

Scholarship Mentoring Held



The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP), in cooperation with the CPISP Alumni Association (CPISPAA), held a virtual mentoring event for candidates shortlisted for the 2027 scholarship cycle.

The event provided guidance on university applications, major selection, career planning, standardised tests and application essays. Candidates also held individual meetings with mentors, while a majors and careers fair offered advice on fields including computer science, medicine, engineering, business and humanities.

Police Chief Praises Academic Achievement



Police Chief and Royal Police Academy Scientific Council Chairman Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan received Major Sarah Hazim following her graduation with a master's degree with distinction and first-class honours from the University of Huddersfield in the UK.

Lt. Gen. Al Hassan congratulated Major Sarah on her achievement and praised her research on developing a comprehensive response plan for helicopter crashes in urban areas. He stressed the Interior Ministry's commitment to developing national personnel through education and training.

Bahrain, Thailand Discuss Energy



Thai Energy Minister Akanat Prompan received Bahrain's Ambassador to Thailand Khalil Yaqoub Al Khayyat, in the presence of officials from the Thai Ministry of Energy.

The meeting discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector and support initiatives that contribute to closer relations between Bahrain and Thailand, along with issues of mutual interest.

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Leadership Congratulates Pakistan on Independence Day



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the occasion of his country's Independence Day, reaffirming the warm bonds of friendship that have long united the two nations.

His Royal Highness Prince



Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also extended his congratulations to President Zardari in a separate cable sent on the same occasion. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister further sent a congratulatory cable to His Excellency Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, wishing him and the Pakistani people continued prosperity and progress.

Parliamentary Bonds in the Spotlight

The congratulations extended beyond with Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh sending cables to Pakistan's Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, marking the 79th anniversary of Pakistani independence.

Al Saleh conveyed his sincere congratulations and best wishes



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman

es for the continued health and happiness of both parliamentary leaders, and expressed his hopes that the people of Pakistan would continue to enjoy security, stability and further national progress.

The Shura Council Chairman took the occasion to reflect on the depth of Bahrain-Pakistan relations, expressing pride in the close ties between the two countries and highlighting the growing cooperation and coordination across a wide range of vital fields in a manner that serves their shared interests.

Al Saleh reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to strengthening legislative cooperation with Pakistan's Senate and National Assembly, including the exchange of parliamentary expertise and the coordination of positions on issues debated at regional and international parliamentary forums.

HM King Receives Saudi Invitation



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a written message from Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, inviting him to attend the 10th Future Investment Initiative Forum, scheduled for next October in Riyadh.

Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Nayef bin Bandar Al-Sudairi delivered the message. His Majesty expressed appreciation for the invitation and praised the deep-rooted Bahrain-Saudi ties and continued cooperation between the two countries.

Bahrain, Bangladesh Discuss Cooperation



Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel received Bangladesh Election Commissioner Abdul Rahmanil Masood, in the presence of Information and eGovernment Authority CEO Mohammed Ali Al Qaed.

The meeting reviewed strong bilateral relations between Bahrain and Bangladesh and discussed issues of mutual interest aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation between the two countries.

Security Officials Meet



National Guard Staff Director Lieutenant General Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Khalifa received Deputy National Security Advisor and Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Defence Council Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Jaber Al Khalifa.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between Bahrain's security agencies. Both sides highlighted the importance of joint work and the National Guard's role in safeguarding national achievements.

Moves to Introduce Special Visa for Professional Athletes

Council also examines restaurant calorie disclosure, youth employment reforms and Youth City 2030

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, chaired the Council's 2026 meeting in the presence of its members.

The meeting reviewed several strategic initiatives and projects, approving recommendations and decisions aimed at developing Bahrain's youth and sports sectors, improving quality of life and strengthening the Kingdom's position in youth empowerment and sport.

The Council was briefed on an initiative to introduce a special visa for professional athletes, aimed at creating a comprehensive framework regulating the entry and residence of profes-



sional athletes and their family members.

The proposed visa is intended to support the development of professional sport, protect athletes' rights, simplify administrative procedures, support national clubs and enhance the competitiveness of Bahrain's sports sector.

The Council directed the completion of the necessary procedures to approve the initiative and tasked the General Sports Authority with coordinating

with the Ministry of Interior and other relevant authorities.

The meeting also reviewed an initiative promoting health and quality of life through greater calorie awareness. The Council stressed the importance of national programmes that encourage healthy eating and lifestyles.

The Ministry of Health was directed, in coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, to examine the implementation of a system requiring

restaurants to disclose the calorie content of food served. The authorities were also asked to develop appropriate monitoring and enforcement mechanisms supported by the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks.

The Council further discussed legislative amendments aimed at expanding opportunities for young people in the labour market and equipping them with the skills and practical experience needed for employment.

The Minister of Labour presented proposals to develop the labour market system, strengthen its resilience, expand social security protection and improve access to unemployment benefits. The Council stressed the need to keep legislation aligned with labour market changes while strengthening training and employment opportunities for young Bahrainis.

A City Built for Youth

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His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, visited the 15th edition of Youth City 2030, organised in collaboration with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and the Summer Sports City.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised the support provided to Bahraini youth by His Majesty

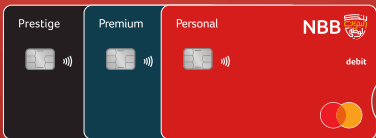
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, highlighting their commitment to creating opportunities for young people to learn, train and gain experience.

He also commended the City's diverse programmes and partnerships, as well as its specialised sports activities, which combine training, practice and competition while supporting the discovery and development of young talent.





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Bahrain marks 50 years of ASEAN Treaty

Ambassador stresses dialogue and cooperation to address emerging threats

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The Kingdom of Bahrain participated in a commemorative event in Manila marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). The Bahraini delegation was led by Ahmed Abdullah Al Harmasi Al Hajri, Ambassador of Bahrain to Indonesia and ASEAN, with participation from Abdullah Mohammed Al Karbabadi, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Bahrain in Manila.

Ambassador Al Hajri took part in a session titled “Strengthening Cooperation in Addressing Emerging Threats and Challenges,” where he highlighted Bahrain’s support for strengthening dialogue and cooperation to address cross-border challenges.



“Strengthening regional and international cooperation is essential to addressing interconnected challenges and advancing shared security and stability.”

AHMED ABDULLAH AL HARMASI AL HAJRI, AMBASSADOR OF BAHRAIN TO INDONESIA AND ASEAN

He also underscored the importance of using the TAC as a framework for consultation and confidence-building, stressing the need for greater regional and international cooperation in addressing interconnected challenges, including maritime trade security, cybersecurity, energy infrastructure and global supply chains.

The ambassador emphasised that such cooperation should be based on international law and trusted partnerships, while

highlighting the TAC’s role in building strategic trust and advancing practical cooperation to support regional and international security and stability.

Bahrain’s participation reflects its commitment to strengthening relations with ASEAN and promoting dialogue, cooperation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in support of regional and international security, stability and prosperity.



Preserving Dialect, Building Robots and Finding Her Voice

Three Bahraini students highlighted in Education Ministry’s “Our Students Inspiring Stories” campaign



Sara Ismail Al Jowder – Heritage storytelling and Bahraini dialect



Abdulrahman Raed Al Aradi – Robotics, artificial intelligence and mechatronics



Zahra Nabil Abdulla – Voiceover, writing and recitation

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Three Bahraini students have been featured in the Education Ministry’s “Our Students Inspiring Stories” campaign, highlighting achievements in preserving local culture, robotics and creative arts.

Sara Ismail Al Jowder of Muharraq Secondary Girls School created “Lahjatna Bahjatna,” a children’s storytelling initiative that uses a character named Dana and her conversations with her grandmother to introduce the Bahraini dialect, heritage and traditions.

The stories have been shared through her school’s learning resource centre, as well as schools, societies and hospitals, with reading activities for children.

Sara also represented Bahrain at a Gulf artificial intelligence hackathon, where she secured second place. She has also achieved recognition in the Arab Reading Challenge, Robot Olympiad and Zain’s waste recycling competition, in addition to qualifying for an ALECSO literary creativity competition.

Meanwhile, Abdulrahman Raed Al Aradi, a mechatronics student at Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Institute of Technology, has developed projects combining robotics, programming and artificial intelligence.

Among his projects is a smart robotic arm designed as a prototype for prosthetic use, alongside robots for sports and machines capable of sorting objects according to colour, type or size.

He has also participated in robotics and technology

competitions, including the 2025 Space Science Challenge hackathon, and contributed to preparations for the GCC Skills Competition.

Zahra Nabil Abdulla, a first-year intermediate student at Zainab Intermediate Girls School, was recognised for her achievements in voiceover, recitation and writing.

She won first place in the national voiceover competition and has conducted creative writing and short-story workshops for classmates. She has also produced videos for her school’s gifted pupils team and written scripts for morning assemblies.

The three students were highlighted by the Education Ministry as examples of young Bahrainis using their talents to contribute to their schools and communities.

LuLu Hypermarket & The Avenues Launch the Bahraini Jumbo Loz Festival

Three-day festival celebrates Bahrain’s seasonal harvest of loz, figs and dates while supporting local farmers and homegrown brands



LuLu Hypermarket, in collaboration with The Avenues – Bahrain, has launched the Bahraini Jumbo Loz Festival, a three-day celebration of Bahrain’s seasonal harvest taking place from 13 to 15 August 2026.

