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Defend Palestine
Erdogan accuses Israel of trying to erase Palestine from the global agenda and vows continued support for Palestinian statehood.
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REGION 12 Saudi Arabia and Egypt step up coordination as regional tensions persist

THE DAILY tribune

Perfect start continues as Bahrain sweep aside Kuwait 15 SPORT

BUSINESS 10 Joint programmes eyed to strengthen SME and agricultural sectors

Stability and Cooperation Define Gulf's Path

Leaders reaffirm commitment to strengthening cooperation and addressing shared regional challenges

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, discussed bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen cooperation and joint efforts, particularly in the economic and development sectors.

The meeting took place during His Majesty the King's visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The two leaders reviewed regional and international issues of common interest, including developments in the Middle East and ongoing efforts to enhance regional security and stability for the benefit of the region's countries and peoples.

His Majesty the King commended the UAE's steadfast support for Bahrain under all circumstances, noting its contribution to strengthening the Kingdom's efforts and capabilities in addressing various challenges.

His Majesty the King and the UAE President expressed pride in the long-standing relations between Bahrain and the UAE and reaffirmed their commitment to expanding joint cooperation, particularly in addressing shared challenges facing the region.

One City, Six Nations, Endless Potential

Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi met with GCC delegations participating in programmes organised by the GCC Youth Empowerment Committee at Youth City 2030.

The minister welcomed the participants and praised their engagement in the programmes and activities hosted by Youth City 2030, highlighting the opportunities it provides for learning, skills development and the exchange of expertise among GCC youth.

She affirmed Bahrain's commitment to supporting GCC joint action and strengthening cooperation and integration among the GCC countries.

Tawfiqi said the efforts are part of the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, while also highlighting the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in supporting greater GCC cooperation.

Slow-Motion Disaster Off Oman

Beaches at Ras Madrakah contaminated more than 200km from the stricken vessel

An oil spill from a tanker that ran aground off Oman's coast has reached the mainland, state media reported, while monsoon winds were obstructing containment efforts, the United Nations' maritime agency said.

Previously found that the ship had been stranded for weeks near Oman's Al-Qibliyyah island after it was damaged by explosions.

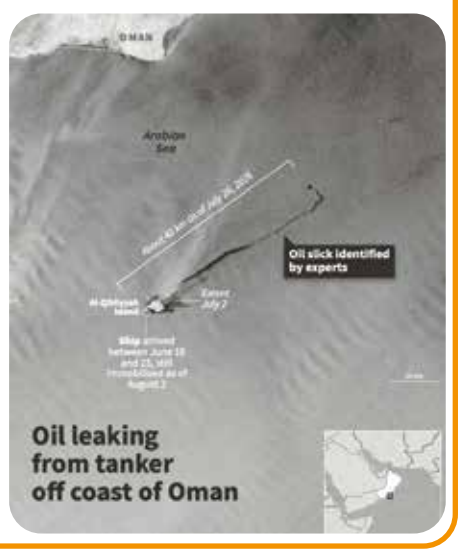
The Oman News Agency (ONA) quoted the country's environment authority as saying that monitoring results showed that some beaches in the Ras Madrakah area were affected by oil pollution.

The Indian Ocean town sits more than 200 kilometres (125 miles) from Al-Qibliyya.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the UN's International Maritime Organization said it was "closely monitoring the oil leakage from the crude oil tanker CAROLINE BEZENGI, which grounded off the coast of Oman on 30 June 2026 and is currently around 22 nautical miles offshore of Sharbithat, Oman".

They added that "oil is drifting offshore to the northeast of Al-Qibliyyah island with some oil reported to be reaching the mainland," and that "the seasonal monsoon has limited access to the vessel and delayed salvage operations".

Oman on Monday said it was working to contain the spill, which had affected roughly 390 square kilometres (150 square miles), according to the most recent analysis from the country's environment agency.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Praises Health Sector Efforts

Bahrain Defence Force Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Supreme Council of Health Chairman Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa on Wednesday.

The BDF Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Supreme Health Council chairman and praised the council's efforts in managing medical services and healthcare in Bahrain.

He also commended the council's continued work to develop medical institutions and systems and improve their quality in line with ongoing advancements in the healthcare sector, serving citizens and residents.

Role of Bahraini youth

Shura Council Services Committee Chairwoman Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman described youth as a national asset and a key partner in the Kingdom's development journey.

She stressed the Shura Council's role in supporting youth through legislation and policies covering education, training, employment and entrepreneurship. She also highlighted the need to equip young people with future skills, including adaptability, creativity, continuous learning and responsible use of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence.

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Marine safety awareness campaign

Bahrain's Coast Guard has launched a marine awareness campaign in cooperation with Bapco Energies as part of ongoing efforts to enhance safety and regulate maritime traffic.

The campaign is being conducted in connection with the ongoing 3D marine survey project in Bahrain's northern waters. It aims to raise awareness among fishermen, boat owners and sea users about safety guidelines and navigation rules in the project areas.

The Coast Guard urged sea users to maintain safe speeds, avoid approaching or tampering with survey equipment, and refrain from fishing or other marine activities within designated work zones.

Kingfish net ban starts Saturday

Bahrain will ban catching kingfish using nets in its territorial waters for two months from August 15 to October 15, the Supreme Council for Environment has announced.

The restriction aims to protect kingfish stocks during the fertilisation and breeding season and support the sustainability of Bahrain's marine resources. Fishing for kingfish using lines will remain permitted during the ban.

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NBB Commences University Phase of EVOLVE Following Conclusion of the School Programme

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has concluded the school cohort of the fifth edition of EVOLVE, its summer internship programme, and commenced the next phase for university participants. The transition marks the continuation of the 2026 programme, which began in July.

Throughout the school phase, participants were immersed in a structured programme combining classroom sessions, practical assignments, and on-the-job training. The experience was designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of the banking and financial services sector while strengthening their communication, teamwork, and professional skills.

The school cohort included participants from Ibn Khuldoon National School (IKNS), Bahrain Bayan School, St. Christopher's School Bahrain, Al Hekma International School, Naseem International School, Arabian Pearl Gulf (APG) Private School, Beacon Private School, Sacred Heart School Bahrain, American School of Bahrain, Ahlia School, Shaikha Hessa Girls' School (SHGS), Nasser Centre for Science and Technology (NCST), and INJAZ Bahrain.

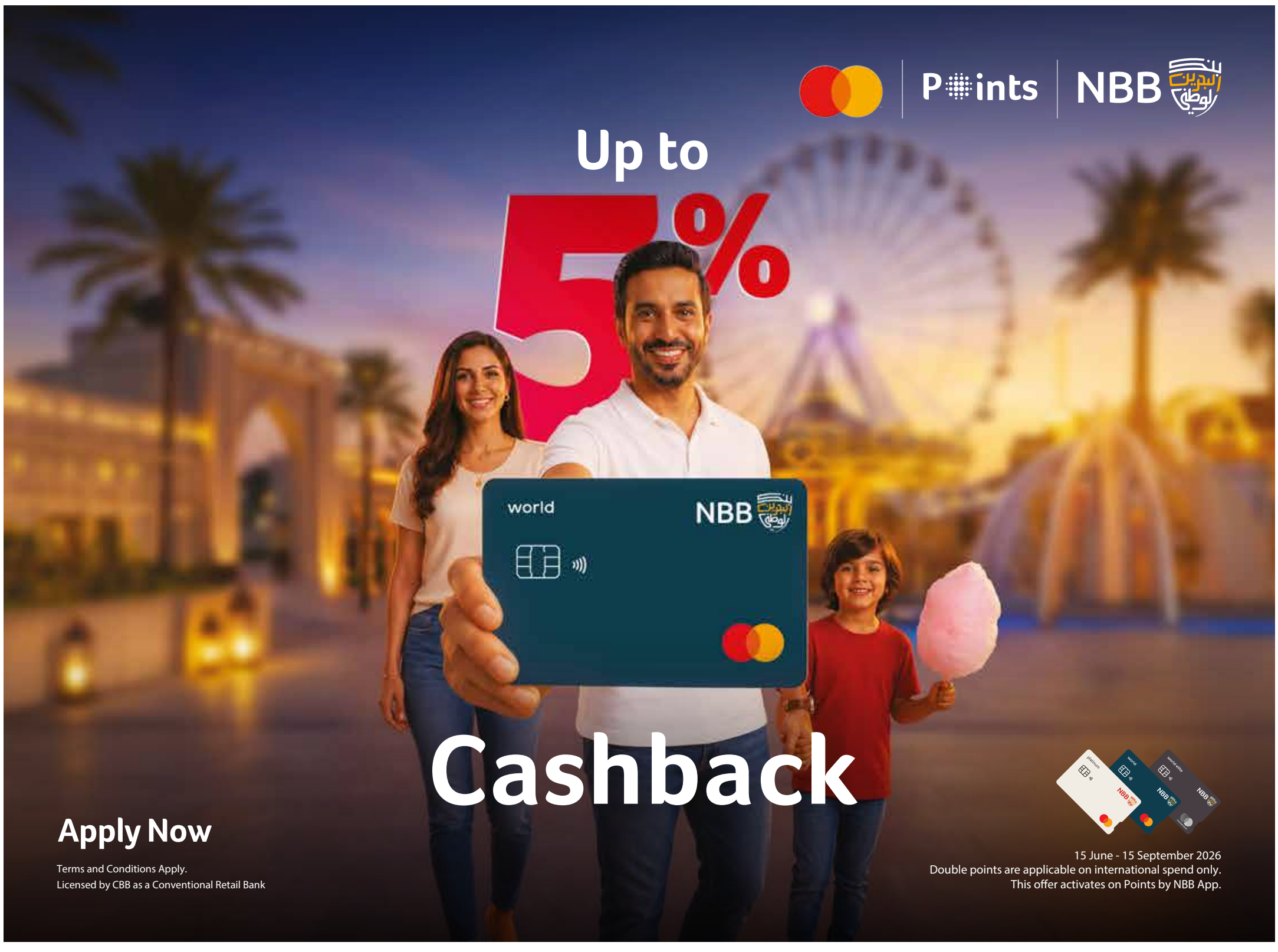
Following the completion of the first phase, EVOLVE has welcomed university participants representing British University of Bahrain, American University of Bahrain, Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), Bahrain Polytechnic, the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP), Euro University of Bahrain, and the University of Strathclyde, Bahrain.

Students from the AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation (MKF) and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation also joined in, extending the programme's reach to the youth supported by both charitable organisations.

This group will take part in a similarly structured learning journey, combining technical development with direct exposure to different functions across NBB.

The curriculum covers topics including banking, artificial intelligence, fintech, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, first aid, mental health awareness, sign language, team building, and sovereign wealth funds. Sessions are delivered by NBB employees alongside Mada Translation, Marsh, BIBF, Emeritus, Bahrain Fintech Bay, Bahrain Paramedic Academy, INJAZ Bahrain, Mumtalakat, and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

Now in its fifth consecutive year, EVOLVE continues to connect academic learning with professional experience for students at different stages of their education. With the university phase now officially underway, NBB remains focused on ensuring the participants gain practical insights to excel in their future career paths.



Next Generation Steps Up

Session marks International Youth Day and explains the Council's legislative and oversight roles

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Young participants at Youth City 2030 were introduced to Bahrain's parliamentary system and the legislative and oversight roles of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives during interactive awareness sessions held to mark International Youth Day.

The sessions formed part of programmes aimed at strengthening parliamentary culture among young people, increasing their understanding of legislative work and encouraging active participation in public affairs.

The General Secretariat of the Shura Council organised an interactive session for participants in the first edition of the "Junior Parliamentarian" programme, held in strategic partnership with the Youth Leadership Association and in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

Legal researchers Hawra Ali and Muneera Al Abbasi delivered a presentation covering the powers and responsibilities of the Shura Council, as well as cooperation between the Shura Council and Council of Representatives and coordination between the legislative and executive authorities.

The session also highlighted the complementary roles of the two chambers and their contribution to Bahrain's development. Separately, the Secretariat General of the Council of Representatives held an awareness lecture on parliamentary culture as part of Youth City 2030 activities.

Dr Shaikha Al Alaiwi, Executive Legal Researcher at the Secretariat General, introduced participants to the Council of Representatives, its legislative and oversight powers, parliamentary procedures and the role of parliamentary committees.

The lecture also explained the stages involved in discussing bills and proposals and emphasised the importance of national participation and fostering active citizenship among young people.

The two initiatives reflect the efforts of Bahrain's parliamentary institutions to promote parliamentary awareness among younger generations and provide them with a better understanding of the country's legislative process.

Adding Outside Stairs? Check First

Muharraq Municipality says approval depends on property and planning rules

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Homeowners planning to add external staircases to their properties have been urged to check the applicable regulations and obtain the required approvals before starting work.

