



Sydney Sweeney 'has always been tapped into fashion'

8 CELEBS

Batelco by Beyon and GCCIA extend strategic partnership

National Action Charter a 'defining milestone': HM King

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the National Action Charter as a "defining milestone" in Bahrain's modern history, marking its 25th anniversary.



ry messages.

HRH Prince Salman noted that the Charter marked a pivotal stage in Bahrain's national development, laying the foundations for a citizen-focused, cohesive,

and stable society. Since its adoption, HRH said, the Charter has guided Bahrain's progress, driving achievements that have strengthened the Kingdom's regional and international stand-

ing, reflecting HM the King's forward-looking leadership and commitment to sustainable development.

His Majesty commended HRH Prince Salman's role in promot-

ing the principles of the Charter, particularly through his leadership of the committee overseeing its implementation and related development programmes. His Majesty also commended HRH Princess Sabeeka's role, as well as the role of Bahraini women, in advancing the principles endorsed by the Charter.

HRH Princess Sabeeka highlighted that this anniversary coincides with the Year of Isa Al Kabeer, celebrating the legacy of Bahrain's modern-state founder, His Highness Isa Al Kabeer. She also noted the SCW's

silver jubilee and praised HM the King's support for Bahraini women, saying the Charter marked a turning point in advancing women's participation and ensuring equal opportunities alongside men in national development and decision-making.

Ahmed bin Salman Al Musalam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives; Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council; ministers; Royal Family members; and other high-ranking officials also exchanged congratulations.

Car loses control, injures two children

TDT | Manama

Two children were injured yesterday evening after a collision between two cars on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street, heading towards Manama near Sitra.

The impact caused one of the vehicles to lose control and mount the side of the road, where it struck the children.

Both were taken to hospital for treatment. Authorities launched an investigation to determine the cause of the crash and managed traffic at the scene.

Wage WOW! BD402 a month

Massive wage uplift shakes up civil service pay

● Minimum monthly take-home raised from BD250 to BD402 – a 60.8pc surge

● Cost of living improvement allowance increased under Decision No. 45 of 2023

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Public sector wages have received a substantial uplift, with the

Jaleela Alawi, MP

minimum monthly pay rising sharply from BD250 to BD402 – a striking 60.8% increase that significantly lifts the earnings floor.

The Civil Service Bureau said the new figure comprises the basic salary, the social allowance and the cost of living improvement allowance.

In a written reply to MP Jaleela Alawi, the Bureau noted that the most recent adjustment to basic pay resulted in increases of up to around 36% for employees in the lowest grades.

It said the average overall rise –

factoring in both the revised basic salary and the newly introduced allowance – stood at about 25%, with the additional annual cost estimated at roughly BD200 million.

The Bureau introduced a fixed payment known as the cost of living improvement allowance for eligible staff, excluding those in senior positions and equivalent grades. Under Decision No. 45 of 2023, the monthly rates were raised from BD50 and BD60 to BD85 and BD100.

It said the BD402 minimum wage is derived from the combined total of the basic salary, social allowance and cost of living improvement allowance, and has become the benchmark for the broader salary structure. As a result, basic salaries across

the civil service increased by approximately 15%. The Bureau stressed that salaries and job-related benefits are governed by a legal framework, citing Article 119 of the Constitution, which covers salaries, pensions, compensation, assistance and rewards funded by the state treasury.



Pay structures are organised by job families and distributed across nine wage tables, determined by the nature of work, workload assessments and job classifications.

Pressure game

US to deploy new aircraft carrier to Middle East

AFP | Paris, France

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was sending a second aircraft carrier group to the Middle East -- warning it would be a "bad day for Iran" if it fails to make a deal on its nuclear programme.

Trump has upped the military threat against the Islamic republic in the wake of Tehran's deadly crackdown by security forces on protests last month that rights groups say killed thousands.

"In case we don't make a



F/A-18F Super Hornet, attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41, makes an arrested landing on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea

deal, we'll need it," Trump told

journalists at the White House

when asked about reports the

USS Gerald R. Ford would be moved from the Caribbean to the Middle East.

"It'll be leaving very soon. We have one out there that just arrived. If we need it we'll have it ready, a very big force."

Trump said he believed the talks with Iran would be "successful" but added: "If they're not, it's going to be a bad day for Iran, very bad."

The US leader had already sent one aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, to the Middle East, as part of a fleet of 12 US Navy ships in the region.

Foreign Minister attends 62nd Munich Security Conference

TDT | Manama

Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the opening session of the 62nd Munich Security Conference in Germany yesterday.

The conference opened with a speech by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who warned that the post-World War II international order is eroding and that the world is entering a period of shifting power balances. He added that Europe can no longer fully rely on traditional security guarantees.

Over the three-day event, participants will discuss a range of global issues, including Germany's role in Europe and the wider world, the stability of the international order, the war in Ukraine and its impact on European security, and developments in the Middle East, including the conflict in Gaza and its humanitarian and security consequences. Other topics include tensions among major powers, energy security, cybersecurity, technological advancement, and artificial intelligence.

Dubai's DP World replaces leader after he is named in Epstein emails

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai's DP World named a new chairman and chief executive officer yesterday, replacing its former leader Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, after the Epstein files revealed frequent correspondence between him and the convicted sex offender.

