

The top 100 institutions that have employed the most Bahrainis in 2025



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HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Kingdom's leading citizen employers



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday met with representatives of the top 100 institutions that have employed the most Bahrainis in 2025, at Gudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness highlighted that creating quality job opportunities for Bahrainis remains a priority, implemented through programmes and initiatives that strengthen national workforce participation in the Kingdom's development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister reaffirmed the national commitment to continuing to invest in social services that support Bahraini citizens.

His Royal Highness emphasised that the private sector is a key partner and driver in achieving the Kingdom's economic development goals, particularly through creating jobs for Bahrainis and enhancing the labour market to meet the Kingdom's aspirations.

In implementation of His Royal Highness' directive to the Ministry of Labour, three job opportunities were offered to all job seekers registered with the Ministry, with 5,078 citizens employed under the initiative to date. These outcomes have played a vital role towards strengthening the Kingdom's labour market for the last year, which showed that 26,963 Bahrainis were employed, achieving 108% of the annual target of employing 25,000 Bahrainis annually. New entrants to the labour market reached 9,149 Bahrainis, representing 114% of the annual target of having 8,000 new Bahrainis entering the labour market.

Additionally, the Cabinet tasked the Ministry of Labour with increasing efforts that aim to employ 25,000 Bahrainis during 2026,

ensuring that 10,000 of these are new entrants to the labour market during the same year, through strengthening existing partnership and cooperation with the private sector.

His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation to all the companies and institutions for their contributions in employing Bahrainis, commending their cooperation and affirming that they are an essential part of Team Bahrain, thanks to their support of all programmes that serve the interests of the Kingdom and its citizens.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad expressed his pride in the ongoing and longstanding partnership between the public and private sectors, which has historically contributed to strengthening the Kingdom's development.

His Royal Highness stressed the importance of continuing this collaboration to further advance the Kingdom's development and deliver tangible benefits for the Kingdom and its citizens.

For their part, the owners of the companies and institutions present expressed their gratitude for His Royal Highness's support of the private sector and his commitment to strengthening public-private sector partnerships to achieve the Kingdom's aspirations.

His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, and several senior officials also attended the meeting.

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Key partner in PROGRESS

HRH Prince Salman highlights public-private partnerships to deliver 'tangible benefits' for citizens



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Kingdom's leading citizen employers

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday underscored the importance of continued collaboration between the public and private sectors to advance the Kingdom's development and deliver tangible benefits for its citizens.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the top 100 institutions employing the most Bahrainis in 2025, HRH Prince Salman said: "The private sector is a key partner and driver in achieving the Kingdom's economic development goals, particularly through creating jobs for Bahrainis and enhancing the labour market."

Commitment

During the gathering at Gudaibiya Palace, His Royal Highness also reaffirmed the national commitment to investing in social services that support Bahraini citizens, noting:



"Creating quality job opportunities for Bahrainis remains a priority, implemented through programmes and initiatives that strengthen national workforce participation in the Kingdom's development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa."

Highlighting the success of labour market initiatives, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister praised the partnership between the public and private sectors, adding, "The ongoing and longstanding collaboration has historically contributed

to strengthening the Kingdom's development and improving the lives of our citizens."

The meeting also reviewed the outcomes of the Ministry of Labour's initiatives, which provided three job opportunities to all registered job seekers, resulting in 5,078 citizens being employed to date.

Target

Overall, 26,963 Bahrainis were employed in 2025, surpassing the annual target of 25,000 by 108 per cent.

New entrants to the labour market

reached 9,149, exceeding the target of 8,000 by 114 per cent.

The Cabinet has tasked the Ministry of Labour with further efforts to employ 25,000 Bahrainis in 2026, including 10,000 new entrants, by strengthening cooperation with the private sector.

His Royal Highness commended the companies for their contributions, describing them as "an essential part of Team Bahrain" and thanking them for supporting programmes that serve the Kingdom and its citizens.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister; His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa; H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy; and several senior officials.

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"The private sector is a key partner and driver in achieving the Kingdom's economic development goals, particularly through creating jobs for Bahrainis and enhancing the labour market."

— HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Repression of protests

EU eyes sanctions on Iran over violent crackdown

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU is "looking into" imposing additional sanctions on Iran over the repression of protests convulsing the country, the bloc said yesterday.

"We stand ready to propose new, more severe sanctions following the violent crackdown on protesters," EU spokesman

Anouar El Anouni said.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper called for an end to the Iranian authorities' violent crackdown of a wave of nationwide protests that has killed at least 648 people.

"The killing & brutal repression of peaceful protesters in Iran is horrific," Cooper said on X.

"I have spoken to (Iranian) Foreign Minister (Abbas) Araghi and told him directly: the Iranian government must immediately end the violence, uphold fundamental rights and freedoms, and ensure British nationals are safe," she said.



This video grab that first appeared online on January 10, 2026 shows the courtyard of the Forensic Diagnostic and Laboratory Center of Tehran Province in Kahrizak with dozens of bodies in body bags laid out for family members. (AFP)

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced "state violence" targeting Iranian protesters.

"I condemn the state violence that indiscriminately targets Iranian women and men who courageously demand respect for their rights," Macron wrote on X.

"Respect for fundamental freedoms is a universal requirement, and we stand alongside those who defend them," he added.

At least 648 protesters have been killed in the crackdown by Iranian security forces on a protest movement that has shak-

en the Islamic republic, Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) said yesterday, warning the actual toll could be far higher.

"The international community has a duty to protect civilian protesters against mass killing by the Islamic republic," said IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, commenting on the new tally of deaths.

IHR said that "according to some estimates more than 6,000 may have been killed", but warned that the almost four-day internet blackout imposed by the Iranian authorities makes it "extremely difficult to independently verify these reports".



Hiring milestone

Cabinet reports 26,963 citizens employed, achieving 108 per cent annual target

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet has reported that 26,963 Bahrainis were employed over the past year, achieving 108 per cent of the annual target, underscoring strong progress in national employment initiatives.

The milestone was highlighted during the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, at Gudaibiya Palace, as part of a broader review of labour market performance and government priorities.

Building on this progress, the Cabinet reviewed the outcomes of directives issued by HRH Prince Salman to offer three job opportunities to every registered Bahraini job seeker by the end of 2025.

Initiative

The initiative has resulted in job offers being extended to all registered job seekers, with 5,078 citizens employed so far.

New entrants to the labour market reached 9,149 Bahrainis, representing 114 per cent of the annual target, while training programmes exceeded expectations by achieving 150 per cent of planned outcomes.

The Cabinet tasked the Min-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet Meeting

istry of Labour with intensifying efforts to employ 25,000 Bahrainis in 2026, including 10,000 new entrants, in cooperation with the private sector.

Strategy

In parallel, the Cabinet commended the approval of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen)'s 2026-2030 strategy, presented by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court and Chairman of Tamkeen.

It also praised the Fund's 2025 achievements, which in-

cluded supporting more than 52,700 Bahrainis and enterprises through programmes focused on labour market integration, career development, business growth, and digitalisation.

The Cabinet welcomed His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Royal Order designating 2026 as the "Year of Isa Al Kabeer," in honour of the founder of the modern Bahraini state and the architect of its institutional development.

Steps

Government entities were



The Cabinet praised Tamkeen's 2025 achievements, which included supporting more than 52,700 Bahrainis and enterprises through programmes focused on labour market integration, career development, business growth, and digitalisation.

directed to take the necessary steps to commemorate His Highness Isa Al Kabeer's legacy of stability and institution-building.

The meeting also marked Bahrain Diplomatic Day, with ministers highlighting the Kingdom's diplomatic achievements, before approving a series of resolutions and strategies covering government restructuring, peaceful nuclear energy use, cultural heritage cooperation with the US, aviation planning, and the legislative agenda for 2026.

Bahrain-Kuwait ties go beyond 'formal diplomacy'



H.E. Gen. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with the Kuwait Amir, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah

Kuwait

His Excellency Gen. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, underscored the deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and Kuwait.

He praised sustained joint efforts to enhance cooperation and integration, particularly in the field of security, during high-level meetings held in Kuwait yesterday.

H.E. Shaikh Rashid and the accompanying delegation were received yesterday by His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, at Bayan Palace General.

Commitment

The visit, the Minister said, reflects the shared commitment of both countries to safeguarding regional security and reinforcing Gulf unity.

During talks with HH Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad and senior Kuwaiti officials, H.E. Gen. Shaikh Rashid emphasised that the relationship between the two countries goes beyond formal diplomacy.

"Bahrain takes pride in the longstanding and firmly rooted relations that unite the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait across various fields," he said.

He reaffirmed Bahrain's unwavering support for Kuwait, adding: "The Kingdom stands by Kuwait – its leadership and its people – in all that preserves its security, stability and sovereignty, within the framework

of maintaining Gulf unity and strengthening GCC solidarity."

The Interior Minister also held discussions with Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Kuwait, focusing on expanding security coordination and operational integration.

Highlighting the progress already achieved, H.E. Gen. Shaikh Rashid noted: "We are proud of the advanced level of security cooperation and coordination reached between our two countries, which stems from the depth of our historical ties and the shared vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait."

He added that both sides view the partnership as a foundation for addressing evolving security challenges in the region.

H.E. Gen. Shaikh Rashid said Bahrain aspires to further strengthen cooperation through the exchange of expertise, joint training, operational capacity-building and security exercises.

"There is a clear aspiration to activate the work of the Joint Security Committee and to further develop the memorandum of understanding between our two interior ministries," he said.

The Interior Minister also expressed confidence that the visit would mark "an exceptional and constructive step in the course of security cooperation and coordination."

Focus on education progress and strategy



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 56th meeting of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training. During the meeting, the Council reviewed progress on the development of the Bahrain Polytechnic, education in public schools, academic programmes, as well as advancements in the implementation of the Education and Training Strategy.

Protecting children from online risks and cyber threats

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

"We must strengthen Arab collective action and support national institutions in protecting children from cyberbullying to privacy violations," said Samar Al-Hajj Hassan, President of the National Center for Human Rights in Jordan, during a conference held in Bahrain."