Muharraq Municipality said whether an external staircase can be built depends on the property's location, boundaries and applicable planning regulations, rather than simply the staircase's design.

Factors include the distance from property boundaries, required building setbacks, zoning classification, how the staircase connects to the building and facade, as well as technical, structural and safety requirements.

The municipality noted that requirements can vary between properties, meaning neighbouring homes may not necessarily receive the same approval.

Construction, extension and alteration works are subject to Decree-Law No. 13 of 1977 issuing the Building Regulation Law and its amendments, along with applicable planning regulations and building permit requirements.

Homeowners planning an external staircase are advised to:

- Check the regulations applying to the property.
- Confirm that the proposed staircase is permitted at the intended location.
- Complete all required licensing procedures before construction begins.

The municipality stressed that checking the requirements before construction is essential to ensure the work is carried out safely and lawfully.

FROM THE COURT | TDT | Manama Rehab Mohammad

Employer cleared of trafficking charge

Appeal court upholds three-month sentence over threats used to obtain false wage acknowledgements

An appeals court has acquitted the owner of a transactions processing office of human trafficking charges but upheld his conviction for forcing a foreign employee to sign documents falsely confirming receipt of his wages.

The court sentenced the employer to three months in prison for obtaining the signatures through threats. The worker alleged that his working hours were extended, his weekly day off was denied, his salary was withheld for three months and he was assigned duties outside his job. He also claimed the employer threatened to cancel his residency and terminate his employment.

The Court of First Instance had sentenced the defendant to three years in prison, fined him BD2,000 and ordered him to cover the worker's repatriation costs.

The Court of Appeal overturned that ruling, acquitting him of the trafficking-related charges and convicting him only of obtaining the salary receipt declarations through threats.

Defendant sent to trial over electronic records

The Public Prosecution referred a defendant to the High Criminal Court over two cases involving allegations of falsifying official electronic records by entering false information into the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf's electronic system.

According to the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, the defendant allegedly entered incorrect mobile phone numbers when submitting claims for financial dues against 14 people in one case and nine in another.

Investigations found that the same two phone numbers were entered for the individuals and that both numbers belonged to the defendant.

The prosecution said the information was allegedly entered to prevent the affected individuals from receiving notifications about the claims and responding to them.

Statements from affected individuals and a Ministry employee, along with an examination of the electronic system, supported the findings, including evidence that notification messages were sent to the defendant's numbers.

The two cases are scheduled to be heard by the High Criminal Court on August 18, 2026.

Two Asians Arrested with Narcotic Substances

General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Evidence arrested two Asian nationals, a man and a woman, after finding them in possession of suspected narcotic substances.

The Ministry of Interior said the arrests were made as part of ongoing efforts by the Anti-Narcotics Directorate to combat drug-related activities and protect the community. Following information received about the case, security personnel conducted search and investigation operations, gathered information and evidence, and identified the suspects. Security personnel subsequently arrested them with the drugs in their possession.

Three Police Officers Earn Master's Degrees in Security Studies

Chief of Public Security and Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Royal Academy of Police, Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, received Major Ali Abdullah Al Sada, Major Ahmed Khalid Bukamal, and Major Ibrahim Ahmed Al Zoman after they completed their master's degrees from Naif Arab University for Security Sciences in Saudi Arabia and the Police Academy in Egypt.

During the meeting, Al Hassan congratulated the officers on their academic achievements and praised the subjects addressed in their research.

The studies covered artificial intelligence and its impact on Bahrain's national security, including challenges and opportunities; the impact of expatriate labour on national security in the Gulf states; the importance and challenges of information integration among state agencies and its role in maintaining security and stability; and the development of police security services and their contribution to improving security performance in Bahrain.

Al Hassan highlighted the officers' academic excellence, saying it reflects the Ministry of Interior's commitment to encouraging its personnel to pursue higher education and develop their specialised knowledge and expertise.

Prosecution vows to enforce Safaqat judgments

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Criminal Enforcement Prosecution has reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing final court judgments and supporting victims in recovering their financial rights within the limits of the law, including those affected by the "Safaqat" case.

The Head of the Criminal Enforcement Prosecution said the Public Prosecution's role continues after a criminal judgment is issued, covering the enforcement of custodial sentences, fines and court orders concerning the return or confiscation of funds.

He said the Safaqat case demonstrated the prosecution's work throughout the judicial process, including investigating the case, questioning defendants, hearing witnesses and victims, tracing and preserving funds, examining related transactions and appointing a director to manage the funds before the case was referred to trial.

The prosecution also followed the case through different stages of litigation and exercised its right to appeal where legal grounds existed until the judgments became final and enforceable.

Following the final judgments, the Criminal Enforcement Prosecution began enforcement procedures, including implementing prison sentences and taking measures concerning fines and orders to confiscate and return funds.

The prosecution said a civil enforcement file was opened before the Civil Enforcement Court to begin the procedures related to the financial orders.

Victims who have been awarded compensation or whose funds were ordered to be returned may approach the Civil Enforcement Court themselves or through their lawyers to pursue recovery, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law.

The prosecution also confirmed its readiness to cooperate with lawyers representing affected parties by providing copies of the criminal judgments, subject to applicable legal requirements.

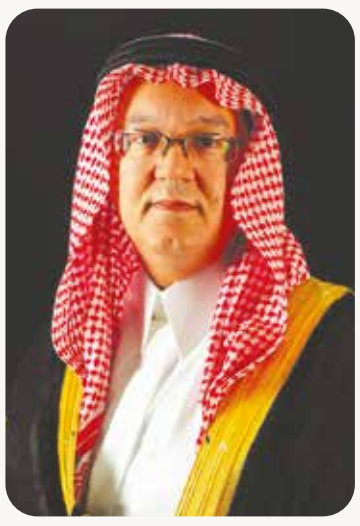
Ithmaar Bank Reports Resilient Half-Year Performance

Ithmaar Bank B.S.C. (Closed), a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, reported profits for the first half of 2026 as it announced its financial results for the six-month period ended 30 June 2026.

The announcement, by Ithmaar Bank Chairman His Royal Highness Prince Amr Al Faisal, follows the review and approval of the Board of Directors of the Bank's consolidated financial results.

The results show a net profit attributable to equity holders of the Bank for the three-month period ended 30 June 2026 of BD0.8 million, compared to the net profit of BD1.47 million reported for the same period in 2025. Total net profit for the three-month period ended 30 June 2026 was BD2.7 million, compared to BD3.33 million reported for the same period in 2025. The decrease is primarily attributable to lower benchmark rates impacting spreads generated by the Bank's overseas operations.

Maysan Al Maskati, Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer



His Royal Highness Prince Amr Al Faisal, Ithmaar Bank Chairman

The results also show a net profit attributable to equity holders for the six-month period ended 30 June 2026 of BD2.2 million, compared to a net profit of BD2.80 million reported for the same period in 2025. Total net profit for the six-month period ended 30 June 2026 was BD6.4 million, compared to BD7.10 million reported for the first half of 2025.

"On behalf of Ithmaar Bank's Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that the Bank continued to deliver stable profitability during the first half of 2026 despite a lower benchmark rate environment and the challenging market conditions," said HRH Prince Amr. "The results reflect the resilience of the Bank's business model and the continued strength of its core Islamic banking franchise in Bahrain and Pakistan. The Bank remains focused on sustainable growth, prudent risk management and enhancing the value of its strategic investments while navigating a changing economic landscape," he said.

Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Maysan Al Maskati, said the results demonstrate the Bank's ability to effectively manage earnings pressures through disciplined balance sheet and funding management.

"While lower benchmark rates in our overseas operations continued to impact operating income compared to the previous year, the Bank remained profitable while maintaining stable liquidity position," said Al Maskati. "Our continued focus on optimising the funding mix, enhancing low-cost deposit mobilisation and carefully managing funding costs helped mitigate the impact of the lower rate environment. These efforts have reinforced the resilience of our earnings profile and positioned the Bank to continue delivering sustainable long-term value."

"The Bank's fundamentals remain strong, supported by a stable funding base, prudent liquidity management and continued customer confidence," said Almaskati. "We also continued to strengthen our balance sheet and enhance operational efficiency while maintaining our commitment to serving our customers and supporting economic growth in our core markets," he said.

Deposit mobilisation initiatives and funding optimisation efforts remained key priorities during the period, supporting the Bank's strategy of strengthening its funding base. As a result, total Quasi-equity increased to BD1.40 billion as at 30 June 2026 compared to BD1.32 billion as at 31 December 2025, an increase of 6.5 per cent reflecting the Bank's continued focus on customer liabilities growth and sustained customer confidence.

"Looking ahead, we remain focused on growing our core businesses, strengthening customer relationships and pursuing opportunities that support sustainable profitability and shareholder value creation," said Al Maskati. "Supporting our ambitious future strategy, the Bank is well positioned to navigate changing market conditions and capitalise on opportunities as they arise."

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(Expressed in thousands of United States Dollars unless otherwise stated)

	At 30 June 2026 (reviewed)	At 31 December 2025 (audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and central banks	508,550	457,309
Commodity placements with banks and other financial institutions	407,881	193,617
Financing contracts	3,330,122	3,546,721
Investment securities	2,747,494	2,451,824
Investment in associates	111,503	108,580
Other assets	248,927	218,031
Investment in real estate	152,357	153,770
Development properties	181,040	181,776
Property and equipment	265,486	258,779
Intangible assets	16,646	13,830
Total assets	**7,970,006**	7,584,237
LIABILITIES, QUASI-EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
Customers' current accounts	2,821,053	2,453,658
Due to banks, financial and other institutions	928,533	1,108,605
Other liabilities	332,444	357,224
Total liabilities	**4,082,030**	3,919,487
Quasi-equity	**3,707,995**	3,483,667
OWNERS' EQUITY		
Share capital	757,690	757,690
Treasury shares	(30,149)	(30,149)
Reserves	112,040	112,045
Accumulated losses	(827,385)	(827,641)
Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Company	**12,196**	11,945
Non-controlling interests	167,785	169,138
Total owners' equity	**179,981**	181,083
Total liabilities, quasi-equity and owners' equity	**7,970,006**	7,584,237

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

(Expressed in thousands of United States Dollars unless otherwise stated)

	Six months ended		Three months ended	
	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	30 June 2025 (reviewed)	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	30 June 2025 (reviewed)
INCOME				
Income from financing contracts	172,379	150,758	91,870	78,661
Income from investments	156,826	180,547	76,109	84,752
Other income - net	43,108	37,856	22,663	18,789
Finance expense on placements from financial and non-financial institutions	(7,427)	(9,044)	(4,035)	(4,526)
Net income	**364,886**	360,117	**186,607**	177,676
Share of profit / (loss) from equity accounted investees	2,381	(1,021)	262	(552)
Total income	**367,267**	359,096	**186,869**	177,124
EXPENSES				
Operating expenses	112,853	102,035	58,815	49,721
Depreciation and amortization	14,789	13,162	7,465	6,820
Total expenses	**127,642**	115,197	**66,280**	56,541
Profit before impairment allowances, income attribution to quasi-equity and tax	**239,625**	243,899	**120,589**	120,583
Allowances for impairment and expected credit losses, net	(2,199)	11,647	(532)	4,206
Profit before income attribution to quasi-equity and tax	**237,426**	255,546	**120,057**	124,789
Less: Net profit attributable to quasi-equity	(186,271)	(191,547)	(98,231)	(95,654)
Profit before overseas taxation	**51,155**	63,999	**21,826**	29,135
Tax expense	(40,612)	(51,125)	(18,218)	(23,675)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	**10,543**	12,874	**3,608**	5,460
Attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Company	256	1,577	(945)	573
Non-controlling interests	10,287	11,297	4,553	4,887
	10,543	12,874	**3,608**	5,460
Basic and diluted earnings/ (losses) per share	**US CTS 0.01**	US CTS 0.05	**US CTS (0.03)**	US CTS 0.02

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

(Expressed in thousands of United States Dollars unless otherwise stated)

	Six months ended	
	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	30 June 2025 (reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit before tax:	**51,155**	63,999
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortization	14,789	13,162
Share of results after tax from associates	(2,381)	1,021
Provision for / (reversal of) impairment - net	2,199	(11,647)
Income from investments	(156,826)	(180,547)
Finance cost on net Ijarah liability	4,127	3,685
Gain on sale of property and equipment	(863)	(64)
Operating loss before changes in operating assets and liabilities	**(87,800)**	(110,391)
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Balances with banks maturing after 90 days including central banks balances relating to minimum reserve requirement	11,848	333
Financing contracts	237,531	(265,242)
Other assets	(45,990)	(38,303)
Customers' current accounts	350,116	401,593
Due to banks, financial and other institutions	(207,694)	(261,403)
Other liabilities	21,200	(11,772)
Quasi-equity	201,960	329,794
Taxes paid	(64,159)	(68,123)
Net cash generated from / (used in) operating activities	**417,012**	(23,514)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investment securities	(121,198)	106,616
Property and equipment	(14,489)	(19,028)
Net cash (used in) / generated from investing activities	**(135,687)**	87,588
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of net Ijarah liability	(6,929)	(6,875)
Net cash used in financing activity	**(6,929)**	(6,875)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	1,863	(8,925)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**276,259**	48,274
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**600,916**	515,303
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**877,175**	563,577