The festival was officially inaugurated by H.E. Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Designed in the style of a vibrant farmers’ market, the festival brings together Bahraini farmers and homegrown brands. Open daily from 9:00 AM until midnight, it offers visitors locally grown loz, figs and fresh dates, alongside artisanal Bahraini products including honey, coffee,

pickles and more.

At the heart of the festival is Bahrain’s much-loved jumbo loz, known for its generous size and distinctive flavour. Visitors can also explore a variety of local figs and dates, which hold a special place in the Kingdom’s agricultural heritage and cultural identity. Creative offerings such as freshly hand-churned loz ice cream and refreshing loz slushies add a unique flavour to the experience.

LuLu Hypermarket and The Avenues – Bahrain invite citizens, residents and visitors to experience the Bahraini Jumbo Loz Festival at The Avenues – Bahrain, Gate 6, celebrate Bahrain’s seasonal harvest and support local farmers and homegrown businesses.



From Patient to Doctor

How Hasan Al Mousawi Found His Calling in Medicine

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Dr. Hasan Al Mousawi was born with a brachial plexus injury that affected movement in his arm. What could have been defined solely as a limitation instead became the beginning of a lifelong connection with medicine.

“I grew up moving between hospitals, and came to know medicine not from a school desk first, but from the patient’s bed,” he said. “I knew the meaning of waiting, and the dread of clinics, and my memory attached itself to a doctor’s details, his words and the tone of his voice, before I knew the names of diseases and medical terms.”

Those early experiences planted a question that stayed with him: What if he could one day return to the places where he had experienced illness, but this time as a source of strength for others?

That question eventually became a career. He entered medical school, graduated and found himself on the other side of the hospital corridors he had known since childhood.

His journey, however, has extended beyond medicine. Volunteering also became an important part of his personal development, helping shape his character and deepening his understanding of service.

Looking back, Al Mousawi does not describe his journey simply as overcoming a disability. Instead, he sees it as learning to give a different meaning to the circumstances he was given.

“I do not see a story of victory



“We cannot always choose the beginnings written for us.”

- DR HASAN AL MOUSAWI



Dr Hasan Al Mousawi with a patient

the most difficult moments, and that a person should not be measured only by the health they have lost, but also by the light they continue to carry despite hardship.

For Al Mousawi, medicine therefore goes beyond prescriptions and test results. A doctor, he believes, should also be a source of comfort when loneliness becomes overwhelming, a companion who makes difficult days lighter, and a listener capable of hearing what medical equipment cannot measure.

His role inside the hospital has consequently taken unexpected forms. Alongside being a doctor, he has become a supporter and companion to patients – and, at times, even a modest barber, using a simple haircut to bring a smile to someone worn down by illness.

For a man whose medical journey began as a patient, the experience has shaped not only what kind of doctor he became, but also how he understands the meaning of care.

Two Children Hear “You’re a Failure” Only One Believes It

A child’s sense of self-worth can determine whether hurtful words leave a temporary wound or become a lasting belief

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

When a child comes home from school, drops his bag and retreats to his room, a parent may assume he simply had a bad day. But when the tears come, the real story often emerges: someone called him stupid, or no one wanted to play with him. At that moment, certified parenting coach Tuqa Marhoon says many parents focus on the same questions: Who said it? How should they be punished? Should the child change schools?

But she says a more important question is often overlooked: What happened inside the child after he heard those words?

Children gradually build their understanding of who they are through the messages they re-

peatedly hear and the relationships and experiences they have each day.

A child who regularly hears, “I love you,” “I see you,” and “your place with me does not change even when you make a mistake” can develop a stronger and more stable sense of self-worth.

But when a child’s value becomes linked to grades, behaviour, comparisons with others or approval from other people, hurtful comments can have a much deeper impact.

Marhoon illustrates the difference with a simple thought experiment: Two children hear the same sentence—“You are a failure.”

The first child is hurt but tells himself: “He is wrong. I am not a failure.”

The second thinks: “Yes, I am a failure.”

According to Marhoon, the

difference is not necessarily one child being stronger than the other. Rather, one child has a secure sense of self-worth to return to, while the other may depend heavily on what others say about him.

This means the problem is not simply the words themselves, but where those words land.

A hurtful comment may upset a child who knows his worth, but it does not necessarily define him. For a child who is still searching for a sense of worth, however, the same comment can become a belief that shapes how he sees himself.

Marhoon stresses that psychological resilience does not mean a child will never be hurt, cry or be affected by bullying. Instead, it means painful experiences do not become a permanent definition of who the child is.



The difference is not strength; it is having a strong sense of self-worth to return to.

TUQA MARHOON, CERTIFIED PARENTING COACH

TDT - Manama | Hasan Barakat

Salman City to Get Central Market, Supermarket and Sports Facilities



New projects aim to provide residents with shopping, dining and recreation within the growing city.

Salman City is set to receive a central market, a large supermarket and new sports facilities as part of the second phase of construction and development works on three commercial and service plots.

The central market on Plot 11 will cover 1,478.72 square metres and include dedicated sections for meat, fish

and vegetables, along with small shops and restaurants. Plot 16 has been allocated for a supermarket with a built-up area of 3,534.66 square metres, while Plot 17 will feature two football pitches and two drive-through restaurants.

Together, the three projects account for about 5,230.72 square metres of built-up area and intend to provide essential commercial, social and recreational facilities as Salman City continues to expand.

Unlicensed Building Demolished in East Riffa



Southern Municipality continues crackdown on building and land-use violations.

The Southern Municipality has demolished an unlicensed building in Block 919, East Riffa, as part of ongoing efforts to remove violations and enforce municipal regulations.

The campaign was carried out under the Municipalities Law No. 35 of 2001, Building Regulation Law No. 13 of 1977 and Public Roads Occupation Law No. 2 of 1996.

The municipality said the campaign aims to remove en-

croachments, improve compliance, preserve the appearance of residential areas and protect public safety.

Similar enforcement operations are also under way in the Northern Governorate. In Al Ramli, authorities have removed 47 of 61 illegal structures identified along Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street and Shaikh Zayed Street, with further sites targeted in the next phase.

According to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, construction without a permit accounts for 68 per cent of building violations.

Call to Move Hamad Town Speed Bump Closer to Mosque Entrance



Speed bump on Road 5 in Hamad Town’s Block 1205

Councillor says current location allows drivers to accelerate near busy pedestrian areas.

A councillor has called for a speed bump on Road 5 in Hamad Town’s Block 1205 to be moved closer to the entrance of Hafsa bint Omar Mosque, citing ongoing risks to pedes-

trians.

Councillor Abdulla Al Qubaisi said Road 5 carries heavy traffic and serves a busy area with a mosque and shops, making traffic speeds a serious safety concern.

He said the current location of the speed bump allows drivers to accelerate soon after

passing it, creating risks for pedestrians, particularly elderly worshippers and children.

Al Qubaisi also recalled a fatal accident at the location during Ramadan in previous years and urged the Ministry of Works and relevant authorities to relocate the bump directly in front of the mosque entrance.



Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Councillor

Young Bahrainis explore Shura Council Visit introduces participants to legislative work and careers



TDT | Manama

The General Secretariat of the Shura Council hosted participants in the summer camp organised by Injaz Bahrain and Bapco Energies. This was part of a community partnership aimed at introducing young people to national institutions and enhancing their understanding of legislative work and the Shura Council’s role in Bahrain’s development.

During the visit, participants learned about the Shura Council’s responsibilities and legislative procedures through an introductory presentation by Legal Researcher Ali Al Asfour.

The presentation also covered coordination between the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, as well as cooperation between the leg-

islative and executive authorities, highlighting parliamentary work’s role in supporting Bahrain’s comprehensive development.

The visit was held as part of the “Job Shadowing” programme of the Injaz Bahrain summer camp, which gives young participants an opportunity to explore different workplaces, learn about professions and career paths, develop practical skills and identify their future interests.

The Shura Council’s General Secretariat continues to organise and host programmes and visits for young people to strengthen awareness of the legislative institution, promote values of participation and national responsibility, and provide interactive opportunities to learn about parliamentary work and democratic practice in Bahrain.

International guests applaud Bahrain’s youth development model



TDT | Manama

Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi attended the Ministry of Youth Affairs’ celebration of International Youth Day at Youth City 2030, in the presence of ambassadors and representatives of several embassies.

The minister said the support and attention provided to Bahrain’s youth sector by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa have strengthened the role of young people as key partners in national development and in shaping the future.

She also highlighted the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to advance youth initiatives and provide young people with quality opportunities for training and practical experience.

The minister also praised the role of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King’s Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, in supporting and empowering Bahraini youth.

Tawfiqi said the celebration highlights the achievements, creativity and potential of Bahraini youth, while promoting international cooperation and the exchange of experiences and expertise among young people.

She noted that Youth City 2030 represents an advanced model for investing in youth potential by providing an integrated training environment across a range of fields and benefiting from international partnerships and global expertise.

As part of the celebration, the guests toured various centres and exhibitions at Youth City 2030, where young participants showcased their projects, talents and innovative experiences. They also attended musical and sporting performances.

The ambassadors and embassy representatives praised the comprehensive programmes offered by Youth City 2030, saying the initiative reflects Bahrain’s progress in youth development and its commitment to creating an enabling environment where young people can develop their skills, nurture their talents and transform their ideas into promising projects.