The Annual Conference of the ANNHRI and 25th General Assembly titled "Protecting Children in the Digital Space: Challenges, Legislation & Preventive Measures" was held yesterday at the Diplomat Hotel, bringing together ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, heads of Arab human rights institutions, and representatives of the United Nations.

His Excellency Eng. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, Chairper-



H.E. Mr. Osama bin Saleh Al-Alawi, H.E. Eng. Ali Ahmed Al-Derazi, H.E. Mrs. Samar Al-Hajj Hassan, and H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Hassan Al-Jamali with other attendees

son of the NIHR in Bahrain and Chairperson of ANNHRI, said: "This conference provides a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices in safeguarding children in the digital space and to strengthen the efforts of the Arab Network."

Meanwhile, H.E. Mr. Osama

Social Development and Chairman of the National Committee for Childhood in Bahrain, stated: "Our National Childhood Strategy and the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Law ensure that every child can grow up in a safe and supportive digital and physical environment."

The recent conference on

child digital safety in Bahrain emphasized the urgent need to protect children in today's rapidly evolving online environment.

Today's children grow up immersed in digital games, social media, and unrestricted content. These challenges pose unique legal and procedural difficulties, especially in tracking and ad-

dressing offenses across borders.

Speakers highlighted the multiple risks children face online, including sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, online harassment, and fraud through digital platforms and games.

These challenges pose unique legal and procedural difficulties, especially in tracking and ad-

dressing offenses across borders. The conference also stressed the importance of awareness campaigns and education for both children and parents.

Experts agreed that collaboration between legal institutions, law enforcement, and families is crucial to ensure a safe digital space.

Online

Creating a secure online environment requires combining legislation, technology, and education to effectively safeguard children in the digital era.

Children face growing online risks from cyberbullying and hacking to inappropriate content and scams.

Protecting them requires parental guidance, digital literacy, clear boundaries, regular privacy checks, and open communication to ensure a safe and healthy digital environment.

Verdict set for social development centre director for embezzlement

● Appeals court schedules hearing on 19 January

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's High Criminal Court of Appeal has scheduled 19 January for the attendance and swearing-in of a court-appointed expert in the appeal against the conviction of the director of a centre affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development.

The defendant was sentenced to a total of 15 years in prison, fined, ordered to repay more than BD500,000, and had funds linked to the offences confiscated.

Donations

He was convicted of collecting donations without a licence, misappropriating the funds and laundering the proceeds.

A second defendant was sentenced to one year in prison.

The court also sentenced the first defendant to 10 years' imprisonment for offences related to the illegal collection and misappropriation of donations, ordering him to repay BD192,000, fining him an equivalent amount, and confiscating BD89,000.

He received an additional five-year sentence, a BD100,000 fine and the confiscation of BD97,000 in connection with money laundering charges.

On trial over SIM swap theft of BD2,490 through money transfer app

● Court verdict set for 24 January

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man accused of using a replacement SIM card to get into a money transfer app and drain BD2,490 from his employer's bank account is facing trial, with judges due to rule on 24 January.

The defendant, 36, is still at large.

Prosecutors say the man took advantage of the company owner being out of Bahrain after being trusted with handling limited company matters.

The complainant is a 42-year-old Gulf national who owns a company and is often in another Gulf country.

Authorisation

The owner told investigators he had given the defendant a limited authorisation linked to running some parts of the business in Bahrain.

Government moves to strengthen oversight, penalties and accountability mechanisms

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

An urgent government-drafted bill will go before Parliament today, changing Bahrain's rules for external auditors by raising the bar for who can practise.

The proposed legislation will also give the ministry stronger checks and penalties, while replacing the current disciplinary body with an 'Account Auditors Accountability Council'.

The draft law, sent with Royal Decree No. 76 of 2025, amends Decree-Law No. 15 of 2021.

Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has recommended approval in principle after meetings with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Central Bank of



Ahmed Al Salloom, Chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

Bahrain, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and The Bahrain Accountants & Auditors Association (BAAA).

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce told the committee the rush was driven by the need to update auditing rules in line with international standards,

clear up ambiguity in some provisions, and strengthen transparency, independence and accountability.

It said the changes aim to im-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

prove audit work and financial reporting, while keeping responsibility for building and running internal control systems with company management.

A key change is who can register as a practising external auditor.

The bill would require a valid professional accounting certification, alongside conduct and experience conditions.

For non-Bahrainis, it adds further requirements, including proof that they remain eligible

to practise in the country where they previously worked.

It also gives the minister more say over how experience is counted, including experience gained outside Bahrain.

The committee has also backed changing Article 10 to add a Bahrainisation requirement for branches of foreign audit firms registered in Bahrain.

Under the committee's wording, those branches must employ Bahraini external auditors at a ratio no lower than the level set

by the Cabinet, based on a ministerial proposal and coordination with the competent authorities.

Rules on changing auditors are also revised by drawing a clearer line between non-listed companies and listed entities.

For non-listed companies, the auditor would be appointed for one financial year, renewable, while the lead auditor responsible for the work and the final report must be changed at most every five years.

The Central Bank of Bahrain keeps its role in setting the rules for choosing auditors for financial institutions, and the committee has recommended that the text also cover listed companies.

The bill rewrites what auditors must report.

They would have to include serious breaches found during an audit that affect a company's activity or financial position, and tell the audit committee, where one exists under the Commercial Companies Law, or those in charge of governance, about other serious breaches that do not affect the company's activity.

'Remote litigation' service

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Remote court hearings can now be reached through the Ministry of Justice Ministry's website, with users able to join sessions online and listen to witness testimony.

The ministry said on Instagram that the 'remote litigation' service is live on its portal at <https://www.moj.gov.bh/>.

From the home page, litigants can click through to the service and sign in using the upgraded eKey 2.0.

Platform

Guidance on the site says the platform lets users attend hearings, watch a live broadcast of sessions, read instructions and user guidance, and contact technical support through an



Image used for illustrative purposes only

enquiries section.

The ministry has also shared an explainer video showing how to use the service.

Litigants are asked to log in before the scheduled start time.

The ministry warned that if a party joins late, the hearing could go ahead without them and their attendance might not be recorded in the minutes.

The platform also allows doc-

uments and memoranda to be filed online through the national e-Government portal.

Users are barred from saying or sharing any audio or video linked to a hearing, and are told to keep what is said in court private, especially in cases the court orders to be heard in secret.

Conduct

The guidance also covers conduct during online hearings, including wearing suitable clothing, sitting in a well-lit place with a clear background, and keeping quiet and orderly.

Parties should not speak, intervene or comment unless the court allows it.

The court may also ask for checks to ensure a witness is not being coached or relying on written notes, in line with the duties set by law.

Forum 2026 holds session on using AI in diplomacy

● Marking Bahrain Diplomatic Day on January 14

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As part of the Diplomatic Forum organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark Bahrain Diplomatic Day, observed annually on January 14, a session on artificial intelligence in diplomacy was held.

The session was delivered by Manas Chawla, Director of the Oxbridge Diplomatic Academy and Chief Executive Officer of London Polityca.

The session addressed several key topics, including the geopolitical dimensions of AI.

Its role as a support tool for diplomatic decision-making, and its applications in enhancing the performance of diplomatic missions.

It also examined the role of AI in strategic communications and public diplomacy, as well as issues related to security, ethics, and diplomatic protocol, in line with rapid global digital developments.

The session concluded with an interactive presentation on the practical use of AI in diplomatic work, followed by a discussion and questions from heads of the Kingdom of Bahrain's diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

Travel agency partner jailed six years over fake group trips

● Guilty of breaching trust and fraud

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A partner at a travel agency has been sentenced to six years in prison and fined BD5,000 after the Minor Criminal Court convicted him of breach of trust and fraud.

The court also ordered that the civil claim linked to the case be referred to the competent civil court.

The Public Prosecution said it



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received complaints from several customers who had paid for group trips the agency advertised. The defendant, prosecutors said, collected sums said to cover the cost of travel.

When the departure dates ar-

rived, the complainants found there were no bookings in their names. They later went to the agency's premises and found it closed.

Prosecutors said they opened

ments from the complainants and one person from the office.

The inquiry, they said, showed the defendant had obtained the victims' money through deception. It also found he had taken funds belonging to the agency itself.

The Public Prosecution said the defendant then left Bahrain. An order was issued for his arrest and production, and his details were circulated internationally.

After the investigation ended and the evidence was reviewed, the case was referred to the competent court, which issued the ruling.

Healthcare challenge

Bahrain records over 1,400 cancer cases and 4,500 dialysis patients in 2024

● 1,230 cases are Bahrainis and 171 non-Bahrainis

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 1,400 cancer cases were logged in Bahrain in 2024, and 4,547 dialysis patients were registered in the same year, the Ministry of Health has told Parliament in a written reply to MP Jalal Kadhem.

The ministry said the National Cancer Registry counted 1,230 cases among Bahrainis in 2024 and 171 among non-Bahrainis.

For kidney failure, it said 4,547 patients were registered for dialysis during the year, including 4,298 Bahrainis and 249 non-Bahrainis.

Diagnoses

The figures show cancer diagnoses among Bahrainis were concentrated in older age groups.

Bahraini men accounted for 535 cases, with the highest numbers in the 65–69 and 70–74 brackets.

Bahraini women recorded 695 cases, with the largest counts in the 60–64 and 65–69 brackets.

Among non-Bahrainis, the

ministry recorded 78 cases in men and 93 in women, mostly aged 40–64.

List

The ministry also listed the stage of disease for registered cancer cases in 2024.

It said 50.68 per cent were recorded as localised, meaning the cancer was limited to the original organ.

Distant metastasis accounted for 12.67 per cent.

Another 12.53 per cent were recorded as “unknown”, which the ministry said meant the stage at first diagnosis, before treatment began, was not known.

Leukaemia

A further 7.42 per cent were recorded as “not applicable”, such as leukaemia.

On dialysis, the ministry said Bahraini men were the largest group, at 2,720 patients, compared with 1,578 Bahraini women.

Non-Bahraini dialysis patients totalled 249, including 95 men and 154 women.

Dialysis services are delivered at the unit at Salma Medical Complex and the Abdulrahman Kanoo Dialysis Centre, the ministry said.

