms of hashish and heroin during the mission.

The RNZN frigate HMNZS Te Kaha visited Mumbai, India, during its task force deployment. The port call coincided with Luxon's visit to India, which included talks with Modi and the signing of a defense cooperation agreement. The leaders "noted the need for ensuring the safety and security of sea lanes of communication," India's External Affairs Ministry stated.

"I reiterated New Zealand's strong commitment to working with India to address shared concerns over our respective interests and contributions to ensure a strong, stable and prosperous region," Luxon said.

Modi said the countries would enhance collaboration in areas including counterterrorism.

"We both support a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific," he said. "We believe in policies of development, not expansionism."

Al Salam Bank signs BD 20 Million Strategic Financing agreement with Beyon

To Support Expansion and Growth Plans



Manama

Al Salam Bank announced the signing of a BD 20 million (USD 53 million) strategic financing agreement with Beyon, a leading telecommunications and technology company. The financing aims to support the company's corporate capital requirements and facilitate the execution of its local and regional expansion plans.

This agreement aligns with Al Salam Bank's strategy to support private-sector growth by offering bespoke financing solutions that address the evolving needs of leading national corporates. It also underscores the Bank's commitment to building strong, long-term partnerships with its clients and reinforcing its role as a key enabler of sustainable economic development.

Commenting on the occasion, Rafik Nayed, Group CEO of Al Salam Bank, said: "We are proud to sign this agreement with Beyon, one of Bahrain's most prominent institutions in the telecommunications and technology sector. This partnership reflects Al Salam Bank's commitment to providing innovative financing solutions that support expansion ambitions of our clients and reinforce our position as a leading financial institution serving the corporate sector. We firmly believe this collaboration will contribute to national economic growth and empower companies to realize their strategic aspirations. Our partnerships with key national institutions are built on a deep understanding of their business models and strategic objectives, enabling us to structure financial solutions aligned

with their requirements and strategies".

On his part, Andrew Kvålsseth, Chief Executive Officer of Beyon Group, said: "We thank Al Salam Bank for its confidence in Beyon, our strategy, and our long-term growth vision. This facility will support the Group's working capital requirements and enable the continued execution of key initiatives across local and regional

markets, contributing to the national economy and delivering sustainable value for all our stakeholders".

This agreement underscores the importance of collaboration between financial institutions and leading national companies, enabling a more dynamic and resilient business environment while supporting long-term, sustainable economic growth.

NBB awards Thara'a 2025 Seafront Villa Prize to Hani Ali Ebrahim in January Draw

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is pleased to announce Hani Ali Ebrahim as the winner of a luxury seafront villa at Al Naseem in Diyar Al Muharraq, following the January Thara'a Prize Account draw. This marks the final villa prize under the 2025 Thara'a campaign, which featured a series of high-value rewards aimed at encouraging consistent saving and long-term financial discipline.

Hani Ali Ebrahim was presented with the keys to his new home during a special handover ceremony held at the Al Naseem Social Hub on 11th February. The draw was conducted under the supervision of representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), alongside the Bank's internal and external auditors, ensuring complete transparency and regulatory compliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said, "Moments like these are a reminder of the real



impact thoughtful saving can have over time. We are also proud to be part of the exceptional experiences our customers celebrate. We congratulate Mr. Hani on winning the villa, and we wish all our customers the best of luck in the upcoming draws."

Upon receiving the prize, Hani Ali Ebrahim commented, "Winning this prize means a great deal to me and my family. I encourage everyone to start saving through the Thara'a account and join me as one of the lucky winners."

NBB's Thara'a Prize Account remains one of the Kingdom's premier savings programmes, offering eligible customers monthly chances to win cash and villa prizes. For every BHD 50 saved, account holders earn entries into exciting draws, with increased chances for balances maintained over three to six months. For more information about the scheme, customers may visit nbbonline.com, contact 1721 4433, access the NBB Digital Banking App, or visit any NBB branch.

Dubai airport pushes limits with record 95 million passengers

AFP | Dubai, UAE

Dubai's main airport handled a record 95.2 million passengers last year, straining capacity as it prepares to move to a new site, a statement said yesterday.

Passengers at Dubai, the world's busiest airport for international traffic, rose 3.1 percent in 2025 and included 8.7 million in December, a monthly record. Dubai International is "operating at the edge of physical

capacity while consistently delivering operational excellence", Dubai Airports said. Passenger traffic is expected to rise further to 99.5 million this year, Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths was quoted as saying.

That number could hit 115 million before the transition to Al Maktoum International on Dubai's outskirts is completed in 2032, Griffiths said in October.

The \$35 billion facility will

have an annual capacity of 150 million passengers within the next 10 years, the world's biggest, eventually scaling up to 260 million. Dubai, the oil-rich United Arab Emirates' trade and commercial centre, is well placed as an air hub serving

flights between Africa, Asia and Europe. Dubai ranked top for international traffic and second for total passengers behind Atlanta in 2024, according to the latest figures provided by Airports Council International.