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY FOR THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

(Expressed in thousands of United States Dollars unless otherwise stated)

30 June 2026 (reviewed)	Share capital	Treasury shares	Reserves	Accumulated losses	Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Company	Non-controlling interests	Total owners' equity
At 1 January 2026	**757,690**	**(30,149)**	**112,045**	**(827,641)**	**11,945**	**169,138**	**181,083**
Profit for the period	-	-	-	256	**256**	10,287	**10,543**
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	(5)	-	**(5)**	(2,913)	**(2,918)**
Total comprehensive income for the period	**-**	**-**	**(5)**	**256**	**251**	**7,374**	**7,625**
Movement from dividend distribution by subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-	(6,368)	**(6,368)**
Decrease in shareholding of subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	(2,359)	**(2,359)**
At 30 June 2026	**757,690**	**(30,149)**	**112,040**	**(827,385)**	**12,196**	**167,785**	**179,981**

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY FOR THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

(Expressed in thousands of United States Dollars unless otherwise stated)

At 30 June 2025 (reviewed)	Share capital	Treasury shares	Reserves	Accumulated losses	Total equity attributable to shareholders of the Company	Non-controlling interests	Total owners' equity
At 1 January 2025	757,690	(30,149)	112,527	(828,650)	11,418	169,448	180,866
Profit for the period	-	-	-	1,577	1,577	11,297	12,874
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	609	-	609	(5,182)	(4,573)
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	609	1,577	2,186	6,115	8,301
Movement from dividend distribution by subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-	(7,240)	(7,240)
Decrease in shareholding of subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	(4,298)	(4,298)
At 30 June 2025	757,690	(30,149)	113,136	(827,073)	13,604	164,025	177,629

The above Interim Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Interim Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income, Interim Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Owners' Equity and Interim Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows have been extracted from the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Information of Ithmaar Holding for the six month period ended 30 June 2026, which were approved for issue by the Board of Directors and reviewed by KPMG Fakhro, Kingdom of Bahrain, who expressed an unqualified review conclusion on 12 Aug 2026.

HRH Prince Amr Mohammed Al Faisal
Chairman

Elham Hassan
Director

Maysan Al Maskati
CEO

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الإثمار القابضة
Ithmaar Holding

BD79.4m in Government Contracts Awarded

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

BD79.4 million in government contracts was awarded across Bahrain in June, with 121 tenders covering new deals, renewals and change orders, figures published in the Official Gazette show.

Bapco Upstream took the largest share by value, winning four tenders worth BD14.8m. The Electricity and Water Authority issued more awards than any other public body, with 18 contracts worth BD13.9m, while eight public tenders in the oil sector came to almost BD9.98m. The Supreme Council of Health awarded four tenders worth BD7.48m, while the Urban Planning and Development Authority had one contract valued at BD4.14m.

Gulf Air Group followed with two awards worth BD3.85m. Al Dana Amphitheatre had one tender worth BD3.5m, while the Industry and Commerce Ministry awarded three worth BD3.2m.

The Works Ministry was among the busiest bodies, handing out 13 contracts worth BD2.89m. Two tenders from the Finance and National Economy Ministry came to BD1.9m, while the Information and eGovernment Authority awarded three worth BD1.78m.

The National Bureau for Revenue issued one contract worth BD1.49m. Bahrain International Circuit awarded seven tenders worth BD1.39m, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority five worth BD1.34m. The Housing and Urban Planning Ministry had one award worth BD1.26m, while five tenders from the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry came to BD1.16m.

Further down the table, the General Sports Authority awarded a contract worth BD998,100 and Gulf Air three worth BD981,900. Bapco Refining issued two awards worth BD728,200.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry had one tender worth BD374,500. The Social Insurance Organisation awarded four worth BD354,200, while Bapco Gas issued three worth BD350,000.

Two contracts from the Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry came to BD271,000. The General Poultry Company awarded one worth BD256,300 and Bahrain Airport Company one worth BD232,300.

The Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution and Eskan Bank each had a BD198,000 award. The Youth Affairs Ministry issued one worth BD179,300, while the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority had two worth BD167,100.

The Institute of Public Administration awarded a BD150,000 tender and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority two worth BD123,200. At the lower end of the list, the Civil Service Bureau had awards worth BD72,000, the Health Ministry BD67,800, Primary Healthcare Centres BD58,200, Bahrain Polytechnic BD51,800 and the Education Ministry BD49,800.

The Council of Representatives recorded BD39,000, Bahrain Bourse BD17,500, the Interior Ministry BD17,200 and Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company, Edamah, BD10,300.

Bahrain Flour Mills Company B.S.C.

AL-MATAHIN

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
At 30 June 2026

	30 June 2026 (Reviewed) BD	31 December 2025 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**6,838,032**	6,862,765
Intangible assets	**59,162**	70,418
Right-of-use assets	**3,990,317**	4,147,889
Investment securities	**3,897,159**	3,904,205
	14,784,670	14,985,277
Current assets		
Investment securities	**13,098,925**	12,878,542
Inventories	**11,279,934**	5,567,692
Receivables and other assets	**757,778**	2,499,815
Bank balances, short-term deposits and cash	**6,256,268**	4,763,209
	31,392,905	25,709,258
TOTAL ASSETS	**46,177,575**	40,694,535
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	**2,481,877**	2,481,877
Share premium	**1,350,000**	1,350,000
Statutory reserve	**1,241,625**	1,241,625
Other reserves	**3,463,628**	3,463,628
Retained earnings	**18,905,157**	18,855,741
Total equity	**27,442,287**	27,392,871
Non-current liabilities		
Employees' end of service benefits	**161,933**	150,475
Lease liabilities - non-current portion	**4,595,829**	4,506,712
	4,757,762	4,657,187
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities - current portion	**185,086**	222,081
Term loan	**1,869,814**	2,121,318
Trade payables and other liabilities	**1,708,875**	565,368
Import finance loans	**-**	1,073,736
Amount due to the Government	**-**	1,721,654
Advance received from the Government	**10,213,751**	2,940,320
	13,977,526	8,644,477
Total liabilities	**18,735,288**	13,301,664
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**46,177,575**	40,694,535

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Share capital BD	Share Premium BD	Reserves: Statutory reserve BD	Reserves: Other reserves BD	Retained earnings BD	Total equity BD
At 1 January 2026 (Audited)	**2,481,877**	**1,350,000**	**1,241,625**	**3,463,628**	**18,855,741**	**27,392,871**
Net profit for the period	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**695,036**	**695,036**
Charity approved for 2025	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(25,000)**	**(25,000)**
Dividends for 2025	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(620,620)**	**(620,620)**
At 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	**2,481,877**	**1,350,000**	**1,241,625**	**3,463,628**	**18,905,157**	**27,442,287**

	Share capital BD	Share Premium BD	Reserves: Statutory reserve BD	Reserves: Other reserves BD	Retained earnings BD	Total equity BD
At 1 January 2025 (Audited)	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	18,326,466	26,863,596
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	-	676,647	676,647
Charity approved for 2024	-	-	-	-	(25,000)	(25,000)
Dividends for 2024	-	-	-	-	(620,620)	(620,620)
At 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	2,481,877	1,350,000	1,241,625	3,463,628	18,357,493	26,894,623

INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Three-month period ended: 30 June 2026 BD	Three-month period ended: 30 June 2025 BD	Six-month period ended: 30 June 2026 BD	Six-month period ended: 30 June 2025 BD
Revenue	**1,691,141**	1,752,414	**3,740,683**	3,693,169
Cost of revenue	**(4,766,164)**	(4,256,545)	**(9,103,584)**	(8,693,967)
Gross loss before Government subsidy	**(3,075,023)**	(2,504,131)	**(5,362,901)**	(5,000,798)
Government subsidy	**3,555,412**	3,531,150	**6,617,214**	6,404,222
Gross profit	**480,389**	1,027,019	**1,254,313**	1,403,424
Other operating income	**126,529**	87,316	**230,861**	193,376
Other operating expenses	**(560,495)**	(411,169)	**(1,155,050)**	(925,809)
Operating profit	**46,423**	703,166	**330,124**	670,991
Net change in fair value of investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	**119,950**	247,416	**220,383**	12,694
Interest income from investment securities at amortised cost - net	**58,513**	58,584	**118,494**	117,314
Finance cost	**(113,206)**	(127,762)	**(237,576)**	(276,985)
Other income	**182,226**	93,117	**263,611**	152,633
Net profit for the period	**293,906**	974,521	**695,036**	676,647
Basic and diluted earnings per share (fils)	**11.84**	39.25	**28.00**	27.26

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the six-month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Six-month period ended: 30 June 2026 BD	Six-month period ended: 30 June 2025 BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the period	**695,036**	676,647
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	**438,145**	444,648
Amortisation of intangible assets	**11,257**	11,255
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	**202,799**	202,670
Net change in fair value of investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	**(220,383)**	(12,694)
Interest income from investment securities at amortised cost- net	**(118,494)**	(117,314)
Interest income from bank balances and short-term deposits	**(87,957)**	(28,404)
Finance cost	**237,576**	276,985
Reversal of provision for slow moving and obsolete inventories	**(4,054)**	(3,862)
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	**24,234**	17,223
Operating profit before working capital changes	**1,178,159**	1,467,154
Working capital changes:		
Inventories	**(5,708,188)**	(719,384)
Receivables and other assets	**(5,165,528)**	(4,061,205)
Trade payables and other liabilities	**1,154,886**	(98,517)
Net cash used in operations	**(8,540,671)**	(3,411,952)
Employees' end of service benefits paid	**(12,776)**	(13,279)
Donation paid	**(25,000)**	(24,527)
Net cash flows used in operating activities	**(8,578,447)**	(3,449,758)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(413,732)**	(235,129)
Interest income received from investment securities at amortised cost- net	**125,540**	124,360
Placement of short-term deposits with an original maturity of more than 90 days	**(1,000,000)**	-
Interest income received from bank balances and short-term deposits	**78,427**	38,629
Net cash flows used in investing activities	**(1,209,765)**	(72,140)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	**(116,068)**	(114,966)
Term loan paid	**(251,504)**	(17,140)
Import finance loans paid	**(1,073,736)**	(2,258,413)
Amount paid to the Government	**(1,721,654)**	(2,902,669)
Advance received from the Government	**14,190,528**	8,862,323
Finance cost paid	**(125,675)**	(169,560)
Dividends paid	**(620,620)**	(620,620)
Net cash flows from financing activities	**10,281,271**	2,778,955
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**493,059**	(742,943)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	**4,763,209**	4,377,581
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	**5,256,268**	3,634,638

The financial statements were reviewed by Ernst & Young - Middle East, approved by the Board of Directors on 12 August 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr.Basim AlSaie	Mr. Salah Mohamed Al Kulaib	Mr. Wayne Henry Craig
(Chairman)	**(Vice Chairman)**	**(Chief Executive Officer)**

Bahrain Flour Mills Company B.S.C Announces Financial Results for the Six Months Ended 30 June 2026

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I thank and appreciate all ministries and government authorities who supported the Company during the exceptional period experienced by the Kingdom. I also express my appreciation to the Company's Management and all employees for their dedicated and tireless efforts during this difficult and critical period, and for their commitment and sense of responsibility in ensuring the continuity of flour production and the availability of this essential commodity.

MR. BASIM ALSAIE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Flour Mills Company B.S.C. (Al-Matahin) trading code (BFM) held its meeting on Wednesday, 12 Aug 2026, at 1 PM, chaired by Mr. Basim Al-Saie, Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Board took a number of decisions, including the approval of the company's financial statements for the six-month period ending 30 June 2026.

Mr. Al Saie extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Board of Directors, the Executive Management and all the company employees for their support and continuous endeavors to achieve the best results, he expressed his pride in their exceptional dedication in confronting current challenges; he emphasized that their sincere efforts are the fundamental pillar for overcoming difficulties, ensuring the continuity of company operations, and stabilizing food security in the Kingdom of Bahrain, wishing Al-Matahin further progress and prosperity.

Q2 Financial Results:

Bahrain Flour Mills company B.S.C. announces its financial results for the three months ended 30 Jun 2026. The company achieved a net profit for the period of BHD 293,906, compared to BHD 974,521 for the same period of last year representing a decrease of 70%.

This decrease in net profit for the second quarter of 2026, compared with the same period in 2025, is attributable to higher cost of sales and operating expenses, in addition to the costs arising from the current geopolitical conditions and their impact on investment returns.