It reported 47,064 visits by kidney patients in 2024, including dialysis sessions.

Of those, 44,976 visits were by



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MP Jalal Kadhem

The Health Ministry cited tobacco use, unhealthy diets, obesity, certain infections such as HPV and hepatitis B, genetic factors and changes in cells, including DNA mutations, as among the common factors linked to adult cancers.

Bahrainis and 2,088 by non-Bahrainis, by nationality and sex.

Care

It said care for cancer and kidney failure is delivered through primary healthcare centres, government hospitals, the Bahrain Oncology Centre and dialysis units, with cases treated within the government system under current protocols.

Where a patient needs specialist care not available in Bahrain, the ministry said they can be referred abroad under clear medical criteria.

In 2024, it said 163 oncology

cases were sent abroad.

Saudi Arabia received 58 cases, Jordan 44 and Turkey 42, while 10 cases went to Germany, five to India, two to the United Kingdom, and one each to Thailand and Kuwait.

Budget

The ministry did not give a separate budget figure for cancer and kidney failure care, saying spending sits within the budget for treatment abroad, subject to the Higher Committee for Treatment Abroad.

The reply also gave death figures for 2024.

The ministry said 525 deaths were from cancer, including 467 among Bahrainis and 58 among non-Bahrainis.

It recorded 65 deaths from kidney failure, including 56 among Bahrainis and nine among non-Bahrainis.

Plan

On prevention and early detection, the ministry said it has a cancer prevention and control plan linked to wider work on non-communicable diseases and related risk factors.

It cited public awareness campaigns on tobacco use, healthy

eating and exercise, and said primary care centres run screening for breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers, with suspected cases referred for further tests and treatment planning.

For kidney disease, it said primary care centres keep close watch on higher-risk groups, especially patients with diabetes and high blood pressure, through periodic laboratory tests under approved protocols, with referral to kidney specialists when results suggest impaired function.

Vaccination

The ministry also pointed to vaccination as part of prevention, citing HPV and hepatitis B vaccination as measures that reduce the risk of some cancers.

It added that public health teams oversee food safety and product checks using Gulf standards and relevant international references, and monitor goods entering through border points alongside other bodies responsible for national technical rules.

On cancer risk factors, the ministry cited tobacco use, unhealthy diets, obesity, certain infections such as HPV and hepatitis B, genetic factors and changes in cells, including DNA mutations, as among the common factors linked to adult cancers.

Two Arab defendants face trial for human trafficking

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing a case involving two Arab defendants accused of trafficking two women, both aged 23.

During a hearing held yesterday, both defendants denied the charges brought against them.

The female defendant told the court that she had arrived in Bahrain only six days earlier and did not know anyone in the country, a claim supported by the first defendant.

Review

The court adjourned the case to 19 January to allow the defence to review and respond to the case file, authorised the

provision of copies of the case documents, and appointed a lawyer to represent the second defendant. The court also ordered the continued detention of both defendants.

According to the Public Prosecution, the first defendant, aged 51, and the second defendant, aged 36, are accused of trafficking the two victims by recruiting, transporting, receiving, harbouring and moving them through illegal means, with the intent of exploiting them in prostitution for financial gain.

Detention

Prosecutors said the defendants unlawfully detained the victims, coerced them through threats, deception and force,



Intelligence information, supported by investigations, confirmed that the defendants had deceived the victims with promises of employment in Bahrain before exploiting them and forcing them into prostitution.

and relied entirely on the proceeds generated from the victims' activities.

In her testimony, the first victim said that while in her home country she had seen a Facebook advertisement offering employment in Bahrain as a restaurant worker.

She contacted the first defendant and agreed to the job. Around the same time, the second victim informed her that she had also found a work opportunity in Bahrain, and arrangements were made by the defendants for both women to travel.

She added that upon their arrival, they were met at Bahrain International Airport by the first defendant accompanied by an Asian national driver.

Fitness centre to pay BD2,000 to Bahraini trainer for unpaid employment dues and interest



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Second High Labour Court has ordered a fitness centre to pay BD2,000 to a Bahraini fitness trainer for unpaid employment dues, in addition to interest for delayed payment until settlement.

The court ruled that the centre must pay interest at an annual rate of 6% on wages delayed for six months or less from their due date.

The interest rate will increase by 1% for each additional month of delay, up to a maximum of 12% per year, until full payment is made.

The defendant was also ordered to pay court costs and legal fees.

According to case details presented by lawyer Alaa Adel, her client began working for the fitness centre in 2022 at a

rate of BD5 per training hour and performed her duties diligently throughout her employment.

However, the centre failed to pay her wages for a period of two years, accumulating unpaid dues amounting to BD2,000.

The lawyer said her client formally notified the centre and granted it time to settle the outstanding wages, but payment was not made.

As a result, the trainer left her job due to continued non-payment and the failure to settle her employment entitlements.

She added that a lawsuit was filed based on Article 40(b)(4) of the Labour Law, which stipulates that upon termination of employment, an employer must immediately pay all wages and dues owed to the employee.

New phase of East Muharraq seafront project announced

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

East Muharraq's seafront is due for a new phase of works through a partnership with the private sector, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture has told Parliament, with two sites on Road 65 to be turned into a leisure waterfront and public coast.

In a written reply to a question

from MP Hisham Al Asheeri, the ministry said the plan follows earlier work delivered through Sama Bay, a beach project on Dry Dock Highway on the way to Amwaj Islands.

The ministry said it is pressing ahead with upgrades to waterfronts and coastlines as public spaces for leisure and for practising healthy sports, adding that the East Muharraq plan is split into stages.

It said the first stage covered Sama Bay, which stretches for up to two kilometres and includes two beaches, a retail outlet, a food-truck area, a promenade, two padel courts and a football pitch.

The second stage, the ministry said, will develop two plots on Road 65 under the same private-sector partnership model. It put the first plot's area at 50,866 square metres and the

second at 51,741 square metres.

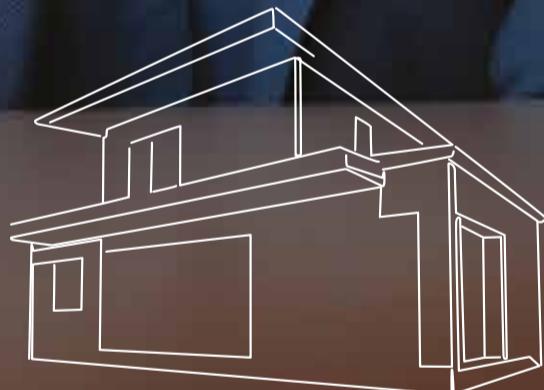
Plans for the sites include a promenade, a cycle track, seating areas, green spaces, a play area, outdoor warm-up fitness equipment and a services building, it said.

The ministry added that preliminary designs have been completed, and that it is coordinating with relevant bodies to study listing the coastline among partnership projects.

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Zain upgraded to top 'A' score in CDP Climate Change 2025

Region's only telecom operator at this leadership level

Bader Al-Kharafi:
"Addressing climate change should be a key priority for every organization and everyone living on this planet."

• 'A' score (top 12% of telcos) highlights Zain climate governance and transition to reduce emissions throughout its operations to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Manama

Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has achieved the top 'A' score in the recently published CDP Climate Change 2025 disclosure cycle, marking a significant milestone in the Group's climate action journey.

CDP is a global non-profit platform that enables organizations to measure, manage, and disclose environment-related data, with scoring designed to recognize robust transparency and credible action toward climate goals.

This 'A' leadership-level score reflects Zain's strengthened commitment to environmental accountability and climate action, supported by comprehensive governance structures, enhanced risk management, and clearly defined decarbonization initiatives aligned with global standards.

The recognition underscores the Group's progress in embedding climate considerations into strategic planning, operational resilience, and long-term value creation across its footprint.

Zain's climate change leadership is further underscored by CDP benchmarks showing average scores of 'B' for Telecom and Data Centers, and 'C' for the global average, with Zain being the only company based in Kuwait to achieve an 'A' leadership level score. Out of 21 disclosers and out of 252 globally disclosing telecommunications services companies, only 30 received an 'A' score, placing Zain in the top 12% of the industry.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, commented: "Addressing climate change should be a key priority for every organization and everyone living on this planet. Zain's acts with the belief that sustainable growth and climate leadership must go hand in hand."

He added, "As we continue to scale our digital infrastructure across the region in driving meaningful connectivity, we are equally committed to accelerate our transition and reduce emissions throughout our operations to achieve Net Zero by 2050. We firmly believe this commitment will create value to all our stakeholders."

Jennifer Suleiman, Chief Sustainability Officer & Mohamed AlMurusheh, Chief Technology Officer at Zain Group, jointly added: "Achieving an 'A' score from CDP is a testament to the rigor, transparency, and action embedded in our climate governance and operational execution. This recognition reinforces our commitment to SBTi-aligned targets, renewable energy expansion, and comprehensive climate-risk management across our value chain.

We remain focused on pursuing transformational digital innovations and delivering measurable emissions reductions while strengthening resilience and long-term value across all our markets."

Operating across diverse markets increasingly exposed to rising temperatures, prolonged heatwaves, water scarcity, flooding, and energy infrastructure volatility, Zain Group has prioritized climate resilience and decarbonization to safeguard network performance and business continuity and proactively address its environmental impacts.

Additionally, the rapid growth of data usage, network expansion, and rollout of energy-intensive technologies such as 5G and data centers further amplify the company's environmental impact. Managing these challenges requires balancing connectivity growth with decarbonization, addressing both physical and transition risks, and ensuring that climate considerations are embedded into business strategy and processes, governance, and risk management processes.

Zain's latest CDP recognition further validates the Group's contribution to building a more resilient future, highlighting Zain's role in encouraging wider corporate climate action across the region by demonstrating how ambition can be translated into accountable, data-driven progress.

Over the past five years, Zain has advanced a structured, measurable climate agenda:

- 2020: Improved network efficiency by reducing CO2 emissions by 10% per terabyte of data traffic, deployed 1,000+ solar-powered base stations in Jordan, Sudan, and South Sudan, and achieved 14% energy savings across data centers and network sites.