RHF Unveils New Customer Service Headquarters and Digital Platform



Eng. Ibrahim Dalhan Al Dosari, Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), has inaugurated the Foundation's new Customer Service Center in the Seef District. Alongside the physical opening, the RHF launched the "Remote Customer Service Center" platform on its official website. This initiative aims to modernize service delivery and enhance the experience for beneficiaries through both physical and digital channels. The new headquarters features specialized offices for senior citizens and people of determination, private suites for client confidentiality, and a dedicated children's area. Simultaneously, the digital platform allows citizens to virtually manage humanitarian aid requests, orphan and widow sponsorships, and appointment bookings. Ms. Amina Sultan Al Binali, Head of the Center, noted that this digital shift aligns with Bahrain's national strategy for institutional transformation. By integrating advanced facilities with virtual accessibility, the RHF continues to streamline procedures and provide efficient, compassionate support to the community.

Civil Defense Holds Safety Seminar for EWA Employees



The General Directorate of Civil Defense, through its Hazardous Materials Branch, organized an introductory lecture for Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) employees today. The session coincided with the launch of the "Kingdom of Bahrain's Fire Protection and Prevention Guide," aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and safety awareness within vital facilities. The seminar specifically detailed the guide's requirements for handling hazardous materials and clarified the legal responsibilities of operational entities in implementing fire prevention protocols. This initiative reflects the Directorate's commitment to fostering a culture of proactive prevention and enhancing technical compliance across government sectors.

Bahrain Society of Investment Professionals Unveils "The New Investment Guide" for 2026



The Bahrain Society of Investment Professionals (BSIP) recently hosted "The New Investment Guide" seminar at the Gulf Hotel, outlining the financial roadmap for 2026. The event gathered industry leaders to discuss the digital economy, alternative investments, and the shifting concepts of asset management. Jeff Stieske, CEO of Rain, highlighted 2026 as a year of maturity for digital assets, noting that global regulatory clarity has transformed them into a recognized asset class. Meanwhile, Issa Ahmed Al-Dosari, Vice Chairman of Tanmou, showcased Bahrain's thriving startup ecosystem, which has reached a market value of \$1.2 billion with a 40% annual growth rate, particularly in Fintech and AI. Closing the seminar, BSIP Chairman Yousef Musayeb emphasized the need for investors to move beyond traditional methods. He pointed toward high-tech innovation and "safe havens" like gold as essential strategies for navigating 2026's economic complexities.

Nepal and Bahrain Reaffirm Diplomatic Ties in High-Level Meeting



Ambassador Tirtha Raj Wagle of Nepal recently held a productive courtesy meeting with His Excellency Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Noaimi, Bahrain's Minister of Information. This high-level encounter served as a vital platform for both officials to review the current state of diplomatic affairs and explore new opportunities for collaboration between the two nations. During the dialogue, the leaders focused on a wide array of matters of mutual interest, emphasizing a shared commitment to elevating the bilateral relationship. The discussion highlighted the importance of fostering deeper ties through socioeconomic cooperation and enhanced information exchange. Both parties expressed a strong desire to build upon existing foundations to ensure a prosperous future for both the Kingdom of Bahrain and Nepal.

Kannada Sangha Bahrain Celebrates Milestone 48th Annual Day



The Kannada Sangha Bahrain marked its 48th Annual Day with a grand celebration at the Mrs. Asha Prakash Shetty Auditorium. The event, attended by over 350 members and guests, featured a heartfelt farewell and felicitation ceremony for senior member Mr. Rajendra Hegde. Distinguished guests, including Chief Guest Mr. Jayashankar Vishwanathan and various community leaders, joined Sangha President Mr. Ajith Bangera to honor the organization's enduring legacy. The program showcased the community's rich heritage through vibrant cultural performances. Highlights included a traditional welcome dance, fusion songs by students, and a rhythmic Yaksha Natya display. In addition to the arts, the Sangha recognized athletic excellence by distributing trophies for various indoor and outdoor sports competitions. The successful gathering concluded with a communal lunch, underscoring the Sangha's vital role in fostering unity and cultural pride among the Kannada diaspora in Bahrain.



Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

WALD AHMED CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33376816 or EMANALIJASSIMALAYADHI@GMAIL.COM

OPTIMUM FACILITY MAINTENANCE W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SPRAYER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13699000 or gov@watercolorme.com

Silver Bird awnings - partnership has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310199 or EXP.SEV4@GMAIL.COM

MASHAREQ LABOR SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39973944 or N.ALKOOF162@ICLOUD.COM

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737891 or jose@projectsaccess.net

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

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

KHUSHAAH SERVICES W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33314963 or SHAHZAIB_KHUSHAL@GMAIL.COM

EBRAHIM KHALIL KANOO CO. B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262262 or HR.S@EKKANOO.COM.BH

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737891 or jose@projectsaccess.net

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NEO PACK GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36988968 or HR@UNIONGROUP.CC