Khalifa Port Cargo Surges 224pc

- Port handles more cargo in seven months than during all of 2025.
- Recovery gathers pace as Bahrain works to keep supply chains moving.
- Khalifa Bin Salman Port sees strong rebound after shipping disruption.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Cargo traffic at Khalifa Bin Salman Port has surged past last year's levels, with second-quarter volumes more than tripling and July becoming the port's busiest month in almost six years.

General cargo reached about 277,500 tonnes between April and June, up from 85,600 tonnes in the same quarter of 2025 — a rise of 224.2pc.

The jump came after a bruising start to the year as regional tensions hit shipping and supply routes. General cargo fell to zero in March and remained affected into part of April.

The rebound was sharp enough to lift first-half traffic to 374,200 tonnes, compared with 271,100 tonnes a year earlier, an increase of 38.1pc.



Almost three quarters of all cargo handled in the first six months came in the second quarter. Its total was nearly three times the 96,700 tonnes recorded from January to March.

The April-to-June figure also exceeded the entire first-half total for 2025.

Traffic kept climbing in July, when the port handled 170,881 tonnes of general cargo, against 71,878 tonnes a year earlier. That amounted to a rise of 137.7pc and was 51.7pc higher than June.

July was the third-busiest

month in records stretching back to January 2019. Only July 2020, when 193,706 tonnes were handled, and August 2020, with 186,905 tonnes, were higher.

It was the strongest monthly showing since August 2020.

The turnaround began in April, when cargo reached 59,400 tonnes, against 12,400 tonnes a year earlier.

May followed with 105,600 tonnes, up 138.9pc year on year, before June climbed to 112,600 tonnes, compared with 29,000 tonnes in June 2025.

Across May, June and July, the port handled about 389,000

tonnes of general cargo, up from 145,100 tonnes in the same three months last year.

That pushed the total for the first seven months of 2026 to 545,100 tonnes, a rise of 59pc from 342,900 tonnes a year earlier.

By the end of July, the port had already handled more general cargo than in the whole of 2025.

Last year's full-year total stood at about 510,400 tonnes, meaning the first seven months of 2026 were already 34,700 tonnes, or 6.8pc, higher with five months still to run.



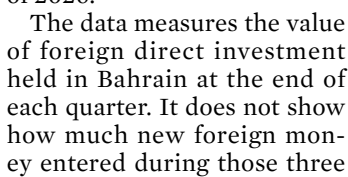
Supported the "Reassured Homes" initiative with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation and Sheyam Al Khair, through the GFH Foundation, furnishing more than 20 homes for widows, orphans and underprivileged families across Bahrain

Finance, manufacturing and professional services lead the portfolio



Manufacturing came second with BD2.29bn, followed

It rose from BD17.19bn in the first quarter of 2025 to BD17.27bn in the second and



Finance remains the chief draw for overseas capital, while manufacturing, property, trade and specialist services account for much of the rest.

The softer inflation readings reduced expectations of another Federal Reserve interest-rate increase in Sep-

Overseas, South Korea's Kospi jumped 3.6%, helped by technology and AI-related stocks.

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

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2026

(Amounts in Bahraini Dinars thousands)

	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	31 December 2025 (audited)
Assets		
Cash and bank balances	18,064	30,110
Investments	3,003	3,222
Loans	1,097,777	1,055,113
Investment in an associate	5,292	5,407
Investment properties	69,139	69,465
Development properties	27,224	26,205
Other assets	2,562	2,469
Total assets	1,223,061	1,191,991
Liabilities and equity		
Liabilities		
Deposits from banks and other institutions	5,000	10,000
Customer current accounts	20,886	29,988
Government account	310,522	348,826
Term loans	389,896	324,896
Other liabilities	9,789	8,941
Total liabilities	736,093	722,651
Equity		
Share capital	250,000	250,000
Contribution by the shareholder	46,786	46,786
Statutory reserve	64,254	64,254
General reserve	60,000	60,000
Fair value deficit	(351)	(351)
Retained earnings	66,279	48,651
Total equity	486,968	469,340
Total liabilities and equity	1,223,061	1,191,991

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 June 2026

(Amounts in Bahraini Dinars thousands)

	Six months ended 30 June		Three months ended 30 June	
	2026 (reviewed)	2025 (reviewed)	2026 (reviewed)	2025 (reviewed)
Interest income	21,079	20,246	10,736	10,076
Interest expense	(288)	(496)	(97)	(299)
Net interest income	20,791	19,750	10,639	9,777
Income from properties	521	798	264	491
Share of profit from investment in an associate	116	138	62	76
Other income	617	646	389	428
Total operating income	22,045	21,332	11,354	10,772
Staff costs	(2,999)	(3,486)	(1,375)	(1,807)
Other expenses	(1,373)	(1,998)	(734)	(1,369)
Total operating expenses	(4,372)	(5,484)	(2,109)	(3,176)
Profit before net impairment loss and expected credit losses	17,673	15,848	9,245	7,596
(Charge) / reversal of impairment loss and expected credited losses, net	(45)	69	5	66
Profit for the period	17,628	15,917	9,250	7,662
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	17,628	15,917	9,250	7,662

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the six months ended 30 June 2026

(Amounts in Bahraini Dinars thousands)

	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	30 June 2025 (reviewed)
Operating activities		
Profit for the period	17,628	15,917
Adjustments for:		
Share of profit from investment in an associate	(116)	(138)
Charge/(reversal) of impairment loss and expected credited losses, net	45	(69)
Gain on sale of development properties	-	(395)
Depreciation and amortisation	395	410
Operating profit before working capital changes	17,952	15,725
Disbursement of loans, net	(5,443)	(15,509)
(Increase) / decrease in development properties	(846)	767
Increase in other assets	(286)	(206)
(Decrease) / increase in interbank borrowings	(5,000)	15,067
(Decrease) / increase in customer current account	(9,102)	1,686
Increase in restricted bank balance	(917)	(8)
Increase in other liabilities	848	2,323
Net movement in government account	(57,450)	(53,693)
Net cash used in operating activities	(60,244)	(33,848)
Investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	(68)	(104)
Maturity of debt securities	219	-
Dividend received on investment in associate	231	277
Net cash generated from investing activities	382	173
Financing activities		
Proceeds from term loans	65,000	20,000
Payment to and on behalf of government, net	(18,101)	(14,018)
Net cash generated from financing activities	46,899	5,982
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(12,963)	(27,693)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	30,097	41,266
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	17,134	13,573

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the six months ended 30 June 2026

(Amounts in Bahraini Dinars thousands)

	Share capital	Contribution by the shareholder	Statutory reserve	General reserve	Fair value deficit	Retained earnings	Total
2026 (reviewed)							
As at 1 January 2026	250,000	46,786	64,254	60,000	(351)	48,651	469,340
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	17,628	17,628
As at 30 June 2026	250,000	46,786	64,254	60,000	(351)	66,279	486,968
2025 (reviewed)							
As at 1 January 2025	250,000	45,064	61,062	60,000	(351)	39,920	455,695
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	15,917	15,917
Transfer of land (net)	-	81	-	-	-	-	81
As at 30 June 2025	250,000	45,145	61,062	60,000	(351)	55,837	471,695

H.E. Mrs. Amna Bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi

Minister of Housing and Urban Planning

Chairperson

Isa Abdulla Zainal

Director

Abdulla Abdulaziz Taleb

General Manager

2026

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This information has been extracted from the interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2026 which were approved by board of directors on 13 August 2026 and reviewed by Ernst & Young - Middle East

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ESKAN BANK



“Our Greatest Strength Is Our Youth”

As Pakistan marks completion of 79 years of independence, heartfelt greetings are extended to Pakistanis at home and abroad, while paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement, and all those who sacrificed for the creation of Pakistan.

Independence is described not only as a historic achievement but also as a responsibility for every generation to strengthen the country’s security, prosperity and democratic foundations.

The message honours the martyrs of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and police, as well as their families, recognising their sacrifices in protecting Pakistan against external aggression and terrorism.

It also highlights Pakistan’s role in promoting regional dialogue and de-escalation, stressing that disputes should ultimately be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. The message reaffirms Pakistan’s commitment to peace, regional stability and cooperation.

Looking ahead, the message calls for stronger economic growth, greater op-



Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan

portunities for young people, improved education and skills, and reforms to strengthen governance and institutions while ensuring development reaches all communities.

Youth are described as Pakistan’s greatest strength, with investment in their education, skills and opportunities seen as essential to the country’s future.

The message calls on all Pakistanis to contribute to national progress and work towards a more peaceful, prosperous and secure Pakistan.

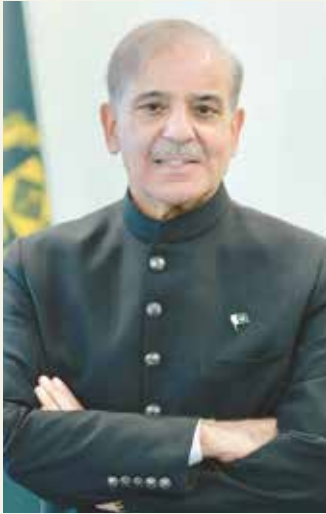
A Nation of Resilience and Hope

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in his Independence Day message, congratulated Pakistanis at home and abroad, paying tribute to the leaders of the Pakistan Movement, including Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and the sacrifices of those who helped establish Pakistan.