- 2021: Upgraded to an A- CDP Climate Change rating, positioning Zain as the highest-ranked telecom operator in MENA at the time, and set a near-term target to reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 42% between 2020 and 2030, aligned with SBTi pathways.

- 2022: Launched a Group-wide Climate Change Compliance Framework endorsed by the Board, installed solar hybrid systems across 400+ network sites in Jordan, Sudan, and Iraq, and implemented 57 energy-efficiency initiatives to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

- 2023: Deployed 338 hybrid energy solutions across network sites, migrated 55 sites in South Sudan to solar-powered systems, and strengthened alignment with SBTi, advancing Zain's Net Zero 2050 roadmap and emissions reduction ambition by 2030.

- 2024: Deployed 242 solar solutions and 96 hybrid battery systems, connected 123 sites to the grid, and invested USD 4+ million in these initiatives. Zain also reduced diesel fuel consumption by approximately 7.5% YoY and delivered around USD 11.4 million in operating expenditure savings through energy-efficient and low-emission solutions.

- 2025: Sustained progress toward its verified SBTi-approved net-zero goals by expanding renewable energy solutions, enhancing energy efficiency across facilities, deepening water-risk assessments, and strengthening waste and water management. A key milestone was launching Zain's Climate Transition Plan, outlining a practical and phased roadmap toward Net Zero. In Kuwait, Zain joined the Kuwait Green Building Council (KGBC), reinforcing its commitment to accelerating emissions reduction and improved energy efficiency, supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy.

We're a **Climate A List** organization, recognized as a leader in corporate transparency and action on climate change.



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ONE App Enables Insurance Installment Payments through New Partnership with Solidarity

The collaboration offers clients a new, convenient payment method

Manama

ONE App, powered by Al Salam Bank, has announced a strategic

partnership with Solidarity Bahrain, one of the largest insurance companies in the Kingdom of Bahrain and a subsidiary of Solidarity

Mr. Haitham Al Haddad, General Manager of ONE App

Group Holding, to introduce a new Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) service for car insurance. Clients can now issue or renew their insurance policies through Solidarity's branches or digital platform using ONE App's BNPL feature.

The collaboration offers clients a new, convenient payment method that allows them to split insurance costs into monthly installments without the need to submit additional documents. With instant approval and direct disbursement to Solidarity, the service enhances the overall insurance experience and provides clients with greater financial flexibility.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Haitham Al Haddad, General Manager of ONE App, stated:

"We are proud to expand our digital services in collaboration with Solidarity, making it easier for clients

to obtain insurance with more flexible payment options. The BNPL feature enables clients to spread the cost of their insurance over 12 months with no additional fees or salary transfer requirements. This initiative reflects our commitment to offering innovative solutions that help clients stay on budget, manage their expenses, and plan ahead with confidence".

From his side, Mr. Jalal Aqelah, Head of Marketing and Digital Channels at Solidarity Bahrain, said: "Through this partnership, we aim to deliver a more accessible and seamless insurance experience for our clients. The BNPL service is a valuable addition to our offerings, helping us meet the evolving needs of individuals and align with the digital transformation of the insurance sector in Bahrain. At Solidarity, we are committed to simplifying processes and offering

flexible solutions, and this collaboration with ONE App is a major step in that direction".

Mr. Jalal Aqelah, Head of Marketing and Digital Channels at Solidarity Bahrain

This partnership underscores ONE App's strategy to empower individuals by providing an all-in-one financial platform that is intuitive, efficient, and tailored to the diverse financial needs of clients.



Bahrain Insurance Association appoints Mr. Ali Noor as General Manager

Manama

The Bahrain Insurance Association (BIA) has announced the appointment of Mr. Ali Noor as its new General Manager, effective 1st January, 2026.

Mr. Ali Noor brings over 30 years of extensive experience in the insurance industry, with a distinguished career spanning management, business development, information

Dr. Abdulla Sultan, Chairman of the Bahrain Insurance Association

technology, general insurance, life and medical insurance, and market marketing.

Throughout his professional journey, he has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead high-performing teams, drive sustainable growth, and build long-term client relationships through a combination of strategic insight and hands-on leadership.

Dr. Abdulla Sultan, Chairman of the Bahrain Insurance Association, said:

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ali Noor as the new General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association. His extensive industry experience, strong leadership capabilities, and comprehensive understanding of the insurance market position him well to lead the Association into its next phase of awareness, development, and governance. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the

previous General Manager, Mr. Ebrahim Sakhnini, for his valuable efforts and contributions during his tenure, and wish him every success in his future endeavors."

Ali Noor, General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association



In his new role, Mr. Ali Noor will focus on strengthening collaboration among member companies, enhancing industry engagement with regulators and stakeholders, and supporting initiatives that promote best practices, market development, and professional standards within the sector in line with the BIA and CBB's vision.

Commenting on his ap-

pointment, Mr. Ali Noor said: "I am honored to take on the role of General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association at this important time for the industry. I look forward to working closely with the Board, member companies, and key stakeholders to support the continued growth and credibility of Bahrain's insurance sector." Mr. Ali Noor's appointment marks a significant step in BIA's ongoing efforts to reinforce its strategic role as the collective voice of the insurance industry in Bahrain, while supporting national economic objectives and regulatory alignment.



BIA

جمعية التأمين البحرينية

BAHRAIN INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Disclosure of early Elections of the Board of Directors term of Takaful International Company

Manama

Takaful International Company B.S.C. has decided to hold early elections for the term of its Board of Directors. In this regard, it is noteworthy that this step is undertaken in light of a number of strategic and governance considerations, which include the following:

1. Developments in the local insurance market: The accelerating developments in the local insurance market, alongside evolving regulatory requirements, necessitate strengthening diversity within the Board of Directors in



شركة التكافل الدولية
TAKAFUL INTERNATIONAL CO.

Board's election cycle with the parent company: This alignment is intended to further enhance corporate governance practices, improve coordination, and support more efficient decision-making at the group level.

In compliance with regulatory requirements and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain to conduct early elections, the members of the company's Board of Directors have decided to submit their resignations, effective from the date of the next Ordinary General Assembly for the Financial

year 2025.

In view of the Company's commitment to ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of the Board's functions, strengthening corporate governance practices, and safeguarding the interests of the Company and its shareholders, the Board of Directors has resolved to convene early elections for a new board of Directors at the upcoming ordinary General meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association and the relevant regulatory requirements. Further details regarding the meeting date and nomination

Gold hits record high, dollar falls as US targets Fed

London, United Kingdom

Most stock markets have enjoyed a solid start to 2026, with indices in Frankfurt, London, Paris and Seoul hitting record highs last week, largely on optimism for the tech sector and gains in defence sector shares.

European stocks edged higher after a strong showing in Asia.

The dollar fell against major peers, as did the price of the benchmark 10-year US Treasury bond, sending its yield slightly higher.

Gold climbed close to \$4,600 an ounce while silver approached \$85 an ounce as investors sought traditional safe havens.

India and Germany seek to boost defence industry ties

AFP | Ahmedabad, India

India and Germany are looking to boost defence industry cooperation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday after hosting Chancellor Friedrich Merz in his home state of Gujarat.

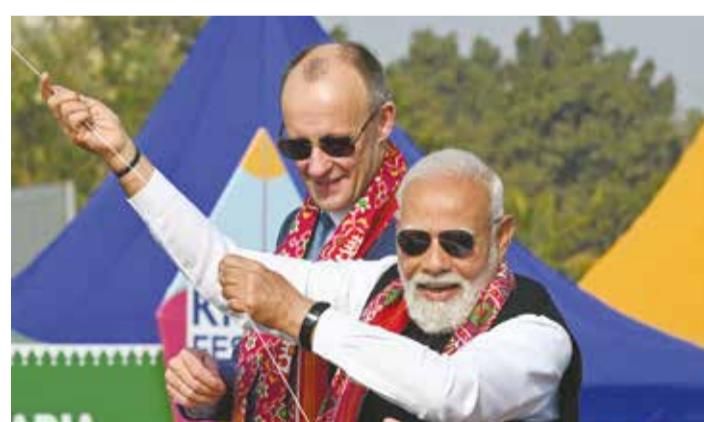
Merz said Berlin also wants a closer security partnership with New Delhi, including deeper "cooperation between our defence industries" to cut India's traditional dependence on Russia for military hardware.

Merz began his two-day India visit -- his first to Asia since taking office in May -- two weeks ahead of an EU-India summit and as India and the European bloc are working on a free trade agreement.

Both countries announced several agreements and joint declarations after the leaders' meeting with an aim to boost their \$50 billion trade.

The announcements included strengthening defence industry cooperation and on semiconductors and critical minerals.

The two countries "are work-



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) flies a kite alongside German Chancellor Friedrich Merz during the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad



Modi (C) and Merz watching a woman weave khadi on a charkha or a spinning wheel at the Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad.

ing together on secure, trusted, and resilient supply chains and our MoUs on these issues will strengthen our partnership", Modi said.

Merz said Berlin was "committed to an international order in which we can live freely and securely, because the world is currently undergoing a process of realignment".

'Strategic importance'

"It is increasingly characterised by great power politics and thinking in terms of spheres of influence, which is why we must

join forces to weather these rough winds," he added.

Recent actions and statements by US President Donald Trump including arbitrary trade tariffs have played a key role in upending global alliances and regional geopolitics, with New Delhi still negotiating a trade deal with Washington.

'Strategic importance'

"It is of particular strategic importance that we deepen cooperation between our de-

fence industries. This strengthens both sides and also helps to make India less dependent on Russia, for example," said Merz.

New Delhi, which has relied on Moscow for decades for its key military hardware, has tried to cut its dependence on Russia in recent years by diversifying imports and pushing its own domestic manufacturing base.

India today counts France, Israel and the United States as its key military suppliers besides Russia.

Berlin and New Delhi have also been negotiating a potential deal for Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems to build six submarines for the Indian Navy in partnership with Indian state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.

While still being negotiated, that deal would allow India to replace its ageing fleet of Russian-built submarines and likely include technology transfer provisions to help its domestic defence industry.