PHENOM MOBILE SHOP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33302892 or ABDULLAHKT221@ICLOUD.COM

RAS RUMAN FRESH FISH MARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32047220 or ISHORBHATTARAII1990@GMAIL.COM

NASHABCO CAR GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66650888 or HA8676771@GMAIL.COM

REESHA ABAYAT has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33445500 or

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of RETAIL TRADE SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

SILVER STONE WORKSHOP FOR AC has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17442629 or EYMANAC2012@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

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or careers@bh.lulumea.com

DIAMOND. HOUSE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CEMENT FINISHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17590108 or AQEELBUSHAN76@GMAIL.COM

ALSAFWA RECRUITING MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33899353 or SALAH.ALMODAWEB@GMAIL.COM

PROJECTS ACCESS SCAFFOLDING & FORMWORK CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17737891 or jose@projectsaccess.net

DAMASCUS SALON BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17221100 or ISATHEKING2@GMAIL.COM

BBH GATE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32083818 or HK425493@GMAIL.COM

SULZER SERVICES BAHRAIN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39725445 or MARTIN STRATFORD@d-mills.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38914200 or HGGOOD8908@GMAIL.COM

KHUZDAR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3315139 or SAMIULLAH@GMAIL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3388886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMFIELD.COM

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FRISCA RESTAURANT & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38001020 or firstgroups.bh@hotmail.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

CNL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3388886 or HAMAD@SPECTRUMFIELD.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or ARAALMIN@BATELCO.COM.BH

R.B. HILTON LIMITED has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17730640 or ALTRADMEN.AIRLBAHRAIN@ALTRAD.COM

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

MANNAT GOLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38988256 or nuralkhairconstruction@gmail.com

MANNAT GOLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66622357 or SAR.NAMMARI@GMAIL.COM

All Rashid Al Amin co. b. s.c. - closed has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17732200 or ARAALMIN@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33500974 or RILWAN25@GMAIL.COM

KIRANDEEP SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37476000 or ASADM6607@GAMIL.COM

SHUMS TAHER GENERAL TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39869021 or SHUMSTAHERAL@GMAIL.COM

ALKHAJA MODERN TEXTILES has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17343951 or GBDBOY@GMAIL.COM

BAWAREJ CONTRACTING CO.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13118898 or bawarej.bh@gmail.com

CELEBRITY EMPIRE SALOON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39422733 or AB-DULLAALJAWAD@HOTMAIL.COM

AZENTIO SOFTWARE BAHRAIN LIMITED W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36023600 or VKTHOMAS@BATELCO.COM.BH

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

GLITTER LI LI SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32211866 or ALIISA@ALNOOHWD.COM

AL MANAR BAKERIES has a vacancy for the occupation of SANBUSA MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722722 or almanarbakery@almanarbakery.com

Tap Payments Company B.S.C. Closed has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER(ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33224844 or INVOICE.BH@TAP.COMPANY

NAPCO NATIONAL COMPANY FOR GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (PROJECT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17762222 or TONY.ABIRAMIA@NAPCOGROUP.COM

ENJAZ PLUS FOR COMPETING OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39411716 or ENJAZPLUS.BH@GMAIL.COM

A AS G Trading Company W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17702700 or admin@ue-trading.biz

FAKHRI TRAVEL AND TOURISM CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAVEL AGENT(TICKETING & RESERVATION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345400 or FAKHRI3@BATELCO.COM.BH

PLAN FUTURE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17295050 or MADEEF-HA@LANDMARKBAHRAIN.COM

SMALCO CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUC-

TION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33040002 or smalco.bh@hotmail.com

RAHMAN JEWELLERY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34453238 or CH.AB-KHAN96@GMAIL.COM

DELO CAR CARE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33877123 or JANAT-MARTWLL@GMAIL.COM

NINU EVENT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34730101 or DREAMYES444@GMAIL.COM

SADEQ HASAN ABBAS GHULOOM REDHA has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38914200 or HGGOOD8908@GMAIL.COM

KHUZDAR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3315139 or SAMIULLAH@GMAIL.COM

MANNAT GOLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38988256 or nuralkhairconstruction@gmail.com

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YAHYA DENIM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33510897 or HAYADENIM@GMAIL.COM

RICH HOUSE REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13355111 or IRFAN_RASHEED@GMAIL.COM

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

ARAB SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR YARD CO.) ASRY has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or duaimjalkhalifa@ASRY.NET

NANO CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33633360 or YALLA-MUTABAQ@GMAIL.COM

ABU FATEMA SALE OF SECOND HAND GOODS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33309216 or abof5094@gmail.com

SYED EISA FACILITIES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33951135 or TM5308736@GMAIL.COM

GLOSSIFY AUTO CAR WASH CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER (GARAGE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66978531 or GLOSSIFYBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

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

MORNING SITE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17232527 or morning-sitebahrain@gmail.com

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

VITARO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

AL AREEN LEISURE AND TOURISM CO THE LOST PARADISE OF DILMUN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17645151 or ADNAN.ASLAM@LPODWATER-PARK.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@GMAIL.COM