Basic and diluted earnings per share for the second quarter decreased to profit of 11.84 fils compared with 39.25 fils in the same period of 2025.

The Company also achieved an operating profit of BHD 46,423 during the second quarter of 2026, compared with BHD 703,166 for the same period in 2025, representing a decrease of 93%. This decrease in profit is attributable to higher cost of sales and operating expenses.

With regard to sales, the Company generated BHD 1,691,141 during the second quarter of 2026, compared with BHD 1,752,414 for the same period in 2025, representing a decrease of 3%. This decrease was due to lower sales volumes of flour and bran products, following the surge in demand during the geopolitical conditions in the first quarter.

1st Half Financial Results:

For the First Half of 2026, BFM has reported a profit of BHD 695,036 versus BHD 676,647 profit for the same period in 2025 representing an increase of 3%.

The Company reported Basic and Diluted Earnings per share of 28 fils for the first half of 2026 versus 27.26 fils profit for the same period in 2025.

Operating profit for the first half of 2026 amounted to BHD 330,124, compared with BHD 670,991 for the first half of 2025, representing a decrease of 51%. This decrease was due to the aforementioned reasons, as well as lower subsidy returns on imported flour and bran products.

BFM generated first-half sales of BHD 3,740,683 versus BHD 3,693,169 in H1 2025 increase by 1%.

Financial Position:

The Company's total equity increased slightly by 0.2% to BHD 27,442,287, compared with BHD 27,392,871 as at 31 December 2025, after deducting shareholders' dividends and the charitable donations provision.

The total assets for the period reached BHD 46,177,575 compared to BHD 40,694,535 in the year 2025, with an increase of 13%.

The full set of financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2026 and the press release are available on Al-Matahin and Bahrain Bourse's website.

In closing, Mr. Basim AlSaie expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to all ministries and government authorities whose support and cooperation had a significant impact in assisting the Company during the exceptional period experienced by the Kingdom. He also expressed his appreciation to the Company's Management and all employees for their dedicated and tireless efforts during this difficult and critical period, and for their commitment and sense of responsibility in ensuring the continuity of flour production and the availability of this essential commodity, thereby supporting the food security system in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank B.S.C.(c)

alBaraka Bank

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 JUNE 2026

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Reviewed 30 June 2026 BD'000	Audited 31 December 2025 BD'000
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and financial institutions	**38,028**	58,319
Receivables	**231,196**	259,146
Ijara muntahia bittamleek and ijara receivables	**215,863**	216,207
Musharakat	**127,238**	117,634
Investments	**412,215**	377,729
Investments in real estate	**3,200**	3,247
Premises and equipment	**30,015**	30,257
Intangibles and goodwill	**9,078**	9,185
Other assets	**25,560**	22,092
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,092,393**	1,093,816
LIABILITIES, QUASI EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current accounts	**117,263**	126,860
Murabaha and other payables	**62,524**	-
Other liabilities	**48,564**	46,264
Total liabilities	**228,351**	173,124
Quasi equity		
Participatory investment accounts	**784,976**	842,212
Subordinated mudaraba	**2,371**	2,347
Total quasi equity	**787,347**	844,559
Owners' equity		
Share capital	**60,870**	57,100
Perpetual equity-type instruments	**32,422**	36,192
Reserves	**(7,619)**	(8,307)
Accumulated losses	**(19,148)**	(18,773)
Equity attributable to parent's shareholders	**66,525**	66,212
Non-controlling interests	**10,170**	9,921
Total owners' equity	**76,695**	76,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES, QUASI EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY	**1,092,393**	1,093,816
OFF-BALANCE SHEET ITEMS:		
ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT	**422,948**	464,558
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	**88,414**	96,332

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME
For the six month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Three months ended 30 June		Six months ended 30 June	
	2026 BD'000	2025 BD'000	**2026 BD'000**	2025 BD'000
Income from financings contracts	**10,277**	9,080	**20,048**	18,009
Income from investments	**7,630**	8,012	**13,939**	15,874
Income from banking services	**826**	706	**1,614**	1,474
Other income	**900**	812	**1,506**	1,913
Group's mudarib / agency fee from off-balance sheet equity of investment accountholders	**22**	8	**29**	18
TOTAL INCOME	**19,655**	18,618	**37,136**	37,288
Cost of murabaha and other payables	**(951)**	(388)	**(1,362)**	(823)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME BEFORE ATTRIBUTION TO QUASI EQUITY	**18,704**	18,230	**35,774**	36,465
Net income attributable to quasi-equity	**(10,429)**	(10,085)	**(20,088)**	(20,547)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	**8,275**	8,145	**15,686**	15,918
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Staff expenses	**(3,284)**	(3,234)	**(6,268)**	(6,287)
Depreciation and amortizations	**(1,045)**	(1,034)	**(2,132)**	(2,126)
Other operating expenses	**(3,706)**	(3,137)	**(6,866)**	(6,105)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**(8,035)**	(7,405)	**(15,266)**	(14,518)
NET OPERATING INCOME	**240**	740	**420**	1,400
Reversals / (allowances) for impairment - net	**114**	(107)	**1,047**	220
INCOME BEFORE TAXATION	**354**	633	**1,467**	1,620
Taxation	**(263)**	(497)	**(1,364)**	(1,851)
NET INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	**91**	136	**103**	(231)
Attributable to:				
Equity of the parent's shareholders	**8**	(146)	**(297)**	(1,049)
Non-controlling interest	**83**	282	**400**	818
	91	136	**103**	(231)

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the six month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2026 BD'000	2025 BD'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Income before taxation	**1,467**	1,620
Adjustments for :		
Depreciation and amortizations	**2,132**	2,126
Reversals for impairment - net	**(1,047)**	(220)
Gain on sale of premises and equipment	**(3)**	(1)
Gain on sale of investments	**(32)**	(162)
Unrealized losses on remeasurement of investment in real estate	**47**	-
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	**2,564**	3,363
Net changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Balances with central banks in mandatory reserves	**18,552**	(5,385)
Receivables	**7,380**	(2,949)
Ijara muntahia bittamleek and ijara receivables	**702**	3,151
Musharakat	**(9,187)**	(4,858)
Other assets	**(3,661)**	(3,236)
Other liabilities	**1,819**	6,570
Murabaha and other payables	**62,524**	(9,984)
Current accounts	**(9,597)**	851
Participatory investment accounts	**(57,237)**	64,104
Tax paid	**(1,159)**	(3,148)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**12,700**	48,479
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	**(320,539)**	(154,003)
Proceeds from sale of investments	**286,617**	141,518
Net purchase of premises and equipment	**(1,542)**	(2,679)
Disposal of investment in joint venture	-	6,510
Net cash used in investing activities	**(35,464)**	(8,654)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in subordinated mudaraba	**24**	(48)
Issuance of ordinary shares	**3,770**	-
Repayment of AT1 Capital	**(3,770)**	-
Dividend paid by subsidiary	**(133)**	(284)
Zakah paid	**(76)**	(68)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(185)**	(400)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	**230**	(631)
NET (DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(22,719)**	38,794
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	**78,511**	47,437
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	**55,792**	86,231

For the purpose of the interim condensed consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

Cash in hand	**8,035**	8,498
Balances with central banks in unrestricted accounts	**8**	8,287
Balances with other banks and financial institutions (with original maturity of 3 months or less)	**3,752**	12,315
Receivables - Commodities and Wakala placement with FIs (with original maturity of 3 months or less)	**43,997**	57,131
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**55,792**	86,231

During the period, right-of-use assets increased by BHD 780 thousand (2025: BHD 310 thousand), with corresponding additions to ijara liabilities of BHD 892 thousand (2025: BHD 278 thousand).

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY
For the six month period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

	Equity attributable to shareholders of the parent											
			Reserves									
	Share capital BD'000	Perpetual equity-type instruments BD'000	Statutory BD'000	General BD'000	Employee defined benefit plan BD'000	Cumulative changes in fair value BD'000	Revaluation of premises and equipment BD'000	Foreign exchange BD'000	Accumulated losses BD'000	Equity attributable to parent's shareholders BD'000	Non-controlling interest BD'000	Total owners' equity BD'000
Balance at 1 January 2026 (Audited)	**57,100**	**36,192**	**9,845**	**3,275**	**(205)**	**3,395**	**113**	**(24,720)**	**(18,775)**	**66,220**	**9,913**	**76,133**
(Loss) / income for the period	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(297)**	**(297)**	**400**	**103**
Other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**522**	**-**	**156**	**-**	**678**	**(10)**	**668**
Issuance of ordinary shares	**3,770**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,770**	**-**	**3,770**
Repayment of AT1 Capital	**-**	**(3,770)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(3,770)**	**-**	**(3,770)**
Dividend paid by subsidiary	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(133)**	**(133)**
Distribution of Zakat	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(76)**	**(76)**	**-**	**(76)**
Balance at 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	**60,870**	**32,422**	**9,845**	**3,275**	**(205)**	**3,917**	**113**	**(24,564)**	**(19,148)**	**66,525**	**10,170**	**76,695**
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Audited)	57,100	36,192	9,845	3,275	(129)	2,452	119	(24,630)	(14,638)	69,586	9,711	79,297
(Loss) / income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,049)	(1,049)	818	(231)
Other comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	-	-	(363)	-	(425)	-	(788)	(733)	(1,521)
Dividend paid by subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(284)	(284)
Distribution of Zakat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(68)	(68)	-	(68)
Balance at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	57,100	36,192	9,845	3,275	(129)	2,089	119	(25,055)	(15,755)	67,681	9,512	77,193

These statements have been extracted from financial statements reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers, who expressed an unqualified conclusion on 12 August 2026

Akram Yassin	Dr. Khalid Ateeq	Husain Yusuf Ateyah
Chairman	Vice Chairman	Acting Chief Executive Officer

YOUR PARTNER BANK | **Al Baraka Islamic Bank B.S.C.(c),** P.O. Box 1882 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, (An Islamic Retail Bank - Licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain) | www.albaraka.bh

Beyon Money Business Recognized by Visa as Bahrain's Fastest Growing Commercial Card Provider

TDT | Manama

Ahmed Elkaffass, Visa's Country Manager for Bahrain

Mohamed Abdulaal AlFahad, Director of Beyon Money Business

Beyon Money Business, part of the Beyon Group, has been recognized by Visa, a global leader in digital payments, for achieving the fastest year-on year growth in Active Commercial Cards in Bahrain. The award recognizes the company's exceptional growth in commercial card adoption and its continued commitment to delivering innovative payment solutions that empower businesses across the Kingdom.

This recognition reflects Beyon Money Business's strong performance in driving the adoption of commercial payment solutions among large corporates and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It reflects growing customer trust, increasing demand for digital payment solutions, and the company's leadership in advancing Bahrain's commercial payments ecosystem. The recognition also underscores the accelerated shift towards digital financial services as businesses seek more efficient, secure and scalable payment solutions.

Commenting on the achievement, Mohamed Abdulaal AlFahad, Director of Beyon Money Business, said: "We are honored to receive this recognition from Visa which is a real testament to the trust our customers place in us and the value they see in our innovative payment solutions. As businesses continue to embrace smarter and more efficient ways of managing payments, we remain focused on delivering solutions that provide greater control, flexibility and operational efficiency. We are proud to support corporates and SMEs in their digital transformation journeys and contribute to Bahrain's vision for a thriving digital economy."

Mr. Ahmed Elkaffass, Visa's Country Manager for Bahrain, stated: "We are pleased to recognize Beyon Money Business for achieving the fastest year-on-year growth in commercial active cards in Bahrain. This is a clear testament to the company's commitment to growth and innovation in commercial payments and its ability to meet the evolving needs of businesses across the Kingdom. Their contribution to accelerating digital payment adoption is supporting Bahrain's journey toward a more connected digital economy."

Beyon Money Business continues to invest in innovation and customer-centric solutions, ensuring that businesses of all sizes have access to modern financial tools that enhance flexibility, control, and efficiency. The company remains committed to building on this momentum and delivering greater value to its growing customer base across Bahrain.

Kanoo Real Estate Signs Strategic Partnership with Gulf Catering

TDT | Manama

Kanoo Real Estate, a division of the Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group, has signed a strategic partnership with Gulf Catering, the catering and food services arm of Gulf Hotels Group (GHG), aimed to introduce premium catering solutions, tailored exclusively for Kanoo Tower and its tenants, and the wider business community in the Diplomatic Area.

The partnership was formalized with the presence of Mr. Talal Fawzi Kanoo, Chairman of Kanoo Real Estate, Mr. Ahmed Janahi, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Hotels Group, Mr. Mohsin Haji, Acting CEO of Kanoo Real Estate, and Mr. Raed Mayoof, General Manager of Gulf Catering.