In defence, the two sides are also exploring other areas of convergence as New Delhi pumps billions of dollars to upgrade its naval fleet and air force in the next few years.

Modi said that "India is honoured that he (Merz) has chosen our nation as the place of his first visit in Asia".

He said the leaders had agreed on "deeper cooperation in defence, space and other critical and emerging technologies".

Merz will wrap up his visit with a trip to the southern technology hub of Bengaluru on Tuesday.



There are around 300,000 Indians and people of Indian origin in Germany, including about 60,000 students -- many of them in critical science, engineering and other key technology research fields.

News in brief

◆ **India will be invited next month to join a new US-led initiative aimed at securing AI supply chains, the new US ambassador to New Delhi said yesterday. Ties between the allies have plummeted after US President Donald Trump slapped 50 percent tariffs on most Indian imports in August over New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, even as officials continue to negotiate a long-delayed trade agreement. Speaking to reporters at the US embassy, ambassador Sergio Gor said India would be asked to become a full member of the Pax Silica initiative, launched by the United States last month. The US-led endeavour includes key Asia-Pacific allies -- Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Australia -- as well as Israel, and is meant to counter China's growing dominance in AI supply chains. Dubbed the "Pax Silica", after the Latin terms for peace and silicon, the alliance aims to secure supply chains of key components independent of China.**



India to be invited to join US-led AI initiative

Trump says Iran 'want to negotiate' after reports of hundreds killed in protests

the rising cost of living, the demonstrations have evolved into a serious challenge of the theocratic system in place since the 1979 revolution. Information has continued to trickle out of Iran despite a days-long internet shutdown, with videos filtering out of capital Tehran and other cities over the past three nights showing large demonstrations. As reports emerge of a growing protest death toll, and images show bodies piled outside a morgue, Trump said Tehran indicated its willingness to talk.

◆ **US prosecutors have opened an inquiry into Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, prompting a rare rebuke from the central bank chief against escalating pressure from Donald Trump's administration as the president pushes for lower interest rates. In an extraordinary statement released in text and video on Sunday, Powell took aim at the "unprecedented action" from the Trump administration, saying the Fed received grand jury subpoenas and threats of a criminal indictment relating to his Senate testimony in June. The issue at hand was a \$2.5 billion renovation project at the Fed's headquarters, which Trump has repeatedly attacked Powell over. Last year, the president floated the possibility of firing Powell over cost overruns relating to the historic buildings' facelift.**

US prosecutors open probe of Fed chief, escalating Trump-Powell clash



SPOTLIGHT

Indian rocket hits snag during launch

AFP | New Delhi, India

An Indian rocket hit a snag during its launch Monday, forcing a deviation in flight path as it carried an Earth observation satellite and commercial payloads, the country's space agency said.



The PSLV-C62 rocket which launched on Monday was carrying an "earth observation satellite along with 15 co-passenger satellites" from domestic and international customers, ISRO said in a separate statement.

"Close to the end of the third stage, we are seeing a little more disturbance in the vehicle," Narayanan told India's state broadcaster Doordarshan.

"Subsequently, there is a deviation observed in the vehicle flight path."

The world's most populous country has flexed its space-faring ambitions in the last decade, with its space programme growing considerably in size and momentum, matching the achievements of established powers at a much cheaper price tag.

In August 2023, it became the fourth nation to land an unmanned craft on the Moon after Russia, the United States and China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024 announced plans to send a man to the Moon by 2040.

The PSLV-C62, a four-stage launch vehicle, "encountered an anomaly" towards the end of the third stage, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) posted on X, without saying exactly what went wrong.

"A detailed analysis has been initiated," it added.

A livestream of the launch shows the rocket blasting into the sky.

However, a glitch led to a deviation in its flight path, ISRO chief V Narayanan said.

India's PSLV rocket, long considered the workhorse of the national space programme, has launched several of the country's flagship missions, including its first lunar and Mars orbiters.

In 2017, it set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.

Iran government stages mass rallies as alarm grows over toll

At least 648 protesters killed in Iran crackdown: rights group

◆ **Thousands of people filled the capital's Enghelab (Revolution) Square brandishing the national flag**

◆ **European Union has voiced support for the protesters**

◆ **Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights (IHR) said it confirmed the killing of at least 192 protesters**

AFP | Paris, France

Iranian authorities yesterday sought to regain control of the streets with mass nationwide rallies in the wake of protests on a scale unprecedented in recent years, as alarm grew over a deadly crackdown.

The foreign minister said Iran was ready for both war and talks after repeated threats from Washington to intervene militarily over the crackdown on protests, which activists fear has left at least hundreds dead.

Over two weeks of demonstrations initially sparked by economic grievances have turned into one of the biggest challenges yet to the theocratic system that has ruled Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution ousted the shah.

In a sign of the severity of the crisis, the authorities have imposed an internet blackout lasting more than three-and-a-half days that activists say is aimed at masking the extent of the crackdown.

Seeking to regain the initiative, the government called for rallies nationwide backing the Islamic republic on Monday.

Thousands of people filled the capital's Enghelab (Revolution) Square brandishing the national flag as prayers were read for victims of what the government has termed "riots", state TV showed.

Addressing the crowds, parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran is fighting a "four-front war", listing economic war, psychological war, "military war" with the United States and Israel and "today a war against terrorists", referring to the protests.

Flanked by the slogans "Death to Israel, Death to America" in Persian, he vowed the Iranian military would teach US President Donald Trump "an unforgettable lesson" if Iran were attacked.

Trump said Sunday that Iran's leadership under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in power since 1989 and now 86, had called him seeking "to negotiate" after he repeatedly threatened to intervene militarily if Tehran killed protesters.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is not seeking war but is fully prepared for war," Foreign Minister



This video grab taken from UGC images on January 12, 2026, and first appeared online on January 10, 2026, and verified by AFP teams in Paris on January 11, 2026, shows the courtyard of the Forensic Diagnostic and Laboratory Center of Tehran Province in Kahrizak with dozens of bodies in body bags laid out for family members.

Abbas Araghchi told a conference of foreign ambassadors in Tehran broadcast by state television.

"We are also ready for negotiations but these negotiations should be fair, with equal rights and based on mutual respect."

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said a channel of communication is open between Araghchi and Trump's special envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff despite the lack of diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of Oman, which has on occasion acted as a mediator, met Araghchi in Tehran on Saturday.

Soaring toll

The European Union has voiced support for the protesters and on Monday said it was "looking into" imposing additional sanctions on Iran over the

repression of demonstrations.

Iran's shutdown of the internet has now lasted more than 84 hours, said monitor Netblocks.

The blackout has severely affected the ability of Iranians to post videos of the protests that have rocked big cities since Thursday.

A video circulating on Sunday showed dozens of bodies outside a morgue south of Tehran.

The footage, geolocated by AFP to the district of Kahrizak, showed bodies wrapped in black bags, with what appeared to be grieving relatives searching for loved ones.

The Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights (IHR) said it confirmed the killing of at least 192 protesters but that the actual toll could be much higher.

"Unverified reports indicate that at least several hundreds, and according to some sourc-

es, more than 2,000 people, may have been killed," said IHR.

More than 2,600 protesters have been arrested, IHR estimated.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency said it had confirmed the deaths of 544 people.

Iranian state media has said dozens of members of the security forces have been killed, with their funerals turning into large pro-government rallies. The government has declared three days of national mourning for those killed.

State outlets were at pains to present a picture of calm returning, broadcasting images of smooth-flowing traffic.

Tehran Governor Mohammad-Sadegh Motamedian insisted in televised comments that "the number of protests is decreasing".

1888

1908

The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, D.C. for "the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge"

Henri Farman becomes the first person to fly an observed circuit of more than 1km, winning the Grand Prix d'Aviation



1943

Adolf Hitler declares "Total War" against the Allies

2000

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates steps aside as chief executive and promotes company president Steve Ballmer to the position

X

TOP
3
TWEETS

01



Shocked by reports of violence & excessive use of force by the Iranian authorities against protesters resulting in deaths & injuries in recent days.

The rights to freedom of expression, association & peaceful assembly must be fully respected & protected.

I urge the Iranian authorities to exercise maximum restraint & refrain from unnecessary or disproportionate use of force.

I also urge steps that enable access to information in the country, including restoring communications.

@antonio_guterres

02



Chancellor Merz and I met Indian and German CEOs. Close collaboration between India and Germany is important for the entire world. Growing trade and investment ties have infused new momentum into our partnership. Our bilateral trade has reached an all-time high, several German companies are investing in India. We want to deepen economic linkages even further in the times to come.

@narendramodi

03



We are inviting applications for a key leadership role as Director of Communications at @WHO to lead our strategic communications and global advocacy. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026.

@DrTedros

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

Greenland rejects US takeover 'under any circumstance': govt

Trump said that the United States would take the territory "one way or the other"

● Trump warned that if the United States didn't take Greenland, Russia or China will

AFP | Nuuk, Denmark

Greenland's government yesterday said it could not accept a US takeover of the Arctic island under "any circumstance", after US President Donald Trump said that the United States would take the territory "one way or the other".

Trump has repeatedly threatened to bring the island under US control, arguing that the Danish autonomous territory is crucial for national security.

"The United States has once again reiterated its desire to take over Greenland. This is something that the governing coalition in Greenland cannot accept under any circumstance," the Greenlandic government said in a statement.



A tourist looks at the statue of Hans Egede (1686-1758), a Dano-Norwegian Lutheran missionary, in Nuuk, Greenland

On Sunday, Trump warned that if the United States didn't take Greenland, "Russia or China will, and I'm not letting that happen".

The US leader said he would be open to making a deal with the Danish self-governing is-

United Kingdom issued a joint statement with Denmark to show their backing for Copenhagen and Greenland against Trump.

"On the basis of the very positive declaration from the six NATO member states regarding Greenland, the Government of Greenland will intensify efforts to ensure that the defence of Greenland is carried out within in NATO," Monday's statement said.

"Greenland will always be part of the Western defence alliance," the government added.

Denmark and other European allies have voiced shock at Trump's threats over the strategic island, which has been home to a US military base since World War II.

A Danish colony until 1953, Greenland gained home rule 26 years later and is contemplating eventually loosening its ties with Denmark. Polls show that Greenland's people strongly oppose a US takeover.

