

Mercedes tops final Test day

Antonelli leads Russell as Mercedes go fastest to end first three-day session in Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 | P12

Europe seeks new 'partnership' with US at security gathering

THE DAILY tribune



Sydney Sweeney 'has always been tapped into fashion'

Batelco by Beyon and GCCIA extend strategic partnership

National Action Charter a 'defining milestone': HM King

TDI | Manama

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.

On the occasion, His Majesty, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), exchanged congratulatory



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 Musallam, 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

TDI | 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.

Activist group Palestine Action wins legal challenge against UK ban

AFP | London, UK

The High Court in London yesterday upheld a challenge to a UK government ban on activist group Palestine Action under terror legislation, saying it had interfered with the right to freedom of speech.

The 2025 ban put Palestine Action on a blacklist that also includes Palestinian militants Hamas and the Lebanese Iran-backed group Hezbollah, and sparked a severe backlash.

And it made it a criminal offence to be a member of the group or to demonstrate support for it - punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Following a legal challenge by co-founder Huda Ammori, a three-judge panel on Friday found the ban was "disproportionate" and resulted in a "very significant interference with the right to freedom of speech and free assembly".

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
TDI | 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



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

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.

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.

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.