This agreement marks an important step in strengthening Gulf Catering's presence in the corporate and institutional sector, building on its continued expansion in delivering catering and hospitality services to a growing range of sectors and organizations across the Kingdom of Bahrain. . It also reflects Kanoo Real Estate's commitment to delivering an exceptional corporate experience for Kanoo Tower's employees and tenants, as well as employees and professionals working throughout the Diplomatic Area., by integrating Gulf Catering's top-tier food services, while paving the way for new collaborations between both parties.

Mr. Talal Fawzi Kanoo, Chairman of Kanoo Real Estate stated: "We are pleased to sign a strategic partnership with a recognized industry leader like Gulf Catering who have added Kanoo Tower to their expansive hospitality network. By leveraging Gulf Catering's culinary expertise which is anchored by the long-standing legacy of the Gulf Hotel Group, this collaboration is aligned with our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of offerings provided for our employees and tenants, further enhancing the everyday workplace experience at Kanoo Tower."

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Ahmed Janahi, Group Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Hotels Group, said: "This partnership reflects the vision behind the establishment of Gulf Catering as the Group's dedicated catering and institutional hospitality arm, built on Gulf Hotels Group's legacy of more than five decades of delivering hospitality services to the highest standards. It also marks a further expansion of Gulf Catering's presence in the corporate and other institutional sectors, enabling us to deliver premium catering and hospitality solutions tailored to diverse workplace environments, including the tenants and employees of Kanoo Tower, as well as commercial and government offices across Bahrain's Diplomatic Area."

شـركة دلمون للدواجن ش.م.ب
Delmon Poultry Company B.S.C

Condensed Interim Financial Information 30 June 2026

Condensed statement of financial position As at 30 June 2026

	30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	31 December 2025 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,795,045	5,947,218
Right-of-use assets	872,915	465,754
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	3,493,147	3,533,596
Total non-current assets	**10,161,107**	9,946,568
Current assets		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	182,687	539,461
Inventories	2,878,494	3,652,666
Trade and other receivables	4,129,174	3,212,769
Cash and cash equivalents	2,307,915	1,341,468
Total current assets	**9,498,270**	8,746,364
TOTAL ASSETS	**19,659,377**	18,692,932
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	3,120,928	3,120,928
Reserve	9,342,329	9,382,778
Treasury shares	(122,398)	(122,398)
Retained earnings	3,691,804	3,674,607
Total equity	**16,032,663**	16,055,915
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	951,394	565,863
Deferred income	164,755	179,315
Employees' terminal benefits	31,203	22,713
Total non-current liabilities	**1,147,352**	767,891
Current liabilities		
Short-term borrowings	1,122,483	858,075
Lease liabilities	38,995	21,404
Trade and other payables	1,288,762	960,525
Deferred income	29,122	29,122
Total current liabilities	**2,479,362**	1,869,126
Total liabilities	**3,626,714**	2,637,017
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**19,659,377**	18,692,932

Condensed statement of profit or loss for six months period ended 30 June 2026

	Six months ended 30 June		Three months ended 30 June	
	2026 (reviewed)	2025 (reviewed)	**2026 (reviewed)**	2025 (reviewed)
Sales	10,519,568	10,504,553	5,051,946	5,041,111
Cost of sales	(9,875,131)	(9,486,798)	(4,729,481)	(4,585,359)
Gross Profit for the period	**644,437**	1,017,755	**322,465**	455,752
Other operating income	207,412	93,706	196,186	54,209
Other operating expenses	(573,223)	(569,853)	(272,437)	(259,231)
Profit from operations	**278,626**	541,608	**246,214**	250,730
Investments income	153,850	160,115	23,009	14,666
Finance cost	(46,220)	(48,256)	(25,612)	(24,092)
Unrealised fair value losses on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(1,916)	(63,695)	(2,724)	(28,896)
Net profit for the period	**384,340**	589,772	**240,887**	212,408
Basic earnings per share (fils)	**12.56**	19.28	**7.87**	6.94

Condensed statement of comprehensive income for the six months period ended 30 June 2026

	Six months ended 30 June		Three months ended 30 June	
	2026 (reviewed)	2025 (reviewed)	**2026 (reviewed)**	2025 (reviewed)
Net profit for the period	**384,340**	589,772	**240,887**	212,408
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:				
Fair value (loss)/ gains on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	(40,449)	332,350	22,076	31,137
Other comprehensive income for the period	**(40,449)**	332,350	**22,076**	31,137
Total comprehensive income for the period	**343,891**	922,122	**262,963**	243,545

Condensed statement of cash flows for the six months period ended 30 June 2026

	Six months period ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	Six months period ended 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net profit for the Period	384,340	589,772
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	246,410	215,733
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	29,835	15,756
Finance costs	46,220	48,256
Loss on disposal of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	160
Unrealised fair value losses on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1,916	63,695
Unrealised foreign exchange loss /(gains)	1,831	(22,081)
Interest and dividend income	(145,358)	(160,115)
Amortisation of defrred income	(14,560)	(13,307)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	774,172	23,236
Trade and other receivables	(916,405)	14,215
Trade and other payables	328,237	(93,984)
Employees' terminal benefits, net	8,490	(35,799)
Net cash from operating activities	**745,128**	645,537
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(94,237)	(246,316)
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	353,027	-
Proceeds from maturity of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	4,526
Proceeds from maturity of financial assets at amortised cost	-	250,000
Interest and dividends income received	145,358	160,115
Net cash from investing activities	**404,148**	168,325
Financing activities		
Principal repayment of lease liabilities	(33,874)	(27,467)
Net movement in short-term borrowings	264,408	258,993
Finance costs paid	(46,220)	(48,256)
Dividends paid	(367,143)	(428,335)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(182,829)**	(245,065)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**966,447**	568,797
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	1,341,468	940,785
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	**2,307,915**	1,509,582

Condensed statement of changes in Equity for the six months period ended 30 June 2026

2026 (reviewed)	**Share capital**	**Reserve**					**Retained earnings**	**Treasury shares**	**Total**
		Statutory reserve	**General reserve**	**Development and raw material reserve**	**Investment fair value reserve**	**Total**			
Balance at 1 January 2026	3,120,928	1,560,464	3,993,000	1,000,000	2,829,314	**9,382,778**	3,674,607	(122,398)	**16,055,915**
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	384,340	-	**384,340**
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	(40,449)	**(40,449)**	-	-	**(40,449)**
Dividends declared for 2025	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	(367,143)	-	**(367,143)**
Balance At 30 June 2026	**3,120,928**	**1,560,464**	**3,993,000**	**1,000,000**	**2,788,865**	**9,342,329**	**3,691,804**	**(122,398)**	**16,032,663**

2025 (reviewed)	Share capital	Reserve					Retained earnings	Treasury shares	Total
		Statutory reserve	General reserve	Development and raw material reserve	Investment fair value reserve	Total			
Balance at 1 January 2025	3,120,928	1,560,464	3,993,000	1,000,000	2,405,238	8,958,702	3,200,854	(122,398)	15,158,086
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	589,772	-	589,772
Other comprehensive Income for the period	-	-	-	-	332,350	332,350	-	-	332,350
Dividends declared for 2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	(428,335)	-	(428,335)
Balance At 30 June 2025	3,120,928	1,560,464	3,993,000	1,000,000	2,737,588	9,291,052	3,362,291	(122,398)	15,651,873

The condensed interim financial Information for the Six months ended 30 June 2026 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 12 August 2026. Full set of finanial Information can be seen on Company website: www.dawajen.bh

Esam Abdulhameed Zainal
Chairman

Abdulla Jasim Al Ahmed
Vice Chairman

Financial information Reviewed by
KPMG Fakhro

THE DAILY tribune

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

QUOTE OF THE DAY

PERHAPS ONE DID NOT WANT TO BE LOVED SO MUCH AS TO BE UNDERSTOOD.
GEORGE ORWELL, 1984

44 lives lost after ferry capsizes on Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba

Passengers being rescued after a boat capsized on Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba following an encounter with strong waves

AFP | Harare, Zimbabwe

At least 44 people drowned after an overcrowded ferry capsized on Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba, police said Wednesday, releasing an updated toll a day after the disaster.

A witness told AFP soon after the government ferry sank in rough weather on Tuesday that bodies could be seen in the water as rescuers tried to reach the vessel.

It was carrying 114 adult passengers, five crew members and an unspecified number of children when it went down, the civil protection unit (CPU) said.

The Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) vessel -- which ferries people between the northern town of Kariba and several islands and fishing villages -- had the capacity for 90 people, it said.

The unit said initially that 77 people were rescued and 15 bodies retrieved.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police updated the toll later Wednesday, saying on X: "The ZRP informs the public that the death toll in the Kariba RIDA boat accident is now 44."

It is one of the worst recorded passenger boat disasters on the lake, which is on the border with Zambia and more than 300 kilometres (185 miles) northeast of the capital, Harare.

It is the world's largest man-made lake by volume.

Two funeral parlours were engaged to collect the bodies, the CPU said, as the search continued for any unaccounted people.

The witness, Maxton Kanhema, told AFP that the boat left in the morning in bad weather and may have been hit by a wave, causing its engines to switch off.

"When we were in the waters, then you could see a distress sign and then boats that were close by responded," Kanhema, who was on a small boat which attended the scene o

Pakistan interior minister in Iran to discuss regional security

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Pakistan's interior minister is visiting Iran to discuss regional security, stability and other developments, the Pakistani foreign office said Wednesday, as Islamabad tries to mediate a resolution to the Middle East war.

Mohsin Naqvi is known to be close to the powerful head of the Pakistani army, Asim Munir. Iranian state news agency IRNA reported late Tuesday that Naqvi met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni."

He is discussing bilateral relations, security, regional security and stability, and constructive engagement amongst the parties in the region and regional developments," Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi said in Islamabad.

The Iranian government's website said Naqvi conveyed to Pezeshkian "a message from the Pakistani prime minister and the chief of the army", without specifying its content.

Israel seeking to 'remove Palestine from world's agenda': Erdogan

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday accused the Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu of seeking to "remove Palestine" from the world's agenda.

"The aim of the Netanyahu government is to remove Palestine from the common agenda of humanity by profiting from chaos and new conflicts in the region," Erdogan said at a joint

news conference with his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas.

"No matter what they do, they will not succeed.

The Palestinian cause will continue to grow in people's hearts as they try to destroy it," he said, vowing Turkey would fight for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Abbas arrived in Ankara on Tuesday accompanied by his diplomatic advisor Majdi Khalidi, intelligence chief Majed Faraj and senior Palestinian official Ziad Abu Amr.

Skies darken as solar eclipse heads south from Arctic to Spain

AFP | Burgos, Spain

One of nature's greatest spectacles -- a rare total solar eclipse -- cast its shadow yesterday, briefly turning day into night in Russia's remote Arctic north and western Iceland before heading towards mainland Europe.

The Moon first blotted out the Sun at the northernmost tip of mainland Russia at about 1700 GMT, leaving only the shimmering glow of its outer corona.

It raced south through parts of Greenland before total darkness fell over Keflavik, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of Iceland's capital, Reykjavik at 1747 GMT.

Reykjavik has not seen a total solar eclipse since 1433.

It was next due to hit mainland Europe, which has not experienced the dramatic natural phenomenon in 20 years, arcing diagonally in a narrow path from the northwestern Atlantic coast of Spain to the Mediterranean Sea in the south, where it is expected to fade at about 1830 GMT.

Spain has not witnessed a total solar eclipse in more than a century.

"It's the first time and it's the last time, the only time I'm going to see an eclipse," Yenny Guevera, a 50-year-old Peruvian living in France, told AFP excitedly in Burgos, northwest Spain.

The diamond ring effect appears as the Sun begins to emerge from behind the Moon following totality of the solar eclipse as seen from Berlanga de Duero, 240 km north-east of Madrid

People look through welding shields during the solar partial eclipse in the landscape park Halde Hoheward in Herten, western Germany

"I like painting and I really like light," said Mercedes Bua, a 51-year-old engineer awaiting the eclipse's passage in a park in Colmenar Viejo, some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of Madrid.

"So I find it interesting to see how it's going to look."

Supplies of special viewing glasses were in high demand, with huge crowds turning out to watch a partial eclipse across Europe, with the event also visible in Canada, the northern United States and northwest Africa.

The partial eclipse began in parts of northern Spain shortly after 1730 GMT, prompting gasps from waiting crowds and applause from South Korean tourists in a field in Lodoso, near Burgos, an AFP reporter said.

"It's starting! It's starting!" said a group of young people in Colmenar Viejo, in the Madrid region. "How wonderful!" said one woman in the crowd.

Spain in total darkness

A large part of Spain switched from daylight into total darkness Wednesday as the Moon covered the Sun, as thousands of spectators across the country looked on.