'One Battle After Another,' 'Hamnet' triumph at Golden Globes

AFP | Beverly Hills, United States

"One Battle After Another" reigned supreme at the Golden Globes on Sunday, winning best comedy, while "Hamnet" sprung a surprise by taking best drama film at the splashy Hollywood ceremony.

Paul Thomas Anderson's screwball thriller "One Battle," which centers on an aging revolutionary played by Leonardo DiCaprio, led the night by winning four of its nine nominations.

It also collected awards for best director, best screenplay and best supporting actress for Teyana Taylor at the lavish Globes gala, which is a key stepping stone on the road to the Oscars in March.

"You guys are being so generous with this affection for me and this film -- and I'll take it," beamed Anderson.

His film -- a rollicking ride featuring violent leftist radicals, immigration raids and white supremacists -- has connected with audiences and critics at a time when the United States is deeply polarized.

But in the closely watched lead actor category, DiCaprio was passed over in favor of Timothee Chalamet's performance as an ambitious 1950s table tennis player in "Marty Supreme."

"I'm in a category with many greats -- this category is stacked. I look up to all of you," said Chalamet, who also bested George Clooney ("Jay Kelly") and Ethan Hawke ("Blue Moon").

Chalamet said his four previous Globes losses "make this



(L/R) Noah Jupe, Nicolas Gonda, Maggie O'Farrell, Pippa Harris, Joe Alwyn, Chloe Zhao, Steven Spielberg, Max Richter, Liza Marshall, Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal and Jacobi Jupe, winners of the Best Motion Picture - Drama Award for "Hamnet", winners of the Best Motion Picture - Drama Award for "Hamnet," pose in the press room during the 83rd annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California

moment that much sweeter" before thanking his girlfriend Kylie Jenner.

'Hamnet' upset

The Globes offer separate awards for dramas and comedies/musicals -- widening the field of stars in attendance.

The night's final award was its biggest surprise.

"Hamnet," a tragic literary adaptation that imagines the life of William Shakespeare and his wife as they cope with the death of their son, took best drama.

"Sinning," Ryan Coogler's period horror film about the segregated South of the 1930s, had been expected to prevail.

"I loved the book, but I felt there was really only one film-

maker on the face of the planet who could tell the story," said Steven Spielberg, a producer on the movie, before handing the microphone to director Chloe Zhao.

Zhao, the Chinese-born director of best picture Oscar winner "Nomadland," dedicated the award to "Hamnet" cast and crew members who "lost their loved ones while we were making this film."

She also pointedly thanked Coogler, who honed his trade together with Zhao at the Sundance film labs set up by the late Robert Redford.

Jessie Buckley, playing Shakespeare's grief-stricken wife Agnes, won best drama actress honors.

"Sinning," which surprised moviegoers with its eclectic

mix of vampires, politics, race relations and blues music, had to settle for best score, and the Globes' recent -- and vaguely defined -- "best cinematic and box office achievement" award.

"Sentimental Value," a Norwegian family dramedy, took best supporting actor for Stellan Skarsgård.

Rose Byrne won for best comedy actress for "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You." Netflix's musical mega-hit "KPop Demon Hunters" won best song and best animated film.

The Globes also honor the best in television. Searing teen murder saga "Adolescence" topped the section with four wins, while "The Pitt" won best drama and "The Studio" took the best comedy prize.

FILM

Best film, drama: "Hamnet"
Best film, musical or comedy: "One Battle After Another"
Best male actor, drama: Wagner Moura, "The Secret Agent"
Best female actor, drama: Jessie Buckley, "Hamnet"
Best male actor, musical or comedy: Timothee Chalamet, "Marty Supreme"
Best female actor, musical or comedy: Rose Byrne, "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You"
Best supporting actor: Stellan Skarsgård, "Sentimental Value"
Best supporting actress: Teyana Taylor, "One Battle After Another"
Best director: Paul Thomas Anderson, "One Battle After Another"
Best screenplay: Paul Thomas Anderson, "One Battle After Another"
Best non-English language film: "The Secret Agent" (Brazil)
Best cinematic and box office achievement: "Sinning"
Best animated feature: "KPop Demon Hunters"

TELEVISION

Best drama series: "The Pitt"
Best male actor, drama: Noah Wyle, "The Pitt"
Best female actor, drama: Rhea Seehorn, "Pluribus"
Best musical or comedy series: "The Studio"
Best male actor, musical or comedy: Seth Rogen, "The Studio"
Best female actor, musical or comedy: Jean Smart, "Hacks"
Best limited series or TV movie: "Adolescence"
Best male actor, limited series or TV movie: Stephen Graham, "Adolescence"
Best female actor, limited series or TV movie: Michelle Williams, "Dying for Sex"

CAMPUS

Meritorious Achievement in the C.B.S.E Mathematics National GANIT Challenge

Manama

We are thrilled to announce that Atharv Lalit Mohan Dani, student of Grade IX, New Millennium School, Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved remarkable feats in the CBSE Aryabhatta Ganit Challenge 2025-26, organized by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi.

The CBSE Aryabhatta Ganit Challenge

witnessed the participation of thousands of students from over thirty thousand CBSE-affiliated schools in India and Abroad. It was aimed at assessing students' proficiency in the practical application of Mathematics. Atharv's exceptional performance has earned him a place among the top one hundred students in the second round of this prestigious challenge. His dedication, hard work, and outstanding mathematical skills have set him apart,

reflecting positively on the quality of education at New Millennium School.

The Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs. Geetha Pillai extended their best wishes and congratulated Atharv for the meritorious success. The Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma felicitated Atharv for his outstanding achievement, and also appreciated the role played by his parents and teachers in nurturing his academic pursuits.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy Tour Inspires Students at ISB



Manama

The excitement of international cricket reached The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) as the prestigious DP World ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy toured the campus on Sunday, 11 January 2026, as part of an energetic three-day programme across the Kingdom.

The initiative, organised by the Bahrain Cricket Federation (BCF) in collaboration with the International Cricket Council (ICC), aims to bring the excitement of international cricket closer to local communities and inspire the next generation of players and fans. The visiting team consist-



VR Palaniswamy; Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, Senior School and Academic Administration Vice-Principal G. Sathesh; Junior Wing Vice-Principal Priya Laji and Staff Representative Parvathi Devadas. Physical Education teachers and members of the school team were also present to mark the occasion.

ISB Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese said that such global sporting exposure serves as a powerful inspiration for students, encouraging discipline, teamwork, and excellence, while reinforcing the school's commitment to nurturing young talent both on and off the field.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Hosts Alumni Reception in Kuwait

Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain convened its Alumni Reception in Kuwait City, home to one of the University's largest alumni communities, with 174 alumni currently based in the State of Kuwait.

The event brought together alumni and senior officials from key national bodies, including His Excellency Dr Bader H. Albusairi, Undersecretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education; His Excellency Dr Jasim Al Ali, at the National Bureau of Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance; and Dr Abdullah Rajab, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon and Assistant Secretary for Specialised Facilities at the Kuwait Institute for



Kuwait."

Reflecting on his undergraduate experience, Dr Abdullah M. N. S. Alshammari (Class of 2014), Spine Surgery Practice at Alrazi Orthopaedic Hospital, said: "The quality of medical education at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain provided me with a strong academic and clinical foundation as a student I am grateful I was equipped with the skills, confidence and preparedness required to progress into global specialist surgical training and practice."

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, stated: "We extend our sincere thanks to the distinguished officials from the Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, as well as our alumni community,

Medical Specialisations, Ministry of Health. His Excellency Dr Bader H. Albusairi, commented: "RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has consistently supported the training of Kuwaiti doctors to the highest international standards. We value the contribution of its graduates, who continue to support the development of Kuwait's healthcare sector through enhanced patient care and impactful research."

Dr Abdulla Rajab highlighted,

"Collaboration with institutions such as RCSI Medical University of Bahrain supports high standards of clinical practice, with its graduates continuing to make a meaningful contribution to healthcare delivery across

for their attendance, continued trust and collaboration. RCSI Medical University of Bahrain remains firmly committed to working closely with both Ministries, Professor Mohamed Al-Dughaim, Head of the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and our alumni as valued partners in addressing current and future healthcare challenges, while advancing healthcare delivery and research across Kuwait."

The Alumni reception in Kuwait reaffirms RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's role as a hub for medical and healthcare education in the GCC and its commitment to fostering long-term engagement and collaboration with its alumni community.

EO Bahrain Launches Farouk Almoayyed Bahraini Global Student Entrepreneur Award



The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Bahrain Chapter, in collaboration with Almoayyed Computers Middle East (ACME), has announced the Farouk Almoayyed Bahraini Global Student Entrepreneur Award. The initiative honors the legacy of the late Farouk Almoayyed, a visionary business leader and champion of entrepreneurship. The award strengthens EO's Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) program, focusing on supporting students who manage impactful ventures while pursuing their education. Mohammed Farouk Almoayyed, Chairman of Almoayyed International Group, emphasized that the award empowers future generations to build a foundation for Bahrain's innovative economy. Bob Thaker, Chairman of GSEA EO Bahrain, noted that the partnership aligns with Bahrain's Vision 2030 to nurture a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

PWA Announces New Leadership Board for 2026



The Pakistani Women's Association (PWA), a registered charity in Bahrain since 1998, has officially introduced its newly appointed Board for the 2026 tenure. United by a commitment to service and community empowerment, the new leadership aims to build upon the association's long-standing legacy of impactful social work in the Kingdom. The new board is led by President Shahmeen Islam and Vice President Wajeeha Zarrar. The executive team includes General Secretary Saba Saleem, Assistant General Secretary Isma Farhan, and Treasurer Faiza Gulzar. Additionally, Rahila Nadeem has been appointed as the PR Head, while Syeda Ayesha will serve as the Community Head. This team of dedicated women is set to carry forward the PWA's mission of uplifting the community through various charitable initiatives.