He said the country’s independence provided its citizens with the opportunity to live with dignity and honour while preserving their religious and cultural values, stressing that the Constitution guarantees equal rights and freedoms to all citizens without discrimination.

The Prime Minister highlighted the contributions of Pakistanis in defence, the economy, education, science, agriculture, industry, sports and other fields, describing the country’s youth, skilled workforce, professionals, farmers and labourers as key to its future.

He said the government had navigated difficult circumstances over the past two and a half years and achieved economic stability, with remittances from overseas Pakistanis increasing by \$11.3 billion over the past two years. He



Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister

identified technology, innovation, sustainable industrial and agricultural development, public welfare, employment, education and skills as key priorities.

Shehbaz Sharif also highlighted Pakistan’s role in promoting regional and global peace, citing the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

He paid tribute to the country’s martyrs and called on citizens and political parties to work together for national unity, stability, prosperity and the protection of national interests.

A Voice for Peace, A Partner in Prosperity

Pakistan’s Independence Day is a reminder of the sacrifices, determination and struggle of the country’s forefathers to establish a homeland where Muslims of the subcontinent could live with freedom, honour and dignity. The occasion also renews the responsibility to protect and build Pakistan.

At this important moment for the region, Pakistan remains committed to peace, dialogue and diplomacy, believing that conflicts and longstanding disputes can best be addressed through peaceful means. Pakistan also calls for greater international cooperation to tackle shared global challenges, including climate change, poverty and terrorism, in pursuit of a more just, peaceful and prosperous world.

The overseas Pakistani community continues to play a vital role in advancing the country’s peace, progress and prosperity while strengthening Pakistan’s ties with host nations.

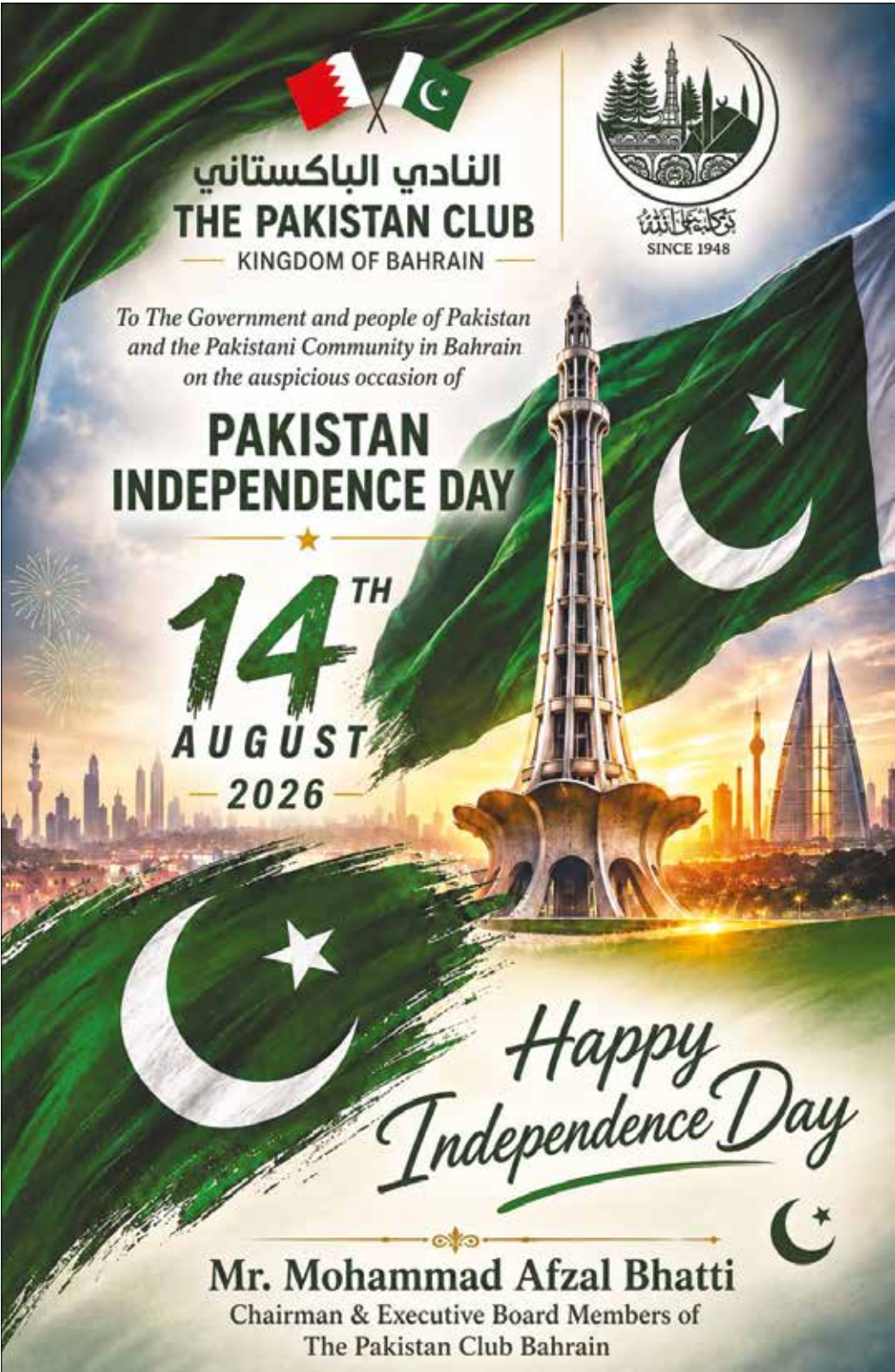
Bahrain remains home to more than 100,000 Pakistanis, who regard the Kingdom as their home. Pakistan expresses deep gratitude to Bahrain for providing safe-



H.E. Saqib Rauf, Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain

ty, shelter and support to its community during the recent crisis, further strengthening the bonds between the two countries.

The message also conveys sincere appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the government and people of Bahrain for their continued friendship, generosity and support, while reaffirming Pakistan’s commitment to working with partners for shared peace and prosperity.



Independence Day: Celebrating Pakistan with Pride and Unity



By Mr. Mohammad Afzal Bhatti
Chairman, Pakistan Club Bahrain

On the proud occasion of the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Pakistanis around the world, particularly our vibrant Pakistani community in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The 14th of August reminds us of the historic struggle and immense sacrifices that led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947 under the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. As we proudly raise our national flag, we must also renew our commitment to the values of unity, discipline, integrity and service to our nation.

Overseas Pakistanis have always played an important role in Pakistan’s progress while serving as ambassadors of our country abroad. The Pakistani community in Bahrain has a proud history of contributing



to the Kingdom’s development while preserving its strong connection with Pakistan, its culture and traditions.

On this special occasion, we express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and to the Government and people of Bahrain for their contin-

ued hospitality, friendship and support towards the Pakistani community.

Pakistan and Bahrain share longstanding brotherly relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. The Pakistan Club Bahrain remains committed to strengthening these bonds while promoting unity, community welfare and our rich Pakistani heritage.

As we celebrate our independence, let us remember the sacrifices of our forefathers and inspire our younger generations to contribute towards a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Pakistan.

May Pakistan continue to progress and prosper, and may the friendship between Pakistan and Bahrain grow ever stronger.

Pakistan Zindabad!
Long live Pakistan-Bahrain friendship!



Pakistan at the Crossroads of Peace

A Nation's Quiet Diplomacy in a World at War



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari at Al Gudaibiya Palace during his official visit to Bahrain on January 14, 2026



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to Bahrain on November 26, 2025.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a joint defense agreement in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, on August 7, 2026.

Pakistan's National Day offers an opportunity to reflect not only on the country's history and resilience, but also on its growing diplomatic role at a time of heightened tensions across the Middle East. In recent months, Islamabad has emerged as a notable voice for dialogue, drawing on its relationships with Tehran, Washington, Riyadh and Beijing to support efforts aimed at reducing regional tensions. When the United States and Israel launched military operations against Iran in February 2026, the region was plunged into its most serious crisis in decades. The Strait of Hormuz closed, oil markets convulsed, and the spectre of a wider regional war loomed over every

capital. It was in this environment that Pakistan, drawing on its unique relationships with Tehran, Washington and Riyadh, stepped forward as an unlikely but credible peacemaker.

Geneva and the Swiss Connection

A significant milestone in Pakistan's diplomatic effort was its participation in high-level talks held in Geneva, Switzerland. Pakistani envoys worked alongside Omani and Swiss facilitators to establish preliminary frameworks for a ceasefire and the eventual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. At the same time, Pakistan's close ties with Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, allowed it to reassure Arab

partners that any negotiated settlement would address their core security concerns. It was a delicate balance, and Pakistani diplomats walked it with considerable skill.

A Royal Endorsement

Pakistan's role did not go unnoticed at the highest levels of Gulf leadership. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, expressed appreciation for Pakistan's constructive diplomatic mediation efforts during the crucial time. For Islamabad, the royal endorsement carried significant diplomatic weight, reinforcing Pakistan's standing as a credible actor in Middle Eastern affairs at a mo-

ment when its own economy and security challenges might have called for a more inward focus.