BLUE STAR COLD STORE has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38800524 or SABAADING6@GMAIL.COM

ULTRA DISCOUNT SOLUTIONS CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37972967 or DISCOUNTSHOP973@GMAIL.COM

USAMA BLOSSOM BRIGHT SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37143431 or MARIYASIKANDAR90@GMAIL.COM

SPARK FLY REAL ESTATE BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33515042 or WADOCUMENTS.BH@GMAIL.COM

QUALITY WIRE PRODUCTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874000 or hr@qualitywire.com.bn

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STEEL FABRICATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674319 or DUAIMJALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

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

Call us on +973 36458394
email : advt@newsofbahrain.com

33500974 or RILWAN25@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

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@GMAIL.COM

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

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VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

AUTORENT CAR RENTAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32285577 or ALSAADI@BIGH.COM

VALO AVIATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of AIR TRANSPORT PILOT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552808 or JASSIM@BATELCO.COM.BH

Shadow Tech Advertising Co.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456268 or SHADOTECHADV@GMAIL.COM

CULLINAN TRADING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34484408 or BUSINESSPOINT.BM@GMAIL.COM

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

COYOTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33768106 or AQIB.1221989@GMAIL.COM

NEMCO BUILDING CLEANING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38814230 or CHSHAFIQ581@GMAIL.COM

ROFIQL ISLAM INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GYPSUM CARVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3212226 or islam33859470@gmail.com

RAHMANIA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDWICHES MAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33140051 or ALJABIRIOFFICE1@GMAIL.COM

TAFCO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33502933 or Tafcobuilding@gmail.com

COBRA EGYPTIAN FASHION DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33828017 or IBRAHIMIBRAHIM1985@GMAIL.COM

KAFLAN CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119292 or Kgroup-bahrain007@gmail.com

EAT & DRINK RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17533293 or SALEHREDAH@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36020030 or M.MNAWAZ829@GMAIL.COM

TERRACE GARDEN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119292 or Kgroup-bahrain007@gmail.com

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

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

KENTUCKY has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36051050 or ssaleh@AMERICANA-FOOD.COM

CLEAR VISION OPTICAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17257400 or ACCOUNTS@CLEARVISIONME.COM

SHAHZAIB JB COMAPNY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMMID7777@GMAIL.COM

JEREH GROUP MIDDLE EAST BAHRAIN Branch of a Foreign Company has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77904677 or ZHONGSHU.GAN@JEREH.COM

RADHI HASAN ALI ALMUTAWA SMITHERY & FABRICATION has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39304330 or RADHIHASSAN303@GMAIL.COM

KRONOS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON ASST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39441273 or MKR1313@GMAIL.COM

Bahrain Electromechanical Services Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736275 or BEMCO@BATELCO.COM.BH

LA BREZZA CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36698333 or labrezza.bh@gmail.com

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

SHUMAILA CAR ACCESSORIES has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(VEHICLES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33159335 or MOHSENZAMAN90@GMAIL.COM

BREMEN CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 3889104 or FAIROOZ.R.G@GMAIL.COM

GHANI COMPUTER REPAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(COMPUTER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36008663 or ghaniswar@gmail.com

MAJESTIC HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16666601 or nafeesa@alkhazmaenterprises.com

AL KHOZAMA ENTERPRISES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAD, QUALITY MANAGEMENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17310120 or INFO@IMPERIALGROUPBH.COM

ASIF AND USMAN SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39348470 or siddiq.shabir@gmail.com

ALDAAYSI DISTRIBUTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PACKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33826320 or MARIYASIKANDAR90@GMAIL.COM

ALDAAYSI DISTRIBUTION CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAINEE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36386383 or



DUA1313766@GMAIL.COM
JASSIM AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL has a vacancy for the occupation of GARDENER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17552808 or JASSIM@BATELCO.COM.BH

Shadow Tech Advertising Co.W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17456268 or SHADOTECHADV@GMAIL.COM

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

AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCE).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com

QUICK SOLUTION BUSINESS SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36507620 or SANEEJ201450@GMAIL.COM

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

MILLENIUM CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35688880 or milleniumbh183@gmail.com

NEHLA MEDICAL CENTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MEDICAL SERVICES AIDE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77926668 or WCMCBahrain@GMAIL.COM

MENTICS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33125626 or INOVATEDGE@GMAIL.COM

THE ISLAMABAD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33867547 or ATIQPAKBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

MC6 INDUSTRIAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of EMPLOYEE(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17402050 or operation@mcsix.me

BDC MANPOWER SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(PACKER), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17180530 or mona.alnokheda@bas.com.bh

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

GOLTENS BAHRAIN CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC(SHIPS ENGINE ROOM), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466145 or JEYANTHAN@GOLTENS.COM

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

SIDRA TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34156666 or HELPLINEBH888@GMAIL.COM

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AUBH Celebrates Cultures of Over 20 Countries at its International Day



Manama

The American University of Bahrain hosted its International Day on campus, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Diana Abdulkarim Al Jahromi, Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, along with their Excellencies the ambassadors of several countries. The event also welcomed over 2000 visitors.