Bahrain's Chief of Police and British Delegation Discuss Aviation Security Cooperation



His Excellency Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, Chief of Police, received a delegation from the British Ministry of Transport led by Ms. Amanda Segal, Head of Aviation Security Capabilities. During the meeting, the Chief of Police welcomed the delegation and discussed various aspects of security cooperation. The talks focused on enhancing the exchange of expertise and the implementation of joint training exercises to strengthen the security and safety system in accordance with international standards. The discussions underscored the importance of bilateral partnerships in maintaining rigorous aviation security protocols. The meeting was also attended by Brigadier General Mohammed Abdullah Al-Haram, Assistant Chief of Police for Operations and Training.

Jayasankar Viswanathan Honored with Prestigious Chembai Sangeet Samrakshak Award



Mr. Jayasankar Viswanathan, the Chief Operating Officer of Uneeco Bahrain, was conferred with the prestigious Chembai Sangeet Samrakshak Award at a grand ceremony held in Chennai. The award, instituted by Dr. T.V.G.'s Academy of Indian Music & Arts (AIMA), was presented by the academy's founder, the legendary musician and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. T. V. Gopalakrishnan. The honor was bestowed upon Mr. Viswanathan in recognition of his significant and sustained contributions to the promotion and preservation of Indian classical music. Beyond his role as a senior management professional and businessman, Mr. Viswanathan is highly regarded in Bahrain as a dedicated philanthropist. He has long been a patron of Indian arts and culture, providing selfless support to community initiatives.

OICC Kozhikode Fest: Large-Scale Blood Donation Camp Held at King Hamad Hospital



As part of the 'Kozhikode Fest' in Bahrain, the OICC Kozhikode District Committee organized a large-scale blood donation camp at King Hamad University Hospital, Muharraq. The event saw significant participation from the expatriate community. Coordinated by Wajid M. and Rasheed Muipoth, the initiative included a ceremony honoring the hospital staff with mementos for their support. National President Gafoor Unnikulam, Working President Bobby Parayil, and several district and national leaders, including Sreejith Panay and Biju Bal CK, visited the camp to extend their greetings.

KPA Bahrain Presents 'Education Excellence 2025' Awards



The Kollam Pravasi Association (KPA) Bahrain presented the 'Education Excellence 2025' awards to 32 students who excelled in their 10th and 12th-grade exams in Bahrain and Kerala. The ceremony at Crystal Palace Hotel was inaugurated by Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardee K.G. Baburajan. KPA President Anoj Master presided over the event, with Indian School Principal VR Palaniswamy and New Indian School Principal Gopinath Menon as guests of honor. General Secretary Prasanth Prabudhan welcomed the gathering, and Treasurer Manoj Jamal gave the vote of thanks. Award Committee Convener Anil Kumar delivered the introductory speech. The event was moderated by Children's Parliament members Nivedya Vinod and Jessica Prince.

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Muharraq advance after straight-sets win

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Muharraq booked their place in the knockout stages of the 44th Arab Club Men's Volleyball Championship yesterday with a convincing straight-sets win over Palestinian Forces Club in Tunis, Tunisia.

The Red Wolves were in control throughout, cruising to a 3-0 (25-16, 25-13, 25-23) victory at the Salle de la Cite Sportive in Le Kram. It marked their second win of the preliminary round and concluded a grueling run of five matches in as many days.

Yaseen Al Meel's men imposed themselves early, dominating on serve and at the net to collect 37 points on serve compared to 16 for their opponents. Their aggression set the tone in the opening two sets, which they claimed comfortably. The third set offered stiffer resistance, but Muharraq showed composure down the stretch to regain control and close out the match 25-23.

The result capped a mixed preliminary campaign for Muharraq, who opened with a win over Majees SC of Oman before suffering consecutive defeats to Al Ittihad SCSC Tripoli of Libya and hosts Etoile Sportive du Sahel. Those losses briefly put their tournament hopes in jeopardy, but Muharraq responded emphatically with successive victories over Police SC of Qatar and Palestinian Forces Club to secure progression.

The victory saw Muharraq finish third in Group B, setting up a quarter-final clash against the second-placed team from Group A. All teams will observe a rest day today, with the knockout stages resuming Wednesday and the tournament set to conclude on January 18.



Muharraq players celebrate a crucial point in yesterday's final preliminary-round match

Barca edge Real in thrilling Spanish Super Cup final



Barcelona's players raise the trophy as they celebrate after winning the Spanish Super Cup final

AFP | Jeddah

Barcelona retained the Spanish Super Cup with a thrilling 3-2 Clasico win over Real Madrid in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Raphinha struck twice for the Catalans with Robert Lewandowski also on target as they beat Xabi Alonso's team for a record-extending 16th triumph, despite Frenkie de Jong's late red card for a foul on Kylian Mbappe.

The French forward could only feature in the final stages as a substitute after a knee sprain, with the defeat likely to raise doubts around Madrid coach Xabi Alonso's future.

After Raphinha sent Bar-

celona ahead Vinicius Junior pulled Madrid level with a fine individual goal to kick-start a frenetic end to the first half in Jeddah.

Lewandowski chipped Barca back in front but Gonzalo Garcia struck deep in stoppage time to send the teams in level at the break.

The battle was decided by a deflected Raphinha effort after 73 minutes, as Barca claimed the fourth trophy of coach Hansi Flick's reign.

Alonso is still looking for his first after arriving in June, and Madrid's run of five consecutive wins across all competitions was brought to an end by their arch-rivals.

"We're very happy, another

trophy, it's always a big game against Madrid," Lewandowski told Movistar.

"We played well in the first half, the second too, we were looking for more goals but we won and that's the most important thing."

Flick, who led Barca to four Clasico wins over Madrid last season in four clashes, opted for Lewandowski up front over Ferran Torres and brought teenage star Lamine Yamal back in on the right wing.

It was a scrappy start in the Saudi evening heat, with Barcelona keeping the ball and Madrid sitting deep to resist them, while looking to find Vinicius Junior on the counter.

Australian Open
'underdog'
Medvedev says he will be hard to beat



Daniil Medvedev of Russia holds the trophy after winning the tournament in Brisbane

AFP | Sydney

Three-time Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev will be an underdog at the opening Grand Slam of the year, but the Russian warned he will be hard to beat in his current form.

Medvedev should move up a place to number 12 in the rankings after warming up for another crack at the Melbourne Park title by winning the Brisbane International on Sunday.

It was his second tournament victory in three months after his first title in two years came at Kazakhstan in October,

"I for sure have been playing very good (at the) end of the season. I think I made six out of the last seven tournaments quarters, a lot of them semis, two titles," he said.

"So I'm happy with the way I'm playing, and I know that when I'm playing good, there are not that many players that can beat me easily or at all."

Ukraine's Kostyuk defends 'conscious choice' to speak out about war

AFP | Sydney

Ukrainian tennis player Marta Kostyuk has defended her "conscious choice" to address the plight of her country during the trophy presentation of a pre-Australian Open event in Brisbane.

The world number 20 did not shake hands with top-ranked Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka after being beaten in Sunday's final in straight sets.

Like many Ukraine players, Kostyuk refuses to shake hands with Russians or Belarusians following Moscow's invasion of her homeland.

In her speech at the trophy presentation, the 23-year-old Kostyuk said: "I want to say a few words about Ukraine.

"I play every day with a pain in my heart and there are thousands of people who are without light and warm water right now."

"It's minus 20 degrees outside and it's very painful to live this reality every day," she said, her voice cracking with emotion.

Post-final ceremonies usual-



Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine speaks after the final match of Brisbane International

ly involve players congratulating their opponents.

Kostyuk did however thank "all the opponents I've played this week".

Sabalenka, who has said in the past that she does not support the war, congratulated Kostyuk on reaching the final in her on-court speech.

Writing on Instagram, where some users accused Kostyuk of poor sportsmanship, she wrote: "The words I shared after the match sparked a lot of reaction."

"For me, it's a conscious choice to keep reminding people of what Ukraine and its citizens are going through."

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

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Bahrain's warriors ready for Asian battle

Strong Yellow Cup showing builds confidence for Kuwait

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's handball team have concluded their preparatory stint at the Yellow Cup in Switzerland and now shift their focus to the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship, which begins on Thursday in Kuwait City. The continental tournament will also serve as the Asian qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's World Championship in Germany, placing extra emphasis on a strong start for Robert Hedin's squad.

The Bahrainis wrapped up the Yellow Cup with a close 31-33 defeat to Ukraine, finishing fourth overall. Trailing 17-18 at halftime, Bahrain showed greater tenacity in the second half, clawing back from a four-goal deficit to within one goal late in the match, but Ukraine ultimately held on for the victory. While the result may have disappointed, the performance offered

encouraging signs that Bahrain can compete under pressure. Hosts Switzerland claimed the title for the tenth time after a 29-all draw with North Macedonia, who finished as runners-up. Despite not recording a win, none of Bahrain's three losses exceeded a four-goal margin, which is a small but significant indicator of their competitive level against strong European opposition.

Following their return to Bahrain yesterday, the national team will have a short recovery period before departing for Kuwait City on Wednesday to begin their continental campaign, ensuring players are rested and ready for the intense schedule ahead.

Bahrain will compete in Group B alongside Jordan, China, and Iraq. They open their campaign against Jordan at 4pm on Friday, face China on Sunday at 6pm, and conclude the preliminary round against Iraq next Tuesday at 4pm, all times local to Bahrain. A strong start in the group

will be key, as every point could prove decisive in the race for an Asian qualifying spot for the World Championship.

The squad, led by captain Hussain Al Sayyad, also includes: Hassan Al Samaheiji, Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Hussain Mahfoudh, Jaffar Abdulshaheed, Mohammed Hameed, Hesham Ahmed, Salman Al Shawaikh, Qassim Qamber, Ahmed Redha, Sayed Ali Basem, Hassan Madan, Ahmed Almaqabi, Ali Mahmood, Jassim Khamis, Ali Redha, and Ali Alasheeri.

Robert Hedin's men, gold medal winners at last year's sixth Islamic Solidarity Games, will be aiming for a strong start in the Kuwaiti capital. Observers will be watching to see if the lessons learned in Switzerland translate into sharper performances as the "Warriors" compete for one of the Asian qualifying spots for the 2027 World Championship.