Beyond Mediation:

The Saudi-Turkiye Defence Pact

Pakistan's diplomatic activity unfolded against a backdrop of sweeping shifts in the region's security architecture. In a landmark development, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed a mutual defence pact in Mecca, pledging that an attack on one would be treated as an attack on both. Pakistan, which maintains deep strategic and military ties with both Riyadh and Ankara, welcomed the agreement as a step toward greater collective security in the Muslim world. Pakistan's National Day has historically been an occasion to reflect on resilience — a nation



US Vice President JD Vance, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani during negotiations in Bürgenstock, Switzerland.

forged through partition, tested by conflict and sustained by an unshakeable sense of national identity. This year, the day carries an additional dimension: the recognition of Pakistan's greatest contribution to the current global moment.

Educating Generations, Inspiring Futures

Pakistan School Bahrain extended its warm greetings to the Pakistani community in the Kingdom of Bahrain on Independence Day, honouring the sacrifices of the nation's heroes and reaffirming the values of unity, faith, discipline and patriotism. The school also highlighted its long educational journey in Bahrain, which began in 1968 with a small primary school in a rented building in Manama's Fareej Fadhel area. The institution later expanded to the secondary level following affiliation with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad. In 1984, the school's new campus in Isa Town was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The campus was subsequently expanded with the construction of the Jinnah Block and Sir Syed Block in 1994-95. Today, Pakistan School operates through its Manama Primary Wing and main Isa Town campus. The school said it has continued to strengthen its academic, extracurricular and sports programmes, while investing in infrastructure, modern facilities and professional development for teachers. Its students have recorded



Mr. Sami ur Rehman, Chairman, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain



Mr. Attiq ur Rehman, Principal & Secretary, Board of Management, Pakistan School, Bahrain

strong results in Federal Board examinations, with 1,308 students securing A and A+ grades, including 512 Bahraini students. The school has also awarded scholarships to high-achieving students, some of whom later secured prestigious scholarships at the University of Bahrain. In 2025, students achieved a 96.15% overall result in the SSC First Annual Examination and 93.20% in the HSSC Annual Examination. In 2026, the school achieved a 100% pass rate in the SSC-II Federal Board Annual Examination. Students have also excelled in international academic competitions, including TIMSS, PIRLS and the World Scholar's Cup. Between 2018 and 2025, Pakistan School students won 870 Gold and 623 Silver medals at the

World Scholar's Cup, along with numerous trophies. At the 2026 Bahrain Round, students secured 127 Gold and 112 Silver medals, as well as trophies in the Team Challenge and Scholar's Challenge categories. The school also secured first position in Media & Literature, Art & Music, and Social Studies, with most participating teams qualifying for the Global Round. Beyond academics, Pakistan School continues to participate in Bahrain's national, cultural and social events, strengthening ties with the Kingdom. The school said its mission remains focused on nurturing confident, capable and responsible students equipped to contribute positively to their communities and lead in the future.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to
The Government and people of Pakistan and the Pakistani community in Bahrain on the auspicious occasion of
Independence Day of Pakistan

from the Board of Management, Principal, Staff & Students of
Pakistan School, Bahrain



Afghan finds 500-kg Soviet bomb in garden: police



Picture for representation

AFP | Ghazni, Afghanistan

An unexploded Soviet-era bomb weighing 500 kilograms (around 1,100 pounds) was discovered in a private garden in eastern Afghanistan, police said Thursday.

More than 45,000 Afghans have been killed or injured by explosive remnants of war and mines since Soviet troops withdrew in 1989, according to the United Nations Mine Action Service.

On Wednesday, a resident found "a suspicious object in the garden area inside the yard of his house", said Khalid Sarhadi, police spokesperson in

Ghazni province. The security forces and a demining team from the Danish Refugee Council went to the home in Sir village, Sarhadi told AFP.

"A 500-kilogram bomb from the Soviet era was discovered, transferred to a mountainous area, and detonated safely," the police spokesperson added.

Soviet troops pulled out from Afghanistan after a nearly decade-long occupation, but successive wars followed.

Despite unexploded ordnance remaining across the country, the number of teams deployed to tackle the problem has been slashed by 64 percent over the past two years, Nick Pond, head of the Mine Action Section of the UN mission in Afghanistan, told AFP in June.

Japan protests Putin's first visit to disputed islands



Russia's President Vladimir Putin tastes caviar as he visits the Yasny fish processing factory on Iturup island, one of four islands in the Kuril Islands

● The Kremlin posted a video of Putin on one of the four main islands, with Russian media saying he visited a fish-processing plant and showing him trying local caviar.

AFP | Moscow, Russia

President Vladimir Putin visited Russia's far-eastern Kuril islands for the first time yesterday, prompting protests by Japan which also claims the territory.

The Kremlin posted a video of Putin on one of the four main islands, with Russian media saying he visited a fish-processing plant and showing him trying local caviar.

It was the first visit by a Russian president since Dmitry Medvedev in 2010.

"The Northern Territories are an inherent part of Japan's territory, both historically and under international law," Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters.

Putin's visit "offends the sentiments of the Japanese

people and is absolutely unacceptable," she said, adding that it "made it more difficult to restore relations in the medium to long term."

Putin travelled to the Kuril Islands after visiting the nearby Russian island of Sakhalin on Wednesday, where Russia's navy was conducting drills. In Sakhalin, Putin, 73, held a meeting "on ensuring the security of Russia's eastern borders," state media reported.

After the visit to the Kuril Islands, Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi summoned Russian ambassador to Japan Nikolai Nozdrev to lodge a "strong protest" against Putin's surprise move.

Motegi told the ambassador in the meeting that Putin's visit would "have an extremely negative impact on Japan-Russia relations" already complicated by Moscow's offensive on Ukraine, according to the ministry's statement.

Russia's embassy in Japan said the islands were "an integral part of the Russian Federation," that their "status is not subject to doubt" and that Putin's travel there was not "a matter for discussion with foreign states".

Heavy rain soaks eastern Japan, prompting highest-level warning

AFP | Chiba, Japan

Torrential rain pummelled eastern Japan on Thursday, triggering landslides and power outages, and prompting the weather authority to issue its highest-level heavy rain warning for the region for the first time.

Footage from public broadcaster NHK showed cars submerged in floodwaters in a residential area in the city of Kashiwa, Chiba region.

"This is shaping up to be an unprecedented level of heavy rain," a Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) official told a news conference.

In areas hit by the localised rainfall, "lives may be in imminent danger. Please secure your safety immediately," the official said.

More than 100,000 households, mostly in Chiba, but also in the Ibaraki and Saitama regions, were urged to evacuate, according to the disaster management agency.



Hundreds of people were left stranded in Chiba station due to suspended train services, an AFP journalist saw.

In the hour leading up to 9:00 pm (1200 GMT), approximately 100 millimetres (3.9 inches) of rain fell in the vicinity of Sakura city, Chiba, NHK reported, citing JMA. The JMA issued its highest-level heavy rain warning for the Chiba region for the first time ever, the JMA official told reporters.

The agency's top-level warning typically indicates a high likelihood of an imminent disaster due to heavy rain.

'How many will die?': the mysterious ailment killing Kenyan elephants

AFP | Kimana, Kenya

Lying on the ground and kicking up a cloud of dust, the elephant slowly exhausted himself in futile attempts to stand, the latest potential victim of a still-mysterious ailment in southern Kenya.

Distressed vets administered a glucose injection -- the only option, given that the cause of the ailment remains unknown -- to the 11-year-old male, known as Genghis Khan, who was struggling to breathe.

The mystery affliction has killed at least 19 pachyderms, mostly females or young males, since June in Kenya -- with all of the animals exhibiting identical symptoms, including partial paralysis.

Elephant herds have made Amboseli -- overlooked by Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania -- a



lucrative tourist hotspot and the mysterious deaths in the region are a sensitive issue in a country where tourism is a huge source of revenue.

"You would find one struggling for a day, struggling for two or even three days. Until they completely die," said Patrick Papatiti, head of operations for Olgulului communal lands, which includes the Kitenden B reserve where Genghis Khan was found.

Israel sends troops to settler siege

US ambassador slams 'act of terror'

- Settlers at Qusra near Nablus since Sunday have blockaded Palestinian homes
- Witnesses said that the settlers remained on rocks on a nearby hill
- Huckabee said there was "no excuse for such thuggish behaviour".

AFP | Qusra, Palestinian Territories

Israeli forces yesterday moved against rogue settlers laying siege to Palestinians amid unusually strong US criticism, even as Israel inaugurated an emblematic settlement elsewhere in the West Bank.

Settlers at Qusra near Nablus since Sunday have blockaded Palestinian homes, including one owned by a US citizen, with

5000
More than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank, which are illegal under international law, among some three million Palestinians in the territory.



Israeli settlers walk on a newly built road after the reopening of a settlement at Ganim in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

residents saying they have been cut off from food and other supplies.

The Israeli military said it sent forces to the area overnight and dismantled two outposts, detaining one Israeli. Troops remained in place to "protect the residents and maintain security", the military said.

Witnesses said that the settlers remained on rocks on a nearby hill, even after troops removed their tent and blankets.

"So far, no one has been able to get food and supplies to us because the area is completely sealed off by the army," said Aisha Hassan, trapped in one of the besieged houses.

The US ambassador to Isra-

el, Mike Huckabee, for years a staunch supporter of settlers, said there was "no excuse for such thuggish behaviour".

"Actions by those who carried out this horrific act of terror meant to intimidate and harass this family are disgusting," Huckabee wrote on X.