This year's festivities brought together representatives from over 20 countries across several continents, featuring dedicated pavilions for various nations. Several embassies took part in the event, supporting cultural showcases and performances that highlighted the distinct traditions and heritage of their nations.

Guests experienced a blend of international flavors, traditional craftsmanship, and cultural



attire, creating an immersive journey through the world's diverse identities within the heart of the AUBH campus.

The one-day event provided a dynamic platform for intercultural exchange, fostering connections among people of different nationalities and enhancing students' cultural awareness. The event encouraged positive engagement across cultures, reinforcing values of mutual respect and openness.

Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the American University of Bahrain, said: "AUBH extends beyond the traditional role of an educational institution by serving as a vibrant hub for cultural dialogue and community connection. Initiatives like International Day are essential to expanding global awareness and encouraging genuine openness, enriching the perspectives of both students and the wider community."

This reflects the American University of Bahrain's mission to promote coexistence and mutual respect," said Dr. Almansoori.

The event was graciously sponsored by Almoayyed Motors and the Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), in partnership with Mumtalakat. Raffle sponsors included etc Café and Reviive Café, while media partners for the event were Gulf Insider and LocalBH.

Lando Norris visits American School of Bahrain for Student Session



The American School of Bahrain hosted Lando Norris from the McLaren Formula 1 Team at their campus in Riffa on 9th February, for a special student-focused engagement session. The event featured a Q&A session, signed memorabilia, and a raffle sponsored by Mumtalakat, offering exclusive McLaren merchandise and Formula 1 tickets. The event was attended by several VIP guests, including Mumtalakat's CEO, Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa. The visit concluded with a group photo and a student selfie taken by Lando Norris, which he also shared on his official Instagram account.

Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School Grade 8 Students Experience Naval Excellence aboard INS Surat in Bahrain

Manama

Students of Grade 8 from Bhavans- Bahrain Indian School (BIS) embarked on an extraordinary educational visit to INS Surat at Mina Salman, Bahrain, an experience that seamlessly blended academic enrichment with patriotic inspiration.

The visit was graciously organised by the Embassy of India in Bahrain as part of its continued efforts to foster meaningful engagement between students and national institutions.

INS Surat, a state-of-the-art guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy, offered students an immersive glimpse into the technological sophistication and operational precision that underpins India's maritime defence capabilities.

The young learners were given an exclusive, close-up exposure to the vessel's ad-

vanced navigation, surveillance, and combat systems, gaining valuable insights into modern naval architecture and defence technology.

Naval officers conducted an engaging orientation session, sharing first-hand perspectives on life at sea, the rigours of naval training, and the values of discipline, leadership, and teamwork that define the Armed Forces. The interactive question-and-answer segment sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among students, many of whom expressed a new-found interest in exploring careers in the Navy and defence services.

The visit was further distinguished by the warm hospitality extended by the officers and crew of INS Surat. Students were treated to refreshments and presented with commem-

orative souvenirs, making the occasion both memorable and meaningful.

Speaking on the occasion, the school management expressed their profound appreciation to the Embassy of India and the Indian Navy for facilitating such a transformative learning

opportunity. They emphasised that experiential learning initiatives of this nature significantly broaden students' horizons, nurturing civic responsibility, global awareness, and national pride.

The educational excursion concluded on a high note, leav-

ing students inspired, informed, and deeply respectful of the dedication and valour of the Indian Armed Forces. The visit to INS Surat stands as a testament to BIS's commitment to providing holistic, real-world learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom.



BIC to begin welcoming fans today for Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing

● BIC's gates to be open from 11am to 7pm on all four open days to fans

● Tickets to each open day of the F1 tests cost BD10 for adults and BD5 for children

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', begins welcoming the public on Thursday (Editor's note: 12 February) for Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026.

Thursday will be the first of four open days to fans, who will be the first in the world to witness in person the next generation of F1 cars in action ahead of the start of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

The six-day tests got underway today at BIC. They have been split into two three-day sessions, with the first continuing until tomorrow and the next taking place from 18 to 20 February.

Friday's action will also be open to the public, as will the test days on 19 and 20 February.

BIC's gates are scheduled to open at 11am and close at 7pm on all four days.

F1's superstar drivers and their teams are already busy trying to maximise their track running and gather valuable data ahead of the top flight's highly anticipated 'new era', featuring a host of transformative new regulations around a brand-new, more agile F1 car.