The total eclipse lasted less than two minutes in Lodoso, near Burgos, to the delight of thousands of people observing the phenomenon using special spectacles for safety, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

Turkish F-16 crashes after pilot ejects safely

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

A F-16 fighter jet crashed during a training exercise in northwestern Turkey on Wednesday but no-one was hurt, the pilot ejecting to safety, the defence ministry said.

"An F-16 aircraft belonging to our air force was involved in an accident during a training flight in Yalova, and our pilot survived by ejecting," a statement said, pledging a thorough investigation.

Yalova lies southeast of Istanbul on the shores of the Sea of Marmara.

CCTV footage broadcast by IHA news agency showed a plane hurtling through the air at a very low altitude before disappearing behind some trees, sending up a cloud of thick black smoke as it crashed.

According to the private NTV channel, the plane crashed near an air base, with several teams of rescuers dispatched to the scene. It said the pilot had been taken to hospital.

Six months ago, another Turkish F-16 fighter jet crashed, killing the pilot, shortly after takeoff during an alert-response mission near the Bulgarian border.

In November, Turkey suspended flights by its C-130 cargo planes after one crashed in Georgia while returning from Azerbaijan, killing all 20 on board.

India's Tata Sons chairman says he is stepping down

AFP | Mumbai, India

Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran said yesterday he would not seek reappointment when his term ends next year, deepening a leadership crisis at India's largest conglomerate.

Tata Sons is the single largest shareholder in firms including IT giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Tata Motors, which owns British luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover.

Chandrasekaran, 63, said he had informed the board that he would step down when his tenure ends early next year, after directors failed to reach a decision on his future.

He said a decision on the new leadership was needed as several major projects were at critical stages.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1521
Spanish conquistadors led by Hernán Cortés capture Aztec Emperor Cuauhtémoc in Tenochtitlan, bringing the Aztec Empire to an end

1642
Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens discovers Mars's southern polar cap

1788
Prussia joins the Anglo-Dutch alliance to form the Triple Alliance to prevent the spread of the Russo-Swedish War of 1788-90

1942
The Manhattan Project commences under the direction of US General Leslie Groves with the aim of developing an atomic bomb

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TOP 4 TWEETS

01

On #YouthDay we celebrate the creativity & leadership of young people everywhere. By working with them as equal partners, we can use their energy & expertise to tackle some of the defining crises of our time. Together, let's build a future where every generation can thrive.

@antonioguterres

02

American citizenship is not for sale. But elaborate birth tourism rings are profiting off the exploitation of America's laws- coaching foreigners to defraud the U.S. visa system, arranging travel and housing, and even forging documents, all to enable foreign nationals to obtain citizenship for their children.

@SecRubio

03

On World Elephant Day, we celebrate the majestic elephant which has remained an integral part of India's ecological heritage. It is gladdening that India is home to over 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants.

@narendramodi

04

Every parent wants to keep their children safe, and vaccines are among the most powerful tools for doing that, making deadly diseases preventable.

@DrTedros

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

China's C919 jet makes first international commercial flight

AFP | Beijing, China

China's homegrown C919 jet completed its first international commercial flight on Wednesday, a symbolic step towards Beijing's goal of challenging the decades-long aerospace dominance of Boeing and Airbus.

The narrow-body jet has been billed as a potential competitor to Boeing's 737 or Airbus's A320, though the aircraft has yet to receive approval from American or European regulators.

Beijing hopes the domestically produced plane will reduce China's reliance on foreign technology and help it gain a foothold in the global market.

The C919 jet, produced by the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) and operated by Air China, departed Beijing at 3:17 pm (0717 GMT) on Wednesday.

It landed in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar at 4:58 pm (0858 GMT), according to public flight data.

Trump sued over sale of access to Truth Social posts

AFP | New York, United States

Two US media groups yesterday sued President Donald Trump over his move to charge for early access to his often market-moving Truth Social posts.

The lawsuit, filed in New York by The Intercept and Freedom of the Press Foundation, states that the scheme is "extraordinary, corrupt and unconstitutional."

Subscribers to the paid service are supposed to get almost instantaneous access to Trump's messages on Truth Social -- crucial seconds ahead of the general public.

The billionaire US leader often uses the platform to announce huge news, ranging from developments in the Iran war to trade tariffs, all of which can instantly send market values tumbling or soaring.

Early access to the service can cost up to $100,000 per month, according to yesterday's lawsuit.

Putin threatens retaliatory seizures of European ships

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday threatened to seize ships belonging to European countries in retaliation for plans to sell off cargo seized from Russian "shadow fleet" vessels.

Several European companies have intercepted ships carrying Russian oil in contravention of European sanctions targeting the vital revenue source.

New sanctions passed last month permit EU members to sell the oil or any other cargo seized from the ships.

Moscow has bristled at the moves, with Putin calling it "piracy and banditry".

"We will be forced to respond in kind," the Kremlin chief said while overseeing naval drills in Russia's Far East.

Moscow would act "wherever we ourselves deem necessary and appropriate -- anywhere," he added.

Swedish court documents obtained by AFP earlier in August showed Stockholm will transfer to Kyiv a seized Russian ship suspected of transporting grain from occupied Ukraine.

Putin was speaking aboard the Russian cruiser Varyag off the island of Sakhalin, where Russia's navy was conducting drills.

The exercises come a week before joint US-South Korean war games, designed to simulate a possible invasion from North Korea.

Tensions are high in the region amid accusations from Kyiv and Seoul that Pyongyang and Moscow are further intensifying their military cooperation.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin visits the Russian Navy's guided missile cruiser Varyag as he oversees the final stage of a Pacific Fleet's naval drills on far eastern Sakhalin Island

More than 30 countries condemn Iran executions

Paris, France

More than 30 nations, including France, the United Kingdom and Canada, on Wednesday condemned Iran's use of capital punishment, saying in a joint statement the Islamic republic was executing protesters to "silence dissent".

The countries, joined by the European Union's top diplomat, "condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing executions of protesters and use of the death penalty" by Iran.

"The use of capital punishment to silence dissent, intimidate communities, and punish individuals exercising their human rights can never be justified," the statement said.

"The people of Iran must be free to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly without fear."

After the initial 26 countries and the EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, "other countries joined this declaration" bringing the number of signatories up to 32, the French foreign ministry told AFP.

Representative picture

Google unveils finder tag, new AI smartphone features

New York, United States

Introducing a finder tag, an upgraded watch that checks for respiratory problems and the latest artificial intelligence superpowers in smartphones, Google unveiled its newest Pixel offerings.

The tech giant has organized a press launch event in New York to present the Pixel Tag, a rival to the AirTag, a tracking device commercialized by Apple since 2021.

The tracking device, which sells for $29.99 (34.99 euros) can be connected to Android devices and used to locate valuables such as a wallet or luggage.

The new gadget can detect, for example, if keys fall behind a sofa.

"Yeah, it has that level of accuracy," Google product manager Spencer Boone said of such a scenario.

The tech giant is also unveiling Pixel Watch 5, whose functions include monitoring the number of subway stops remaining to destination and pausing an audiobook or podcast at the exact moment when a listener dozes off.

Earlier Pixel Watch versions could call an ambulance after detecting signs of cardiac trouble. The new version extends this capacity to respiratory problems if someone isn't getting enough oxygen.

The new Pixel 11 incorporates AI advances from Google Gemini and has been "purpose-built to do more for you with less from you," said Google product leader Justin Savich.

The system could automatically respond to a text message asking about when your flight arrives, or place a restaurant reservation based on a conversation. Another function is to translate a jumble of oral commands into a clear and concise text message.

The devices can be ordered starting Wednesday and will be in stores from August 20.

The Pixel 11 smartphone begins at $899 (999 euros) and is priced up to $1,899 (1,999 euros). The pixel watch begins at $399 (419 euros).

Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji dies aged 97

AFP | Beijing, China

Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji, whose market reforms helped drive the country's extraordinary economic rise, died Wednesday at the age of 97.

Zhu became premier in 1998 and swiftly lived up to his reputation as a hard-hitting free marketeer.

Among his best-known reforms were a broad programme to privatise unprofitable state-owned enterprises, the privatisation of urban housing and the promotion of home ownership.

He passed away from illness in Beijing late Wednesday morning "after medical treatment failed to save him", state news agency Xinhua said.

"The life of comrade Zhu Rongji was a life of revolution, a life of struggle, a life of glory," an obituary jointly issued by China's top political bodies said, according to Xinhua.

"It was a life dedicated wholeheartedly to serving the people, one given to the communist cause. His passing is a major loss for the Party and the country."

Reforms under Zhu sparked a boom in real estate and construction, which would soar to become a quarter of China's economy before a crippling debt crisis struck in 2020.

His leadership was credited with helping China avoid the worst of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, bucking a global trend.

And he led negotiations for China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001 -- a move seen as consolidating the country's transformation from an isolated economy under Mao Zedong to the marketplace of the world.

Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji

Al Salam Bank Sustains Its Growth Momentum as Net Profit Rises 24% in H1 2026

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank (Bahrain Bourse trading code "SALAM", Dubai Financial Market trading code "SALAM_BAH") announced its highest semi-annual net profit for the six-month period ended 30 June 2026. Building on the strong momentum achieved in 2025, this record performance reflects the collective strength of the group's banking, asset management, and takaful operations, and the continued effectiveness of a strategy built on disciplined execution and long-term value creation.

The group's financial performance in H1 2026 benefited from proactive deployment into fixed income, prudent asset and liability management, and improved operational efficiency. Operating income rose by 10.6% to USD 329.6 million, up from USD 298.1 million in H1 2025, while net profit attributable to owners of the bank increased by 23.8% to USD 122.8 million, compared to USD 99.1 million in the corresponding period. Correspondingly, earnings per share grew by 25.0% to 3.45 US cents, from 2.76 US cents in H1 2025.

This translated into further improvement across key profitability metrics, with return on average equity (ROAE) improving to 17.5% from 16.9% and return on average assets (ROAA) reaching 1.3%, up from 1.1%, while the consolidated cost-to-income ratio decreased to 44.1% from 45.2%, reflecting the success of group-wide optimization initiatives in driving greater operational efficiency.

Balance sheet growth momentum continued as total assets increased by 6.8% to USD 22.82 billion as of 30 June 2026, up from USD 21.36 billion at year-end 2025. Financing assets were broadly unchanged at USD 10.79 billion, whereas the Sukuk portfolio grew by 14.1% to USD 5.85 billion, reflecting deliberate portfolio positioning and asset allocation in line with the group's asset-liability management priorities and prevailing market conditions. Customer deposits rose by 3.2% to USD 15.00 billion, further strengthening the funding base and evidencing sustained client confidence. Total equity grew by 1.5% to USD 2.02 billion, and equity attributable to owners of the bank increased by 2.0% to USD 1.25 billion. With a consolidated capital adequacy ratio of 23.6% as of 30 June 2026, the group retained strong capital buffers and continued its prudent approach to capital management.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Chairman of Al Salam Bank

Rafik Nayed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Bank

Commenting on the results, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Chairman of Al Salam Bank, said: "Our ability to deliver consistent and growing profitability in an increasingly complex and volatile operating environment is a direct reflection of the structural resilience we have embedded into the group over the years. This resilience, underpinned by strong governance, prudent capital management, and a diversified business model, continues to differentiate us across the sector and position us well for the opportunities that lie ahead. We remain committed to our shareholders and confident in our ability to sustain this momentum through the second half of 2026 and beyond."

Rafik Nayed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Bank, added: "H1 2026 marks a defining point in the group's journey, one where the diversification of our revenue base across banking, asset management, and takaful is translating directly into more resilient and sustainable earnings despite the challenges and headwinds. As we progress through the remainder of the year, our commitment to rigorous risk oversight and efficient deployment of capital remains unwavering, as does our ambition to deepen client relationships, strengthen our diversified platform, and deliver sustainable long-term value to all our stakeholders."