Huckabee said Israel had intervened at the request of the United States, its crucial ally.

Video footage published over the weekend appeared to show Israeli forces praying alongside the settlers, leading the army to say it would take action.

The army also said it would let residents stay in their homes, after the mayor of Qusra said troops gave temporary evacu-

ation orders so they could operate.

The UN Human Rights Office in the occupied Palestinian territory on Thursday called on the Israeli authorities to "immediately" act against the settlers.

"These criminal actions by the settlers, supported or acquiesced to by Israel, the occupying power, are making life unbearable for these Palestinian families, and are clearly aimed at forcing them to leave their homes and land," it said in a statement.

EU foreign policy spokesperson Anitta Hipper called on Israel to take "concrete action to prevent settler violence".

Romania begins shutdown of nuclear plant due to low Danube

AFP | Bucharest, Romania

Romania began Thursday the complete shutdown of its only nuclear plant after water levels in the Danube, used to cool the site, fell to a record low, the national nuclear energy company said.

Nuclearelectrica already shut down last month one of the two reactors at the Cernavoda power plant, which usually generates a fifth of the East-



ern European country's total electricity. The second needed to shut as well "due to the significant and ongoing drop in the water level of the River Danube", it said in a statement.

"Nuclearelectrica SA announces that, on the morning of 13 August 2026, it began the procedures for the controlled shutdown of Unit 2 at the Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant," it said.

X

TOP 4 TWEETS

01



Delighted to mark International #YouthDay with members of the @WHOYouthCouncil in a dynamic discussion on solutions to advance global health. The creativity, passion, and commitment shown by these young leaders was truly inspiring. I encouraged them to keep broadening their skills, lead with patience and composure, and continue challenging assumptions by asking “why” as they work to improve health and wellbeing around the world.

@DrTedros

02



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.

@antonioгутerres

03



This year, we have two and a half times fewer interceptors than we had in 2025. Russia has two times more ballistic missiles per month than they had before.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Trump Admin Opens New Front In War On Fraud, This Time In Child Sex-Changes

@VP

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

Air India mandates drug tests for all pilots after mid-air plunge

AFP | New Delhi, India

Air India pilots will undergo mandatory drug screening starting Thursday, according to an internal memo seen by AFP, after a captain involved in a serious mid-air incident reportedly tested positive for marijuana.

Existing rules require airlines to randomly test at least 10 percent of their flight crew for psychoactive substances each year.

“We have decided to undertake a full screening of all Group pilots for any substances or medications that are not permitted under prevailing regulations,” the memo said.

“Testing is mandatory and will start today.”

On August 4, at least 24 pas-



sengers were injured when an Airbus A320 lost about 300 feet (91 metres) of altitude shortly after departing from Thailand’s Phuket for New Delhi.

Local media reports said the main pilot had smoked marijuana and had tested positive in a second confirmatory test. Air India said the results have not been shared with them.

Never wake a sleeping bear -- or pay a hefty fine in the Arctic

AFP |



Oslo, Norway

A person in Norway’s Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic has been fined 50,000 kroner (\$5,255) for using a foghorn to wake a sleeping polar bear, local officials said Thursday.

The incident took place earlier this month when a vessel was sailing in a fjord in northeastern Svalbard, around 1,000 kilo-

metres (620 miles) from the North Pole.

“Its occupants are said to have spotted a polar bear sleeping on land,” the governor of the territory said in a statement.

“A person on board then used the ship’s foghorn, waking the animal, which moved to another location,” he added.

Neither the identity nor nationality of the person has been disclosed.

The governor’s office ordered the individual to pay the hefty fine, which the person agreed to do.

Under local regulations “it is forbidden to needlessly disturb, attract or pursue a polar bear”, which was declared a protected species in Svalbard in 1972.

Some 260 polar bears were counted in the archipelago during the last scientific estimate, carried out in 2015.

Tata Trusts says panel will decide next chairman of firm

● The panel would include three nominees

AFP | Mumbai, India

A group of charities that wields indirect control of India’s Tata Group said yesterday a panel would be set up to recommend the next chairman of the conglomerate’s holding firm.

The announcement came a day after N Chandrasekaran, chairman of holding firm Tata Sons, said he would not seek reappointment when his term ends in February.

The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, one of the group’s charity institutions, passed a resolution to initiate the setting up of a selection committee “as soon as possible”, Tata Trusts said in a statement Thursday.

“We place on record our deepest appreciation for his

contribution and stewardship of Tata Sons and the Tata group over the past decade,” it added, referring to Chandrasekaran.

The \$180 billion Tata Group, whose interests range from salt to software, has grappled with a leadership crisis for about a year due to boardroom disagreements over several issues, including losses at some group firms. While Chandrasekaran did not name anyone, local media have widely reported it to be Noel Tata, half-brother of the late family patriarch Ratan Tata and head of the Tata Trusts, a group of philanthropic institutions that owns 66 percent of Tata Sons.

While Tata Trusts does not play a role in the day-to-day management of the conglomerate, their shareholding in the parent firm gives them decisive influence over the group’s future.

The panel would include three nominees from Tata

YOU

KNOW WHAT

In 1868, 29-year-old Jamsetji Tata started his trading company with a capital of just Rs.21,000. More than 150 years later, that small trading business has grown into the global Tata Group.

‘If you can, move!’ say Rome’s viral dancing seniors



AFP | Rome, Italy

Bopping to Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley in a Roman square, an elderly dancing duo has become a viral sensation in Italy -- something they hope will inspire other seniors to take up a more active lifestyle.

Retired dance teacher Pasquale Iannotta, 70, and his dancing partner Elisa Fava, 79, have won praise from Rome’s mayor and twirled on national TV since one of their street performances was shared online.

“No one ever thought we could go viral like this,” Fava told AFP on Wednesday, as the pair returned to Testaccio square, in the namesake historic working-class district of the Italian capital, for another spin.

Their moves have struck a chord with many in Italy -- whose population is the oldest in the European Union.

The original clip posted by The Tour Guy gathered almost more than 370,000 likes and thousands of comments on Instagram, including from mayor Roberto Gualtieri who complimented the “excellent dancers”, writing: “There’s so much beauty in this simple video”.

Iannotta and Fava have since been invited to perform on the flagship morning TV show of national broadcaster Rai Uno and other television programmes.

The two met at dancing class, where Fava was one of Iannotta’s pupils, and started performing outdoors regularly in the summer since, as Iannotta puts it, they both “hate sitting around at

home”.

Now they hope their sudden popularity will push others off the sofa and onto the dance floor, they said.

“I have many friends who, unfortunately, when they retire, like many others end up sitting on the sofa watching television. I’d like to see them get a bit more active,” Iannotta, who wore a floral short-sleeve shirt and sunglasses, said after the duo showed off their skills to the tune of Presley’s “Jailhouse Rock”.

With a median age of 49.1, Italy is the EU’s oldest country, according to the bloc’s data agency.

Births fell last year by nearly four percent, plunging the fertility rate to an 80-year low, national statistics show.

As the country ages, putting pressure on care among other challenges, doctors say physical activity is vital for older people, helping with brain and heart health among other benefits.

“Don’t be idle: if you can, move,” Fava, who recently became a great-grandmother, said in a message to fellow seniors. “Particularly dancing is good for you”.



Three US states to execute inmates on the same day

Washington, United States

Three US states are each set to execute a death row inmate on Thursday, as the country marked an upswing in capital punishment under President Donald Trump.

The death penalty has been abolished in 23 of the 50 US states, while three others -- California, Oregon and Pennsylvania -- have moratoriums in place.

The last time that three executions were scheduled on the same day was in 2010, according to the non-profit group Death Penalty Information Center.

Trump has called for expanding the use of the death penalty “for the vilest crimes,” and the Department of Justice proposed in April to broaden execution methods to include firing squads, gas and electrocution.

On Thursday, Tennessee is



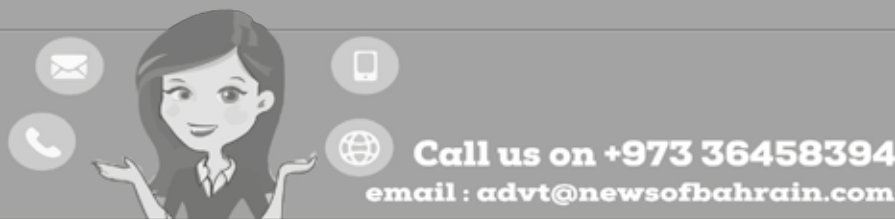
set to execute Anthony Darrell Dugard Hines, 66, for murdering a woman in 1985, according to US media.

Oklahoma will put to death Carlos Cuesta-Rodriguez, 70, who was found guilty of murder in a 2003 shooting.

Alabama plans to execute Jeremy Williams, 42, who was convicted of raping and killing a five-year-old.

There were 47 executions in the United States last year, the highest figure since 2009, when 52 inmates were put to death.