All 11 F1 teams are in the Kingdom and the open days will also be the first opportunity for fans in Bahrain and worldwide to see the brand-new Cadillac F1 Team on track, joining reigning Constructors'



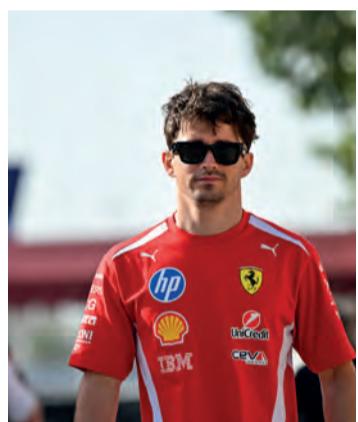
F1 drivers with Fernando Alonso and Gabriel Bortoleto in front



Max Verstappen and Kimi Antonelli



Lewis Hamilton



Charles Leclerc



Lando Norris



George Russell

World Champions McLaren, Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull Racing, Williams, Haas, Racing Bulls, Aston Martin, Alpine, and Audi for their debut season in motorsport's top flight.

All those attending testing will also be able to enjoy a series of off-track attractions, including dynamic racing simulators, a Batak reaction game, and a stick catching game.

The racing simulators offer motorsport enthusiasts the chance to step into the world of speed and adrenaline and feel every turn and acceleration along an F1 track in a virtual setting.

The Batak and stick catching games will be putting fans' reflexes to the test, challenging hand-and-eye coordination in a pair of activities that F1's super-

star drivers practice regularly to keep their skills razor sharp.

Aside from these, fans visiting BIC will also have the chance to see a display of the new 2026 F1 car in its special Bahrain livery.

Tickets per the open days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 cost BD10 for adults and BD5 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 before 8 September last year.

To buy tickets or to get more information, visit the circuit's official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

BIC is also offering exclusive hospitality packages during the tests, featuring the best views of the action along with incredible, five-star cuisine and beverage selection. The hospitality lounge is located right above the F1 pit lane. Full details on BIC's hospitality offerings are available on

bahraingp.com. The packages can be booked online or by calling +973-17451086.

This year's F1 pre-season tests mark the sixth consecutive year that Sakhir is hosting F1's most important preparation period ahead of the new world championship. Testing was first held in Bahrain in 2009 and then again in 2014. They have since taken place in Bahrain each year from 2021.

The pre-season tests will pave the way for the start of the new season in Australia from 6 to 8 March. The F1 battles will continue with races in China and Japan before heading to the Kingdom for the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain

Grand Prix 2026 from 10 to 12 April – the fourth round of the 24-race world championship.

Tickets to the grand prix weekend are selling fast, with seats to the Turn 1 Grandstand already completely sold out and the Main Grandstand already 98 per cent sold. Tickets are also selling out quickly for the Beyon Grandstand, University Grandstand, and Victory Grandstand.

To buy tickets or for more information on F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026, the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, or on other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit on social media.

Al Khaldiya Leave It Late to Reclaim Summit

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Al Khaldiya returned to the top of the Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League table yesterday after a dramatic 1-0 win over Al Shabab, settled by a 90th-minute strike from substitute Mohammed Al Romaihi. The victory was achieved despite the absence of key attacking threat Anas Ouahim, one of the team's attacking threats.

In a contest short on clear-cut chances, both sides initially struggled to break each other down. Al Khaldiya, under Tunisian head coach Lassad Al Chabbi, controlled possession for long periods and fashioned the better openings, but found Al Shabab disciplined and compact in defence.

Al Shabab, led by Mohammed Almuqla, battled hard despite their position at the foot of the table. They limited space between the lines and threatened occasionally on the counter, yet rarely tested goalkeeper Ricardo Silva in a meaningful way.

The breakthrough arrived at



Al Khaldiya's Mohammed Al Romaihi celebrates his winner at the death against Al Shabab

the death. After a failed clearance by the Al Shabab defence, Al Romaihi was played through in space and timed his run to perfection to avoid the offside trap. The Bahrain international, introduced from the bench,

showed composure as he ran in behind and struck a low left-footed finish into the far corner.

There was a lengthy VAR check for offside, adding to the tension inside the stadium, but the goal was eventually confirmed, prompting relief among the Al Khaldiya players and bench.

The result lifts Al Khaldiya to 33 points, level with Muharraq but back at the summit courtesy of their superior head-to-head record. Muharraq sit second on the same points tally, while Riffa remain in contention just behind.

For Al Shabab, the defeat leaves them rooted to the bottom in 12th place with six points, as their difficult season continues.

League action continues today with Al Ahli facing A'ali at 7pm at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Stadium. Matchday 14 concludes on Saturday when Al Najma meet Sitra at 4:45pm at the same venue, before Bahrain Club take on Budaiya at 7pm at Khalifa Sports City.

