

Bahrain's warriors ready for Asian battle

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15
SITES

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

TD | 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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— 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) Aragchi 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".