Classifieds



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ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

GOLDEN PROTECTION FOR CLEANING AND TRADE has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33001722 or AUTOMAGIC.BH@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED MOHSIN FURNITURE WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37705167 or MOHAM-MEDMOHSEN01@GMAIL.COM

SUMNIMA NEPALI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39651884 or NAZMUL@SWIFTMSERVICE.COM

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a

vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

A - KARIM ALJAHROMI CONTRACTING COMPANY WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17831000 or akjcont@gmail.com

AMARA FACILITIES SUPPORT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32235386 or WAQASKHAN3214899422@GMAIL.COM

BLACK ZYPHORA CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36563904 or BWCCOMPANY6@GMAIL.COM

PATRONUS CLEARANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33860711 or navedeqamar4u@gmail.com

adiya towers interiors WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17729645 or OP@adiyatowers.com

Seven Energy W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500791 or hr@seven-energy.com

BRIGHT CASTLES CONTRACTING W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SERVICEMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001335 or BRIGHT-CASTLES@HOTMAIL.COM

MODERN MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & TRANSPORT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17708888 or lmr@mmetc.com

ANDRON GENTS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of THERAPIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32111454 or ZAHRA@ANDRON.BH

ALRESALEH TRADING BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464691 or info@alkhoorgroup.com

ALKOMED ENGINEERING SERVICES CO. has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN(-MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17698500 or ALKOMED@BATELCO.COM.BH

SAVOY GRANDE HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32250282 or HIREN@BRUPCO.COM

NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999360 or FISHERMANSENSE@GMAIL.COM

GULF DIGITAL SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33056512 or MOMINSHK5@GMAIL.COM

PK ICE BAR RESTURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36382575 or ADEELROSES@YAHOO.COM

DESI BETHAK RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34342046 or MUHAMMADADEELABDULHAMMED@GMAIL.COM

MARINA MEHZAN SAFETY SOLUTION AND TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33295979 or BOPECITY369@GMAIL.COM

ALQATAN LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(-GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33272827 or bhagwatiprasad307@gmail.com

DHUFAR BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33119975 or JEFFREE-BH@GMAIL.COM

ARAS CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PROJECTS COORDINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17040804 or ARAS.BAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

ANAYA SKYLINK CONSULTING CO. W.L.L has a

vacancy for the occupation of SALES REPRESENTATIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34191352 or ZAHIDRASHID_333@HOTMAIL.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

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DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

City Point Hotel W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LIFEGUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500794 or ayman@sevenleisure.net

ALNEAMAH CARGO CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17735363 or NEDAL600@HOTMAIL.COM

AYAAN GATE ELECTRONICS has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17414224 or HELLO_START16@HOTMAIL.COM

INTERLOCK MAINTENANCE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17296175 or ramraj007@hotmail.com

DELHI RASOI RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of CHEF, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39281965 or BOXANDCONQ@GMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN SKY ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(ELECTRICIAN/WIREMAN), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17715701 or NABEEL_BAH@YAHOO.COM

ZESTINO PIZZA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33762829 or ADEEL.XEIRICH@GMAIL.COM

Dalgan Opticians W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17670719 or EYADS@ICLOUD.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

MANBIR INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33090511 or GQS.CLEARANCE@HOTMAIL.COM

THE KINGDOM UNIVERSITY B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13302967 or NALBASTAKI@KU.EDU.BH

ABDULHADI ALAFOO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alaf@battelco.com.bh

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (FACTORY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM.BH

BURJ AL DUJA NEW CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39863763 or BAIG.LC@GMAIL.COM

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

arab concepts construction has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36212123 or mega.bh@hotmail.com

NOOR AL DIYAR PRIVATE SCHOOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77507777 or INFO@NOORALDIYAR.COM

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM

MAHIN STAR SALOON BAHRAINI PART-

nership COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33892327 or ABDULLAH33821112@GMAIL.COM

YWE STUDIO has a vacancy for the occupation of JANITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38855309 or AHMED@YWEBH.COM

DUBAI SLEEP SYSTEMS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33377710 or MSHAJI@BATELCO.COM.BH

WHITE FALCON PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66626168 or TDAINEH@GMAIL.COM

MAGIC PASSION FRUIT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of LIGHT VEHICLE DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33848407 or adel.bh@live.com

DESIGNS JOY AMOUR EVENTS FILIPINO VIBEHOUSE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37276699 or SHERYLFULGAR2020@GMAIL.COM

AQUA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PLANT / UNIT OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233317 or MOHAMEDALASFOOR@GMAIL.COM

MANAMA STEEL INDUSTRIES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500266 or Fadhel@omanamasteel.com

ELITE SEEF RESIDENCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313373 or hrd@dadabhaiconstruction.com

SMART ELIXIR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35636617 or ELIXIRBAHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

J T F FOODSTUFF TRADING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35002840 or PUREMIND.BH@GMAIL.COM

ARAIN STAR SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36225099 or ARAINSTAR9211@GMAIL.COM

L M C S CARGO SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66627665 or WAQARHASHMI86G@GMAIL.COM

Castillo Trading & Construction has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717474 or ramiazadi1972@gmail.com

MOTOLUCKY MOTORBIKE REPAIR AND SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of REPAIRMAN (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32267592 or MIAN-MOHSIN7592@GMAIL.COM

FISH QILA RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36651706 or ASIM422@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED NIZAM AKON LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37797340 or NIZAM.BH434@GMAIL.COM

DELIVERY TIME W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36140709 or malikhuzai-fa036@GMAIL.COM

ALHUDDOOD CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37308355 or ALHUDDOODWORKSHOP1@GMAIL.COM

TRIPLE STAR CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35458563 or CChangaizbashir@gmail.com

HOUSTON LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35458563 or CHANGAIZBASHIR79@GMAIL.COM

WEST IKER GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37381108 or ALIAD-NANABDULRASOOL@GMAIL.COM

WADI SHAWWAL ALKABEER CONSTRUCTION CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33357296 or RIAZ7029@GMAIL.COM

G U R S CARGO HANDLING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33515930

or HONEYPASHA445@GMAIL.COM

BANARSI RESTAURANT & CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34107122 or JAVEDRRRF@GMAIL.COM

BURGER EXPRESS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35414424 or M.MNAWAZ2829@GMAIL.COM

GREENO MART has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32229308 or IRFAN@RELEVANTECH.NET

PAN ARAB COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17514166 or info@panarabco.net

S2 INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33403066 or JOSEPH@S2-INT.COM

PARCENER CAFE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 32222055 or FGROUPEB@GMAIL.COM

YALLA MUTABAQ has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33633360 or YALLA-MUTABAQ@GMAIL.COM

SABRO METALS CO. WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38885801 or MARTINKAT-TAKAYAM@YAHOO.COM

GHAZAL ALDAIH TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33689921 or MUHAMMEDSHAH338@GMAIL.COM

BGTS GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33894635 or IMAMBUXZOYO029@GMAIL.COM

ELITE FACILITY MANAGEMENT CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17382228 or MUSTAFA@ELITEFMC.COM

AL QAYAM ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17262217 or ALQAYAMELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM

ALDOOR EXCAVATION & BUILDING CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17877246 or zainabhr@aldoorbh.com

SWISS RESTAURANT AND COFFEE SHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66622074 or LITONSAMI90@GMAIL.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREENAGROUP.COM

ELAYARY CARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33248053 or NTRG456@GMAIL.COM

ZAFEER CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39339937 or ZAFEER2030@YAHOO.COM

THE GRAND ASHOKA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39420606 or mgt-bah9@gmail.com

TAURUS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39120524 or punjabit.tadka8388@gmail.com

ABU YUSUF MECHANICAL GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39661894 or abdul33883621@GMAIL.COM

ABU ADIL COOL POINT MAINTENANCE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39631903 or abuvadilcoolpoint@gmail.com

MASTER MIND AUTO SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (CAR MECHANICAL WORKSHOP), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33445202 or JASNOORCARSERVICE@GMAIL.COM

ALJUMAIRI CONTRACTING AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17675002 or ALJUMAIRI.FURNITURE.FACTORY@HOTMAIL.COM

SUPER TOUCH WHITE LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(-GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can

contact 33220052 or WEHELP4U@GMAIL.COM

HAPPY PAWS PET STORE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ANIMALS KEEPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39499299 or ABDULLAQMALIK@HOTMAIL.COM

BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

ELLOODS HAIRDRESSING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38887099 or info@ellood.com

AL AHLAM CARPENTRY WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(FURNITURE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39454940 or hamed_996@hotmail.com

SIYANA INDUSTRIAL SERVICES & SIAM SCASFOLDS- SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

BAHRAIN GUARDING SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77996666 or GOVERNMENT@mre.co

ESTIQLAL CORNER CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(JUICE & SANDWICHES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33639898 or SADIQ_s9s@HOTMAIL.COM

GRIP MACHINERY AND RELIABILITY SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34557070 or finance@grip-machinery.com

GULF UNIVERSITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17620092 or hrd@gulfuniversity.edu.bh

NEW MILLENNIUM WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17213355 or WSSBAHRAIN@YAHOO.COM

ALHAJ HASSAN GROUP B.S.C CLOSED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17551111 or hr.admin@hajihassan.com

THE CANADIAN SCHOOL- BAHRAIN COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17322582 or HR@KCBAHRAIN.COM

ERA CONSTRUCTION WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500331 or hr@eraprojects.net

MAGNUM SHIPCARE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhaldiadiagroup.com

BOOKARTY MARKET PLACE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37239999 or ABUFIZAN313@GMAIL.COM

SHANAB HAPPY MENS SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36508836 or ST-RIND@HOTMAIL.COM

VASANTHAM SWEETS & SNACKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17213355 or WSSBAHRAIN@YAHOO.COM