Spurs sack Frank after miserable eight-month reign

AFP | London

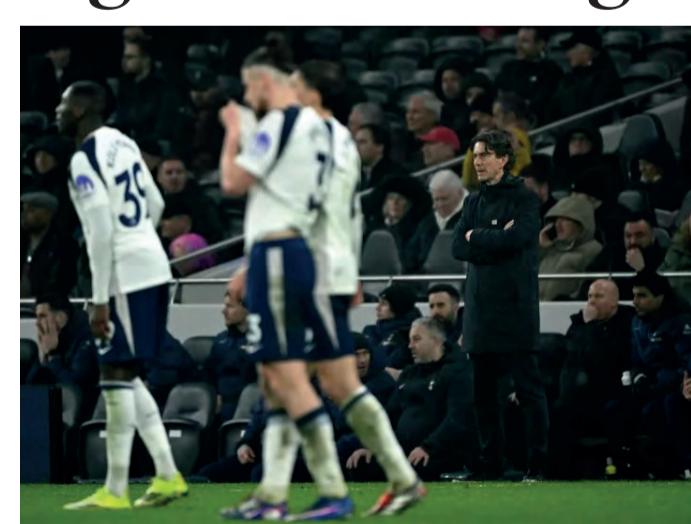
Tottenham Hotspur have sacked head coach Thomas Frank after less than eight months in charge following a 2-1 defeat at home to Newcastle on Tuesday, which left them a mere five points above the Premier League relegation zone.

The north London side are 16th in the table and without a win in their past eight Premier League games -- their worst such run since October 2008.

Spurs have won just two of their past 17 league matches and collected only 12 points in that time.

Frank, 52, replaced Ange Postecoglou, who was dismissed in June just over two weeks after leading Spurs to victory in the Europa League final.

The club hailed the former Brentford boss as "one of the most progressive and innovative head coaches within the



Tottenham Hotspur's Danish head coach Thomas Frank reacts in the closing minutes

game" when they announced the Dane's appointment on a three-year deal.

"Thomas was appointed in June 2025, and we have been determined to give him the time and support needed to build for the future together.

Norris fastest on Test opening day

McLaren's Lando Norris sets pace as Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 flags off at BIC

Reigning F1 Drivers' World Champion clocks day one's fastest time of 1min 34.669secs

Bahrain's six days of F1 testing to continue Thursday and Friday at BIC as part of first of two three-day sessions

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', kicked off Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 today, with defending F1 Drivers' World Champion Lando Norris topping the day one timesheet.

Norris set a fastest lap time of 1min 34.669secs in his MCL40 contender for back-to-back F1 Constructors' World Champions McLaren. He clocked his mark during the evening session, held under BIC's bright, state-of-the-art floodlights and in cool evening conditions.

Bahrain is hosting six days of the pre-season tests as F1's 11 teams and their star drivers get acclimated to the new generation F1 cars – a product of the biggest rule changes in the top flight's history, which will be coming into effect in the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

The tests at BIC mark the first opportunity for F1 fans in Bahrain and worldwide to see the challengers in action on track.

Norris set the first day's pace



while registering 58 laps of running after sharing the driving duties with teammate Oscar Piastri, who tested in the morning.

Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen in his RB22 car followed 0.129secs behind, while Charles Leclerc in his Ferrari SF-26 was classified third quickest 0.521s back. Esteban Ocon of Haas ranked fourth in his VF-26 0.909s from the top, while Piastri was fifth 0.933s adrift.

Sixth through 10th, respectively, today were George Russell (+1.439s) in his Mercedes F1 W17, Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton (+1.764s), Alpine's Pierre Gasly (+2.096s) behind the wheel of his A526, Audi's Nico Hulkenberg (+2.192s) in his R26, and

Alexander Albon (+2.768s) in

Williams's FW48.

Completing today's timesheet were Mercedes's Kimi Anttonelli (+2.960s), F1 rookie Arvid Lindblad (+3.276s) in Racing Bulls's VCARB 03, Williams's Carlos Sainz (+3.552s), Sergio Perez (+4.159s) in the Cadillac CA01, Audi's Gabriel Bortolotto (+4.202s), Cadillac's Valtteri Bottas (+4.481s), Lance Stroll (+5.214s) in Aston Martin's AMR26, and Alpine's Franco Cicali (+5.661s).

Earlier today, Verstappen was quickest heading into the hour-long afternoon break. He posted a best time in the morning session of 1:35.433, which he later improved on.