The full set of condensed consolidated interim financial information for the six-month period ended 30 June 2026, reviewed by external auditor KPMG, is available on Bahrain Bourse and Dubai Financial Market websites.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BAHRAIN BRANCH

Condensed statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2026

	30 June 2026 (Unaudited) BD	31 December 2025 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	32,410	36,628
Right-of-use asset	62,397	69,082
Investment securities:		
Financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	14,930,847	15,592,288
Financial investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	21,833,249	21,213,722
Insurance contract assets	1,546	8,584
Reinsurance contract assets	262,945	72,189
Prepayments and other receivables	224,866	239,214
Cash and bank balances	916,185	1,666,019
Total assets	38,264,445	38,897,726
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office Funds		
Head Office account	5,569,708	6,486,936
Cumulative change in fair value of securities	(676,346)	(559,754)
Total Head Office funds	4,893,362	5,927,182
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	15,564	15,564
Insurance contract liabilities	32,088,925	31,385,797
Reinsurance contract liabilities	462,432	353,417
Accounts payable	709,212	975,772
Lease liability	63,813	69,364
Tax Payable	31,137	170,630
Total liabilities	33,371,083	32,970,544
Total head office funds and liabilities	38,264,445	38,897,726

Condensed statement of profit or loss
For the six month period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 (Unaudited) BD	2025 (Unaudited) BD
Insurance revenue	4,388,577	4,365,543
Insurance service expenses	(3,787,440)	(3,424,610)
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held	601,137	940,933
Net income/ (expense) from reinsurance contracts held	143,089	(199,995)
Insurance service result	744,226	740,938
Interest income from financial investments at FVTOCI	275,580	317,369
Realised and unrealised gain on financial investments at FVTPL	1,223,527	1,370,007
Other investment income - net	5,959	13,819
Net investment income	1,505,066	1,701,195
Finance expenses from insurance contracts issued	(1,345,583)	(1,609,758)
Finance income from reinsurance contracts held	25,612	16,881
Net insurance finance expenses	(1,319,971)	(1,592,877)
Net insurance and investment result	929,321	849,256
Other income	55,720	59,381
Other operating expenses	(500,390)	(462,160)
Profit before taxation	484,651	446,477
Taxation expense	(72,698)	(66,972)
Profit for the period	411,953	379,505

Condensed statement of comprehensive income (unaudited)

For the six month period ended 30 June 2026	2026	2025
Profit for the period	411,953	379,505
Other comprehensive (loss)/ income:		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net changes in the fair value of financial investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI)	(116,592)	425,796
Total other comprehensive (loss)/ income for the period	(116,592)	425,796
Total comprehensive income for the period	295,361	805,301

Country Manager
Ahmed Shawky

Auditors
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.)

About MetLife

MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), through its subsidiaries and affiliates ("MetLife"), is one of the largest life insurance companies in the world. Founded in 1868, MetLife is a global provider of life insurance, annuities, employee benefits and asset management. Serving approximately 100 million customers, MetLife has operations in more than 40 markets and holds leading positions in the United States, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

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New Drive to Support Entrepreneurs

Ministry explores joint initiatives to support entrepreneurs and agricultural businesses

TDT | Manama

Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak met with MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, Chairman of the Bahrain Association for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in supporting SMEs and entrepreneurs.

The meeting reviewed areas of mutual interest and opportunities to develop joint initiatives and programmes, particularly in the municipal and agricultural sectors.

Al Mubarak stressed the ministry's commitment to supporting agricultural entrepreneurship through programmes that develop the skills of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs and create opportunities for them to benefit from various projects and initiatives.

He said stronger cooperation with the private sector and civil society organisations would help support innovation, create opportunities for young people and entrepreneurs, and increase the contribution of SMEs to a more diversified and sustainable economy.

Al Salloom welcomed the ministry's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the association and praised its programmes supporting entrepreneurs and farmers.

Classifieds

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region

Bahrain chairs GCC justice officials meeting on international cooperation

Bahrain chaired the fourth 2026 meeting of officials responsible for international cooperation and international relations at the justice ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The meeting was chaired by Counsellor Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Mujbil, Assistant Undersecretary for State Cases and International Cooperation at Bahrain's Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, as part of Bahrain's presidency of the GCC's 46th session.

Bahrain's delegation included Mohammed Jamal Sultan, Director of the Legislative Affairs and International Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry, along with representatives from the international cooperation departments of the GCC justice ministries.

The meeting focused on strengthening judicial and legal cooperation and coordination among GCC countries, particularly through a policy aimed at enhancing collaboration between their justice ministries.

The policy seeks to improve coordination and facilitate the exchange of expertise, experience, and best practices in judicial and legal affairs.

Participants also discussed Bahrain's initiative to establish electronic connectivity for judicial notices and notifications, aimed at using digital solutions to enhance and streamline judicial cooperation across the GCC.

The meeting further reviewed draft unified rules for combating information technology crimes, supporting greater coordination among GCC countries in addressing emerging cyber-related offences.

Saudi, Egypt Step Up Regional Security Coordination Amid Iranian Attacks

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty discussed regional security and efforts to restore stability during a phone call on Tuesday, as Cairo reaffirmed its support for Gulf states amid continued Iranian attacks.

The two ministers reviewed the latest regional developments and efforts to strengthen security and stability, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The call came as Abdelatty separately met Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi in El-Alamein. The two officials stressed the need to address regional disputes through diplomacy and constructive dialogue.

Abdelatty reaffirmed Egypt's solidarity with GCC member states and condemned Iranian attacks targeting their territories. He stressed that the security of the Gulf states is an integral part of Egypt's national security, according to a GCC statement.

Al-Budaiwi welcomed Egypt's support for the Gulf states and thanked Cairo for its position amid the ongoing attacks. Both officials stressed the importance of supporting regional and international efforts to contain tensions and restore stability.

Egypt has repeatedly condemned attacks against Gulf countries while calling for diplomatic efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading further.

Saudi Arabia has also intensified consultations with regional partners. On Monday, Prince Faisal discussed de-escalation efforts with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, with both sides stressing the importance of protecting freedom of navigation and the security of waterways in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea.

Riyadh is also leading a new multinational maritime coalition focused on protecting commercial shipping, supply chains and energy flows across the Red Sea, Bab Al-Mandab Strait and Gulf of Aden.

Saudi Arabia has maintained that diplomacy must remain central to resolving the wider regional crisis while emphasizing its right to defend its territory, citizens and critical infrastructure.

During Tuesday's meeting, Abdelatty and Al-Budaiwi also reviewed Egypt-GCC relations, including the joint cooperation plan for 2024–2028 and initiatives to strengthen economic and investment ties.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation between Egypt and the six GCC states and supporting efforts to restore security and stability across the region.

Hazlewood gets Australia nod ahead of Boland for Bangladesh Test

Australian captain Pat Cummins (L) and Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (R) pose ahead of the first Test in Darwin

AFP | Sydney

Australia yesterday opted for Josh Hazlewood ahead of fellow quick Scott Boland for the first Test against Bangladesh in Darwin, while veteran spinner Nathan Lyon returned after a long-term injury.

An injured Hazlewood missed the entire home Ashes series against England in 2025/26, with warhorse Boland playing all five Tests in his place.

But despite the 37-year-old's heroics it was not enough to keep out a fit-again Hazlewood who was reunited for the first time in more than a year with long-time pace partners Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc.

"They're both pretty class, aren't they?" skipper Cummins told reporters of Hazlewood and Boland in naming Australia's team.

"We were pretty certain we wanted 'Lyono' in the side, so (it came down to) working out what the make-up of the quicks were.

"It's always a pretty tight call. It's one of those ones where there's not much you can say to Scotty other than obviously there's a lot of cricket coming up."

The Test starting Thursday is the first of two against Bangladesh and kicks off a run of potentially 21 in 12 months for the world's top-ranked side, who have not played a red-ball game since January.

Lyon returns after hamstring surgery curtailed his part in Australia's dominant 4-1 home Ashes win, a series where a back issue restricted Cummins to just one Test.

Under-pressure Cameron Green held his spot and will come in at five with fellow all-rounder Beau Webster also in the side at seven, split by wicketkeeper Alex Carey.

Jake Weatherald will open the batting alongside Travis Head with Marnus Labuschagne at three and Steve Smith at four.

Josh Inglis was the other player from the initial squad not to make the XI.

The clash at Marrara Oval will be only the third Test ever in tropical Darwin and the first since Sri Lanka visited in July 2004.

The series moves to Harrup Park in Mackay next week, which will host its maiden Test.

Defending champ Shelton rolls into Montreal semis

Learner Tien joins Shelton in an all-American semi-final showdown

- **Jodar overcame Arthur Fils**

AFP | Montreal

Ben Shelton took another step toward defending his ATP Montreal Masters title with a 6-3, 6-1 quarter-finals hammering of Jakub Mensik for his 10th straight victory in Canada.

World number 10 Shelton, the last top-10 player in the field, was never challenged by the Czech in advancing to a semi-final against fellow American Learner Tien, who ousted Spain's Daniel Merida 6-3, 6-2 in 72 minutes.

"It was a great performance for me, super happy with that and to be in the semis again," Shelton said.

Spanish teen Rafael Jodar booked a semi-final spot in only his fifth ATP Masters 1000 event by holding off France's Arthur Fils 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

The 19-year-old will face the oldest remaining player when he plays 25-year-old American Brandon Nakashima in a battle for a place in Thursday's final.

Nakashima reached his breakthrough Masters semi in 77 minutes as he imposed his game on Luciano Darderi 6-2, 6-3, setting up three match points with his 11th ace as winning as the Italian missed on a drop shot.

Ben Shelton of the United States reacts during his singles Quarterfinals match against Jakub Mensik of Czechiaon

It's the first time since 1992 that three American men have reached the last four in Canada.

Shelton was on fire in his 72-minute thrashing of Mensik, the American producing 18 winners and only three unforced errors.

Shelton has yet to lose a set at this event.

"I felt great, I played well form the ground from point one," Shelton said. "I'm right where I want to be. I maintained a high level throughout the match. I hope to continue to build on this in the semis."

Jodar shrugged off a slight tweak of his ankle in the second set against Fils and remained calm throughout as his French opponent smashed a racquet after being broken early in the second set.

Jodar, who does not turn 20 until after the US Open, has won 34 matches this season and risen to 15th in world rankings, but sees improving his game as more important than his ranking.

"That shouldn't be your primary thing and your goal," he said. "My goal is to have fun on court and to enjoy all the tournaments that are new for me."

Fils, back after injury, saved three match points in the final game before Jodar lanced a winner to the empty court after an hour and three-quarters.

"I played a very high level today against a tough player like Arthur," Jodar said. "I had to give my best to win this match."

Nakashima, who won his fifth quarter-final of the season, credited his serve with the win.

"My serve was super important. It got me out of some tough holes," Nakashima said.

YOU KNOW WHAT

It is the first time since 1992 that three American men have reached the semi-finals in Canada

Roma signs Argentina's Molina from Atletico Madrid

Argentina's Nahuel Molina gestures during the World Cup final

AFP | Rome

As Roma completed the signing of Argentina's 2022 World Cup-winning right-back Nahuel Molina from Spanish side Atletico Madrid, the Serie A club announced yesterday.

The 28-year-old, who also featured in last month's World Cup final when Argentina lost its crown to Spain, cost Roma a reported 17 million euros ($20 million).

The 65-times capped defender has also won two Copa Americas in 2021 and 2024 and made 249 appearances and scored 19 goals in all competitions in Europe while playing for Udinese and Atletico Madrid, Roma said.

Molina could make his debut when Roma, which is back in the Champions League after a seven-year hiatus, plays Fiorentina in its Serie A opener on August 24.

Rybakina ousts Osaka to book Toronto semi-final against Gauff

AFP | Toronto

World number two Elena Rybakina came from a set down to defeat four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka and reach the WTA Toronto Masters semi-finals, where she will face fourth-ranked Coco Gauff.

Rybakina, the reigning Australian Open champion from Kazakhstan, fired 13 aces in a 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 victory.

"Super happy. It was a very difficult match," Rybakina said after a tight battle lasting 2hr 33min.

"In the first set (I made) a few mistakes, a poor start.

"It was a really tough one but I'm glad I could turn it around, I don't yet know how, but I think my serve helped me a little bit."

Gauff, a 22-year-old American, had a walkover into her first Canada semi-final when Switzerland's Belinda Bencic withdrew with a hip injury.

"I'm really sorry to not be able to compete," Bencic said in a statement. "I tried everything possible to be ready. Looking forward to being back in Toronto next time."

Gauff, the 2023 US Open and 2025 French Open champion, defeated Rybakina in their only previous meeting, which came at Toronto in a 2022 third-round match.

Elena Rybakina reacts during the match

"She's a fighter," Rybakina said of Gauff.

"I definitely need to bring my energy and serve well."

Poland's Iga Swiatek and Ukraine's Elina Svitolina meet in the other semi-final.

Osaka and Rybakina staged a dramatic duel in their first ever meeting on tour.

"We practised couple of times before so I more or less knew how the ball was going to come, what to expect," Rybakina said.

"In some moments my energy wasn't there but I'm glad in the end it went my way."

'Just keep going'

Rybakina double-faulted to hand Osaka a break in the opening game and the Asian star held serve from there to claim the first set in 42 minutes.

The pair exchanged breaks of service twice in a drama-filled second set but in the tiebreak Rybakina never trailed and smashed a forehand winner to force a third set.

"I was trying to stay close on the score, trying not to think if I make a mistake, just keep going," Rybakina said.

Osaka was denied on four break points in the sixth game as Rybakina held

The Kazakh broke for a 4-3 lead as Osaka missed a forehand smash wide on game point, then sent forehands long and wide.

Rybakina sealed the match with a second-serve ace, winning all 18 of her first-serve points in the final set.

World number 13 Osaka, who took a break has not won a title since the 2021 Australian Open.