Action from Bahrain's penultimate Yellow Cup match against Switzerland

'Fragile' Man United hit new low with FA Cup exit

AFP | London

Darren Fletcher admitted Manchester United's "fragile" players have lost their confidence after Sunday's FA Cup exit against Brighton left Old Trafford in turmoil.

Managerless, out of both domestic cups at the first hurdle for the first time since 1981-82 and sitting a disappointing seventh in the Premier League, United have rarely been at a lower ebb in their history.

Caretaker boss Fletcher, who stepped up from his role as United's Under-18 coach after Ruben Amorim's dismissal last Monday, experienced the club's glory days as a midfielder under legendary manager Alex Ferguson.

But those trophy-filled years



Brighton's Greek striker #19 Charalampos Kostoulas (L) vies with Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder #08 Bruno Fernandes (R)

seem a lifetime ago for Fletcher and the furious fans who filled

United's first FA Cup third round defeat since 2014 underscored the litany of problems scarring the club at present.

For now, United's hierarchy plan to hire an interim boss until the end of the season, buying them time to search for Amorim's permanent successor.

Former United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who failed in his first spell in charge, and Michael Carrick, a decorated ex-United midfielder sacked by second tier Middlesbrough this season, have been linked with the temporary post.

Few have faith that United will hire the right manager after Amorim lasted just 14 turbulent months following the equally chaotic reign of Erik ten Hag, who was axed in 2024.

Swiatek insists 'everything is fine' after back-to-back defeats



Iga Swiatek in action

AFP | Sydney

Iga Swiatek insists "everything is fine" despite back-to-back losses in the lead-up to the Australian Open, with the world number two "super sore" but confident of recovering for the season-opening Grand Slam.

The Polish star crashed 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 to Switzerland's Belinda Bencic in the mixed-teams United Cup final in Sydney on Sunday, which came on the back of a lacklustre 6-4, 6-2 defeat to Coco Gauff in the semi-finals.

"Everything is fine," she said after the final, which Poland won 2-1 courtesy of Katarzyna Kawa and Jan Zielinski clinching the deciding mixed doubles.

Shabab Al Ahli Snatch Victory from Muharraq

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Muharraq came agonizingly close to avenging an earlier narrow loss to UAE giants Shabab Al Ahli, but fell 84-83 at the BBA Arena yesterday in Group A of the 2025-26 FIBA WASL Gulf League. The Red Wolves were chasing a third straight Gulf League win, hoping to climb the group standings while settling the score after a prior 89-87 defeat to the same opponents.

Muharraq dominated early, storming out to a 21-9 lead in the first quarter. Nicholas Simon West powered the paint with inside scoring, while Kerwin Roach Jr. drove repeatedly to the basket. Timothy Lamont Bond Jr. contributed fast-break points and dunks, as the Red Wolves forced turnovers and outrebounded Shabab Al Ahli 10-5 in the opening frame, energizing the home crowd and setting the stage for a dramatic rematch.

Shabab Al Ahli, under Miodrag Perisic, responded in



Nicholas West of Muharraq fired up at the BBA Arena yesterday

to 48-35, controlling the paint and moving the ball efficiently. Roach Jr. and West kept the scoreboard ticking with mid-range jumpers and drives, while Mahmood Khalifa knocked down timely three-pointers.

The fourth quarter delivered

ton's all-around performance, supported by Allen and Dikembe Dixson, proved decisive for the UAE side. A lead change with four seconds remaining gave Shabab Al Ahli the 84-83 edge, and Muharraq's final shot fell short, leaving the home crowd stunned and the Red Wolves' bid for payback just out of reach.

All of Muharraq's starters played over 30 minutes. West finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds, Bond Jr. added 19 points, and Roach Jr. scored 22 points. On Shabab Al Ahli's side, Washington collected 21 points and 15 rebounds, while Allen and Dixson contributed timely baskets that fueled the comeback.

The loss leaves Muharraq third in Group A with a 2-3 record. Their preliminary-phase campaign concludes against Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Hall in Medina on January 19. A strong showing there will be crucial in determining which teams advance to the Final Phase.

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Bahrain stars shine at BIC drag meet

Drag racers light up BIC strip in action-packed third round of 2025/2026 Bahrain championship

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', staged an action-packed third round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, which wrapped up over the weekend.

Competitors from across the Gulf and beyond joined the Kingdom's best drag racers to battle it out along BIC's world-renowned quarter-mile drag strip, which is a part of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network.

Four Bahrainis triumphed across the 12 competition categories for cars and motorbikes. They included Mohsen Salman in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder class, Yusuf Alzayyani in the Outlaw 6-Cylinder, Mohammed Ebrahim in the Street Fight Bikes 9.5, and Yusuf Ahmed in the Pro Street Bikes division.

Also claiming victories were participants from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Lebanon.

The meeting marked the front-end of back-to-back rounds this season, with round four scheduled to take place later this week from Tuesday to Friday (Editor's note: 13 to 16 January) in Sakhir.

The Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, which is sanctioned by the NHRA, is organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

Salman took first place in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder category after winning the final elimination with a pass of 10.549 seconds at 227.89kph. He beat countryman Mahmood Saleh, while fellow-Bahraini Ahmed Abdul-



rahim came third.

Alzayyani followed suit by taking the Outlaw 6-Cylinder victory, where he narrowly beat compatriot Ali Alkhunaizi in the final. Alzayyani clocked a winning mark of 4.288s at 284.41kph while Alkhunaizi posted a time of 4.331s at 265.65kph. Faisal Alarab, also from Bahrain, joined them on the podium in third.

Ebrahim won the Street Fight

Bikes 9.5 class with a time of 9.500s at 224.42kph in the decisive head-to-head. He beat Khalid Aldossari from Saudi, who had a break out. Khalifa Alshurooqi from Bahrain ranked third.

Ahmed also made it to the top of the podium by taking the Pro Street Bikes category. The Bahraini won the final in 4.311s at 292.93kph, defeating Hassan Alouh from Saudi who had a time of 4.814s at 241.48kph. Khalid Aldossari from Saudi

placed third.

Meanwhile, four Saudi participants claimed victories in their divisions.

Mohammed Albrahim took first place in the 9.0 Index class with a final pass of 9.029s at 221.88kph, beating the UAE's Mohamed Idris, who had a break out. Raed Ali of Bahrain came third.

Ebrahim's Nabeel Alessa then won the Pro 29.5 V8 category with a mark of 4.393s in the last elimination at 287.87kph. He beat Bahrain's Nayef Janahi who clocked 12.815s at 45.48kph, while Mohamed Bahlool, also from Bahrain, completed the top three.

Abdulrahman Alnajm joined his compatriots as winners amongst the 8.5 Index Bikes competitors. He took their final in 8.543s at 241.98kph, beating Shehab Burabaa from Kuwait, who timed in at 10.755s at

122.32kph. Bahraini Ali Bahram joined them on the podium.

Saudi's Jihad Aljamal then won the Outlaw Bikes class with a pass of 4.346s in the final at 277.60kph. He beat Kuwaiti Saad Jumah, who had a run of 4.769s at 199.65kph. Saudi's Aldossary finished third for his second podium of the night.

Kuwait's Yousef Alhuraibi took the victory in the 8.5 Index category with a final pass of 8.528s at 242.00kph. He beat Ahmad Zaman in the final following a break out, while Salem Bowmashah made it an all-Kuwaiti top three.

Kuwait's Abdulrahman Bo Alwa was also triumphant, winning the 4.8 Index class with a time of 11.078s at 90.26kph in his final. Bahrain's Yousef Alhammari came second and Saudi's Saud Harakah was third.

Obaid Alblooshi from the UAE joined the list of victors, taking



the Competition 4.5 category. He had a run of 4.540s at 248.89kph in the final, where he defeated Kuwaiti Mohammed Alfaras, who registered a mark of 5.165s at 170.06kph.

Ahmad Jamal from Lebanon completed the round's winners. He triumphed in the 10.0 Index division with a winning pass of 10.069s at 204.67s in the final, where he beat Kuwait's Read Ali, who had a time of 10.065s at 206.28kph. Bahrain's Ahmed Matar ranked third.

Following all the action, the

winners were presented their respective trophies during the podium ceremonies.

The 2025/2026 calendar of the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship features five rounds in all. After this week's upcoming events, the grand finale is scheduled for 3 to 6 March.

For more information on the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahrainp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.



Guardiola downplays trophy talk as he focuses on Man City growth

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola says he cares more about how Manchester City "grow up" than winning trophies as he prepares his side for the first leg of their League Cup semi-final away to Newcastle on Tuesday.

City ended last season without a major trophy for the first time in eight years, though they did lift the Community Shield at the start of the campaign, beating Manchester United on penalties.

Guardiola, asked at his pre-match press conference yester-

day if he felt extra pressure after missing out on the big prizes last season, insisted he was not focused on silverware.

"It's not about winning or not winning trophies, it's about how the team grows up, how the team is better," the City manager said.

"Last season we didn't deserve to win more than just one trophy, because we didn't play good. So satisfaction to win a trophy when we are not playing good, can happen, you know, knockout stages, (you can be) lucky.

"It's not about that. Believe



Pep Guardiola reacts after a match (file photo)

me, it's not about that. We are here to make the team play better, the satisfaction is to make a good performance for ourselves, our fans."

Guardiola, who has rebuilt his squad over the past year following the departures of key players, said the point was to improve game by game.

"That is the target, and all the time has been like that," he explained. "And after, when you are in that process, and you fight for the title, you can win it.

"But after the title, big com-



It's not about winning or not winning trophies, it's about how the team grows up, how the team is better

PEP GUARDiola

pliments, the day after, a little bit less compliments, two days after, three days, it's forgotten. It's another. So it's the journey, it's how you improve. That is

what you have to do to live our profession."

City won the League Cup for

four seasons in a row from 2018,

with the competition proving a

launchpad for a decade of domi-

nation of English football under

Guardiola.

Last season they were de-

throned as Premier League

champions by Liverpool and

they trail leaders Arsenal by six

points in the current campaign.

Chelsea host Arsenal in the

first leg of the other League Cup

semi-final on Wednesday.



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The top 100 institutions that have employed the most Bahrainis in 2025



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