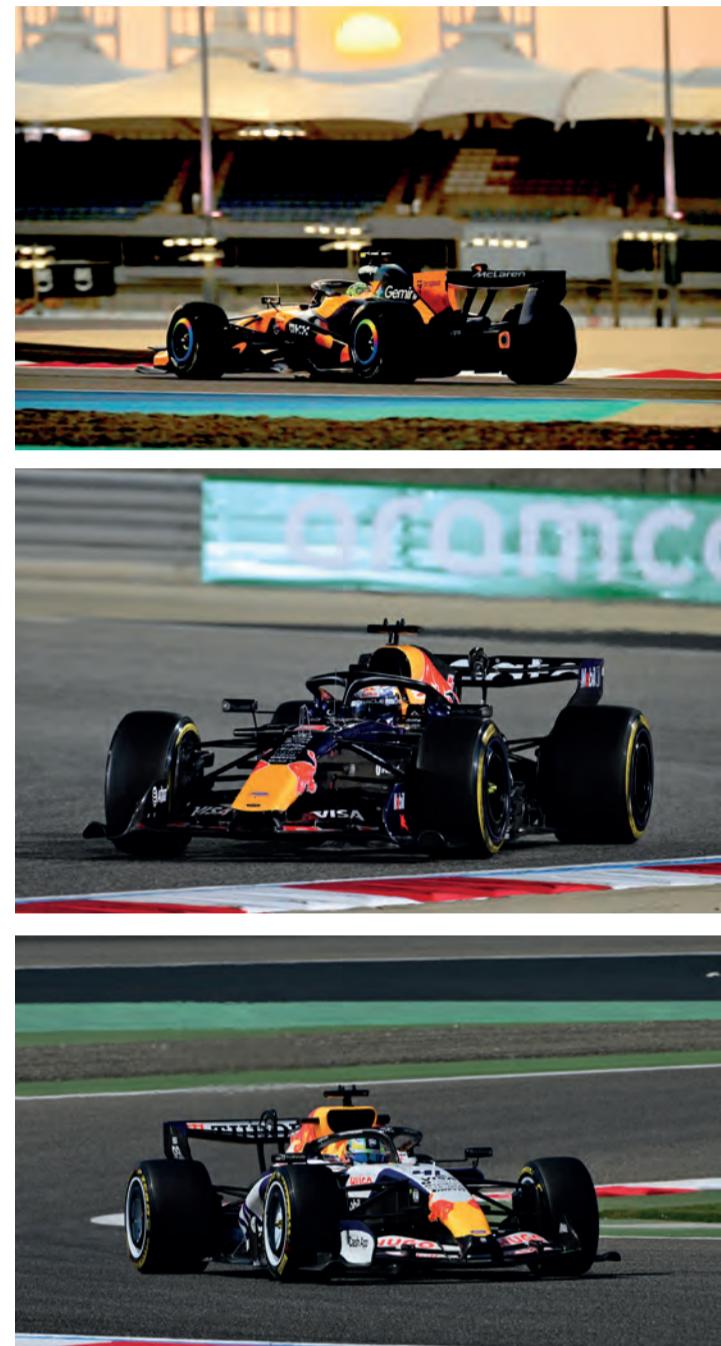
The six days of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 are

being held in two three-day sessions. The first continues until Friday (Editor's note: 13 February), to be followed by the second three days of testing from 18 to 20 February.

On-track action on each day is from 10am to 7pm, with the morning runs from 10am to 2pm and evening testing from 3pm to 7pm.

Thursday and Friday will see BIC welcoming fans to watch the tests. Gates are scheduled to open from 11am to 7pm. Tickets cost BD10 for adults and BD5 for children on each day.

To buy tickets or for more information on F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.



Coach Mashaan: Pressure Creates Diamonds

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Tomorrow's 2025-2026 HH Khalid bin Hamad Cup final will see Riffa face league champions Muharraq in the second edition of the tournament. Both sides addressed the local media yesterday at the Bahrain Football Association Headquarters, providing insight into their preparations and expectations ahead of the match.

Muharraq were first to face the press, with Portuguese head coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos joined by midfielder Hardan

Mohammed Hardan. Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Santos reflected on their dramatic 4-3 semi-final win over Sitra, during which the Red Wolves played much of the match with 10 men. "It was not easier playing with ten. The team defended well and created chances, but sometimes you miss opportunities and do not win. That game motivated us for future matches, but this is different, it is a final. Small details will decide the winner," he said. Santos also confirmed that Amine Bennadi will be absent due to injury, requiring adjustments to the squad. Hardan

highlighted the team's approach and mindset ahead of the final. "It is important to stay focused and professional. We respect Riffa and know it will be a competitive match, but we are prepared," he said.

Riffa held their press conference later in the day, with head coach Mohammed Mashaan and midfielder Ali Haram addressing the media. Mashaan framed the final as an opportunity for the team to complete a mission of redemption after last season's heartbreak against Al Khaldiya. "Every game carries pressure, it is part of life. Even league

matches feel like finals because a single slip can change standings. Our response to last year's defeat is simple: win this one," he said.

Riffa will be without fullback Hussain Al Eker due to injury, but Haram stressed that the match is finely balanced. "It is 50-50. The team that stays most focused and disciplined will have the advantage," he said.

The path to the final has added extra significance for Riffa. They secured a 2-0 semi-final victory over Al Khaldiya, the team that denied them the inaugural cup last season. Goals from Samuel Toscas and Sayed Hashim Isa



Riffa's head coach Mohammed Mashaan and midfielder Ali Haram speaking at yesterday's press conference

not only sealed their place in the final, but also gave the squad a psychological boost as they pursue redemption. Meanwhile, Muharraq's 4-3 semi-final win, despite being down to ten men, underlined their resilience and attacking quality.

Tomorrow's final carries more than silverware. Victory will provide momentum and confidence in the Nasser Bin Hamad Premier League title race, while the losing side will need to regroup for the remainder of the season.