Rybakina is within touching distance of becoming world number one for the first time.

If two-time Grand Slam champion wins the Toronto title she would move to just four ranking points behind Aryna Sabalenka, who lost in the last 16.

> Super happy. It was a very difficult match. In the first set (I made) a few mistakes, a poor start. It was a really tough one but I'm glad I could turn it around, I don't yet know how, but I think my serve helped me a little bit
>
> ELENA RYBAKINA

Grieving Argentine icon Messi unsure about playing on 'much longer'

Messi recalls his father's influence throughout his remarkable career and World Cup journey

- Messi mourns his father
- Jorge Messi died aged 68
- Family funeral takes place Sunday

AFP | Buenos Aires

Argentina superstar and inspiration behind his country's 2022 World Cup victory Lionel Messi said yesterday he has "serious doubts" about continuing to play football for "much longer" after the death of his father Jorge Messi.

"I don't know what I'll do without you, I don't know how to go on. I just played football, and now I have serious doubts about continuing to do so for much longer," Messi, 39, wrote in a message on social media. His father, who was also his agent, died last week aged 68.

In the message, Messi, whose contract with Major League Soccer outfit Inter Miami runs till the end of the 2028 season, reflected on the final months of his father's life, which coincided with the 2026 World Cup.

Jorge Messi's absence from the World Cup in June had already attracted attention.

"You kept asking me to play in one last World Cup, yet just days before it started, your condition took a turn for the worse. It was the first time you wouldn't be there for a tournament," wrote Messi, who returned to the United States on Tuesday night following his father's funeral on Sunday.

"I kept telling you we would reach the final so you could make the trip.

"Every time a match ended I waited for and missed your message. That's when I realized the situation was really bad.

"We made it to the final, but you couldn't be there. I wanted to win it to bring it to you and show you a new one. I couldn't, my legs just gave out.

"This time I tried to push past my physical limits, but I couldn't. I never felt right," Messi said in his first comments after the 1–0 loss to Spain in the final in New Jersey.

> You kept asking me to play in one last World Cup, yet just days before it started, your condition took a turn for the worse. It was the first time you wouldn't be there for a tournament
>
> LIONEL MESSI

Immediately after the World Cup final defeat against Spain, Messi returned to spend a few days with his family in Rosario, 340 km north of Buenos Aires.

Messi recalled that he noticed his father had not been able to enjoy the World Cup.

"When I arrived, you thought we had lost the final on penalties. We couldn't talk about anything that had happened. You couldn't enjoy any of it," he said.

"We didn't become champions, but you have no idea how much we enjoyed every match. Once again, you were right: I had to be there and play."

'Father, friend and agent'

Competing in his sixth World Cup, Messi scored eight goals as he steered his country to the final.

After bursting into tears after scoring against Algeria in a group match, Messi had admitted to dealing with "a situation outside of sports".

On Sunday, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner bid farewell to his father during a private ceremony with close family and a few Argentina teammates in the town of Perez, adjacent to Rosario.

The cause of death was not disclosed, but local media reported that Jorge Messi had been suffering from cancer.

Messi highlighted his father's pivotal role in his life and career: "You were a father, a friend, and an agent. You were always exactly who you needed to be in every moment, and you never put a foot wrong."

Jorge was his first coach who left everything behind to accompany him in 2000 when Barcelona invited the young prodigy, then aged 13, to Catalonia to continue treatment for a growth hormone deficiency while playing for the club's youth teams.

BETTER YOU KNOW

Jorge Messi moved to Spain in 2000, leaving behind his job and family in Argentina to accompany 13-year-old Lionel after Barcelona invited him to Catalonia

Jorge left behind his job in Argentina, his wife, and his three other children to settle in Spain with Lionel.

His father was later the agent who negotiated contracts on his behalf, from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Miami.

"You were always like that, right from when I was little. You'd take me to every training session as soon as you got home from work," Messi recalled.

"You never missed a single match. You suffered while watching me play, yet you enjoyed it too -- even though you never lavished me with praise.

"Rest in peace, and watch over us from above just as you did down here. Thank you for everything."

Bangladesh get Das fitness boost for daunting Australia task

Bangladesh coach Phil Simmons (C) speaks to his players during training in Darwin

AFP | Sydney

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto yesterday declared wicketkeeper Litton Das "100 percent fit" for the first Test against Australia while suggesting the tourists could play two spinners.

Experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Das had been sidelined since June with a left calf injury and was initially ruled out of the opening Test of the two-match series.

But he was a late addition to the squad and is set to line up in Darwin on Thursday in a big boost to a side that lost their only warm-up game by an innings and 38 runs.

"Litton gives us batting depth," Shanto told reporters. "He is consistent. We are hopeful of our batting unit doing well in the Test match."

The series marks Bangladesh's first Test tour of Australia in 23 years, with their last visit in 2003.

They have their work cut out against a full-strength side ranked one in the world and buoyed by the return from injury of bowling heavyweights Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon.

While Shanto confirmed the inclusion of Das, he did not confirm the remainder of the starting side, wanting a last look at the wicket before deciding.

Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis out of India Tests with injury

AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis has been ruled out of two Tests against India due to injury as selectors named the squad for the home series yesterday.

Wicketkeeper-batter Niroshan Dickwella, who could play his first Test in over three years, makes the 16-member squad in place of Mendis.

The opening match will be played at the Galle International Stadium from August 15. The second will begin on August 23 at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club.

Dickwella, 33, a left-hand batter, has not played a Test since March 2023 after disciplinary action against him.

Mendis injured his hamstring in a domestic game.

Pathum Nissanka was unavailable for selection as he recovers from a wrist injury.

Man City sign Argentina goalkeeper Rulli from Marseille

AFP | London

Manchester City have signed Argentina international goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli from Marseille on a two-year deal, both clubs announced yesterday.

The 34-year-old will serve as City's number-two goalkeeper behind Italian Gianluigi Donnarumma.

"This is an amazing opportunity for me and one I had to grasp," said Rulli, who returns for a second spell at City having spent the 2016/17 season at the Etihad without making a first team appearance.

"When the chance to join Manchester City comes along you have to go for it.

"Everyone knows what an impressive club this is.

Geronimo Rulli reacts during a match (file photo)

"City's success over a long time has been impressive. Everyone I have spoken to about City said I had to join them because they are a club with incredibly high standards.

"My job now is to train hard, get to know the players and staff and do everything I can to reach my best level."

Rulli has won eight caps for Argentina and was in the squad that won the 2022 World Cup and 2024 Copa America and reached last month's World Cup final in which they lost to Spain.

He previously played for European clubs includingReal Sociedad, Villarreal, Montpellier and Ajax.

He famously scored a penalty in Villarreal's 2021 Europa League final victory over Manchester United, before denying opposite number David de Geato claim the trophy 11-10 in the shootout.

Bahrain Beat Kuwait for Third Straight Win

Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain's U17 volleyball team made it three wins from three without dropping a set after beating Kuwait 3–0 on Wednesday in the second Arab Men's U17 Volleyball Championship in Bahrain.

The hosts won 25–14, 35–33, 25–10 at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Hall in Riffa, taking their tally to nine sets won and none lost across their opening three matches.

Bahrain took charge early and closed out the first set 25–14, but Kuwait hit back with a far stronger challenge in the second. The set stretched deep beyond 25 points before Bahrain held their nerve to take it 35–33.

Kuwait's resistance then faded. Bahrain regained full control in the third and raced to a 25–10 win to seal another straight-sets victory.

Bahrain player Sayed Hassan Al Abbar said the team had imposed itself early before suffering a dip in the second set.

'Thank God for the win, and hard luck to Kuwait,' he said after the match. 'We put them under pressure in the first set and won it by a good margin. We had a drop in the second, but thankfully we came back at the end.

"We put them under pressure in the first set and won it by a good margin."

– SAYED HASSAN AL ABBAR

'In the third set we put pressure on them from the start and won it comfortably. We thank all the players and the staff. We are one team.'

Al Abbar also called on Bahrain supporters to turn out for the side's remaining matches, saying: 'We hope to see them there.'

Bahrain players celebrate during their 3-0 win over Kuwait

Team manager Abdullah Al Mahroos said Bahrain had expected a difficult contest and praised the players for keeping calm when Kuwait threatened to level the match.

'It was a difficult match, like every match, and we expected this kind of scenario,' he said. 'We won the first set by a good margin, but we started the second shakily and they put us under pressure from the first ball.

'We managed to get back into the set and kept our composure. We kept telling the players to stay focused, and thankfully we were able to finish the match.'

"We managed to get back into the set and kept our composure. We kept telling the players to stay focused"

– ABDULLAH AL MAHROOS, TEAM MANAGER

Al Mahroos said the third set showed what Bahrain could do once their focus returned, but warned that lapses could prove costly later in the championship.

'If we want to compete and become champions, we have to keep our concentration and cannot allow ourselves to go cold at any point in a match,' he said.

He added that all 14 players in the squad had been prepared to step in when needed, describing Bahrain as 'one team' rather than a side dependent on a small group of starters.

The result follows Bahrain's 3–0 wins over Jordan and Algeria earlier in the championship and keeps Yousuf Khalifa's side among the leading teams in the six-nation competition.

Bahrain opened their campaign by beating Jordan 25–14, 25–18, 25–9 before seeing off Algeria 25–13, 25–14, 25–19.

Kuwait, meanwhile, came into Wednesday's match after losing 3–0 to Egypt and then falling 3–2 to Saudi Arabia.

The championship brings together Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan and Algeria in a single round-robin phase, with the leading sides moving on to the semi-finals.

Bahrain are due to face Saudi Arabia on Friday before meeting Egypt on Sunday in their final two matches of the opening phase.

Tough Test Awaits Bahrain in Fukuoka

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain have been drawn alongside hosts Japan, Australia and China in Group A of the 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Cup, which will be held in Fukuoka from September 4 to 13.

The draw hands Bahrain a demanding opening stage, with Japan and Australia among the continent's established sides and China adding further weight to the group.

The tournament will give Bahrain another chance to test themselves against leading Asian opposition after a run of continental appearances that has strengthened their standing in recent years.

Preparations are expected to gather pace in the coming weeks, with the coaching staff working on fitness, match plans and analysis of Bahrain's three group rivals before the squad travels to Japan.

Bahrain National Volleyball Team

Each match will carry added weight as Bahrain seek a place in the next round and aim to build on their recent progress in Asian volleyball.

Iran, India, Oman and New Zealand were drawn in Group B, while Group C contains Qatar, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

The tournament will run for 10 days in Fukuoka, bringing together 12 teams from across Asia.

England captain Root tells players to be 'adults' as he ditches curfew

Joe Root reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Joe Root said yesterday there would be no curfew in place during his second spell as England Test captain.

Root will lead the England at his Headingley home ground on August 19 in their series opener against Pakistan for their first Test since former skipper Ben Stokes retired from international cricket and Brendon McCullum was sacked as red-ball coach.

McCullum, who remains in charge of England's white-ball teams, lost his job after a 2-1 home series loss to New Zealand in June, which followed a disastrous Ashes campaign in Australia.

One of the major controversies at the end of the 'Bazball' era was an incident at a London nightclub in June where Stokes and Gus Atkinson were out past a midnight curfew.

The pair missed the second Test against New Zealand at the Oval, with Root taking temporary charge of the team.

England managing director Rob Key established the curfew, which came about after white-ball captain Harry Brook was fined for an altercation with a bouncer in New Zealand last November.

But Root told Sky Sports cricket podcast: "There's not going to be a curfew. I don't think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest.

"My view on curfews is I don't think they work, and if you want guys to take responsibility on the field they've got to be able to feel they can be grown adults off it and make good strong decisions off it.

"That's for us as a team to manage well, and self-police well, for me and 'Flem' (new red-ball coach Stephen Fleming) to manage well in many ways but ultimately you're grown adults, you know what it takes to play for England, you know what your responsibilities are off the field and we need to make sure we don't find ourselves with any little situations off the field."

iCAUR Bahrain participates in Sports City 2026

Manama

iCAUR Bahrain, operating under The Bahraini-Asian Motors by Motorcity, is participating in Sports City 2026, with the all-new iCAUR 03T & V27 models on display and the brand present within the event's dedicated esports zone.

Mr. Abdulelah Burashed, Dealer Principal at iCaur Bahrain, commented: "At iCAUR Bahrain, we believe meaningful experiences help inspire the next generation to explore their interests and develop new skills. Sports City reflects the values behind our 'Born to Play' philosophy by bringing together sport, technology, and community in a way that encourages participation, creativity, and connection."

Through its participation in Sports City 2026, iCAUR Bahrain continues to strengthen its connection with Bahrain's youth by contributing to initiatives that help young people explore new interests, develop their skills, and build meaningful experiences.

Visitors are also invited to discover the all-new iCAUR lineup by visiting the iCAUR Bahrain showroom in Sanad.

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