MONTANN TRAVEL AND TOURISM has a vacancy for the occupation of TRAVEL AGENT(TICKETING & RESERVATION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38797858 or alisbu2214@gmail.com

KASHIF ARSHAD INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39042716 or KSHFRASHAD@GMAIL.COM

FATTO has a vacancy for the occupation of PREPARER(COFFEE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17710271 or habib@alghalia.com

AEROLAM MIDDLE EAST W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335442 or ALMIYAS@YAHOO.COM

TOOR MOTOR CYCLE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66964322 or GULFDOC123@GMAIL.COM

TROPICAL STAR SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38826750 or SHAHZAI8.AL7600@GMAIL.COM

JIANT MANPOWER SUPPLY has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33355258 or JAFFER212@GMAIL.COM

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

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DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

SAFWANA MOBILE REPAIRING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34041786 or SAFWANAMOBILE786@GMAIL.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

ARGAN TREE BEAUTY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35386658 or HHASAN@ARGGANTREE.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

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DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

HANISHA MECH W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39191811 or KUMARELIM@GMAIL.COM

SAAJ TECHNICAL MECHANICAL CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17242583 or INFO@SAAJTECH.COM

GLOBAL SOURCES FOR GENERAL CONTRACTING CO. BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888682 or ASHIQUE@ARABINGLOBALSOURCES.COM

GLOBAL SOURCES FOR GENERAL CONTRACTING CO. BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (SITE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38888682 or ASHIQUE@ARABINGLOBALSOURCES.COM

DREAM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or HRD@DREAMGROUP.BH

Basma Security has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY MAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

BAHRAIN SERVICES & MAINTENANCE COMPANY B.S.C. (CLOSED) has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727676 or aqeel@basma.com.bh

Danat Al Jasrah W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17255308 or ALJASRAI948@GMAIL.COM

SEVEN HILLS SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAIN-

TENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697979 or hr@7hills-group.com

668 CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33113352 or 668.BHR@GMAIL.COM

LULU BAHRAIN HYPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BUTCHER (ANIMALS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17558558 or CAREERS@BH.LULUMEA.COM

DARBAR CARPENTRY WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32151873 or TALEB3395@GMAIL.COM

MZOU DI AND ABSI FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35580461 or kafybusiness705@gmail.com

ARABIAN PEARL GULF SCHOOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17403666 or mohammedalali@hotmail.com

ROYAL ART CENTRE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17731514 or ROYALART@YMAIL.COM

WA Tech Water Technology W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY)GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720617 or CONTACT@WATECHMENA.COM

GLASS MART ALUMINUM WORKSHOP has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or FTHEWHAT@HOTMAIL.COM

COMSIP AL A ALI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17773006 or arnaud.allix@VINCI-ENERGIES.COM

MADYAN VALLEY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35609260 or ISAIABH@GMAIL.COM

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

TRUSLINK TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33672288 or admin@truslink.com.bh

ALNOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL has a vacancy for the occupation of TEACHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17736773 or roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

FLUID TECH TRADING EST has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623583 or admnfluidtech@gmail.com

MOTIX GARAGE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CUSTOMER SERVICES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34627555 or INFO@MOTIXBH.COM

MANNAI ALUMINIUM AND GLASS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39697800 or DM@mannaigroup.net

Delta Security Services Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR-CLERK AUTHORIZER-SIGNER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33999840 or hr@delta-ss.me

PLANETARY ADVISERS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35527868 or ALBASIT-PROPERTYADVISOR1@GMAIL.COM

SAYMA MARKET has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33063018 or BABAR-SHAHZAD421@GMAIL.COM

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region

Syria seeks expanded World Bank cooperation on economic reforms



Syria is seeking to deepen cooperation with the World Bank to advance financial, economic and institutional reforms, Finance Minister Mohammed Yisr Barnieh said Thursday.

Barnieh met World Bank Middle East Director Dahlia Khalifa in Damascus to discuss economic reforms, social protection and sustainable development programs, according to the Finance Ministry.

The meeting focused on accelerating projects already approved under existing grants, while officials reviewed proposed reforms to Syria's pension, retirement and social insurance systems, including restructuring the institutions overseeing them.

Housing finance was also discussed, with officials considering updates to mortgage laws and financial instruments, development of the mortgage finance system and Real Estate Finance Supervisory Authority, and measures to expand access to affordable housing loans.

The talks also addressed efforts to improve governance, efficiency and competitiveness at state-owned economic and financial institutions. Proposed measures include gradually converting some entities into joint-stock companies and restructuring state-owned financial institutions.

Officials further discussed fiscal policy, economic growth and the Finance Ministry's broader reform strategy. Potential World

Bank support for improving livelihoods and strengthening social protection programs was considered, with emphasis on better targeting assistance toward vulnerable groups.

Digital transformation in financial institutions and plans for a public-private partnership knowledge center were also included in the discussions.

The meeting covered the "Syria Without Camps" initiative, part of the country's recovery efforts, and potential World Bank support for the voluntary and safe return of displaced Syrians through multisector development projects.

Improving Syria's business and investment environment was another priority. The World Bank said it would continue providing technical assistance and send specialized missions to Damascus to support financial reform and economic development.

The meeting came a week after the World Bank approved a \$100 million grant to help Syria establish a modern, secure and digitally enabled financial sector.

After about 14 years of conflict, Syria's financial system remains heavily dependent on cash, with limited financial intermediation and outdated digital-payment infrastructure. The World Bank said strengthening the sector will be crucial for recovery, supporting trade, investment, remittances, payments and the secure delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Saudi, Iraq discuss strengthening military and defense cooperation



Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman held talks with Iraq's Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, First Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Al-Shammari, on Thursday, focusing on military and defense cooperation.

The two officials reviewed bilateral relations in the defense sector and discussed regional developments, Prince Khalid said in a post on X.

They stressed the importance of continued coordination and

cooperation to serve their shared interests and strengthen regional security and stability.

Prince Khalid reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's strong ties with Iraq, describing it as a "dear neighbor" and highlighting the bonds between the two countries.

He said the Kingdom would continue supporting Iraq's security, stability, development and prosperity, emphasizing that closer cooperation would benefit Iraq and its people.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUKHCHAIN S/O BAKSHI, holding Indian Passport No:- **P4903800** dated **19/12/2016** issued at **Jalandhar** having permanent residence at (full address in India):- **V.P.O. PATTI HAWELI MALSIAN, TEHSIL SHAHKOT, JALANDHAR, PIN:144701, PUNJAB, INDIA** presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Flat/Villa 32, Building 1986, Road 5234, Block 952, Ras Zuwayed, Bahrain** will henceforth be known as (Given name) **SUKHCHAIN** (Surname) **SINGH**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

GadgetBUZZ

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Google Pixel 11 bets on AI as hardware changes take a back seat

TDT | agencies

Google has launched its Pixel 11 series, but the latest flagship smartphones are less about a dramatic redesign and more about making the phone smarter. The lineup comprises the Pixel 11, Pixel 11 Pro, Pixel 11 Pro XL and the foldable Pixel 11 Pro Fold. All four models are powered by Google's new Tensor G6 processor, with deeper integration of its Gemini artificial intelligence system. The standard Pixel 11 starts at \$899, while the Pro and Pro XL start at \$1,099 and \$1,299. The Pixel 11 Pro Fold starts at \$1,899. All models now begin with 256GB of storage. The biggest changes are in the camera and software. Google has introduced Magic Capture, which combines photo and video capture, along with Camera Looks, allowing users to customise the way images are



processed. The Pro models add improved low-light photography, up to 120x zoom and 8K Pro Stable Video. Google is also targeting the growing army of smartphone content creators. Its new Creator Suite brings tools such as

a teleprompter, vocal enhancement, external microphone controls and social-media framing guides directly into the camera app. Another unusual addition on the Pro models is HiLight, an LED notification system de-

signed to alert users to calls and messages from selected contacts without constantly lighting up the display. The Pixel 11 Pro Fold gets a slimmer design, thinner bezels and an 8-inch internal display. Early hands-on impressions

praise its refined build and nearly invisible crease, although reviewers note that competitors still have an edge in design appeal. The Pixel 11 series will begin shipping on August 20. The early verdict from hands-on coverage is clear: this is more evolution than revolution. The Verge describes the new phones as pairing relatively modest

hardware changes with a much larger software push. For Google, the message is simple: the next smartphone battle may not be about how different a phone looks — but how intelligently it can work for you. (Sources: Google, The Verge, TechCrunch, Android Central and 91mobiles.)



AI is eating your storage: SSD shortage sends prices soaring



TDT | agencies

The world's growing appetite for artificial intelligence is creating an unexpected problem for ordinary computer users: storage is getting harder and more expensive to buy. Demand from AI data centres is putting enormous pressure on the NAND flash market, the technology used in SSDs, memory cards and other storage devices. TrendForce says servers now account for more than 40 per cent of global NAND flash bit demand, while the market is expected to remain in deficit through 2026. The squeeze is already being felt in the consumer market. SSD prices have risen sharply, with technology retailers reporting that reasonably priced drives can sell out quickly. The pressure has been linked to the rapid expansion of AI infrastructure, which requires vast quantities of high-capacity en-

terprise SSDs. Enterprise SSD contract prices reportedly rose about 80 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, as AI infrastructure absorbed available NAND production. The problem isn't simply that people are buying more SSDs. Manufacturers are also redirecting production towards higher-value products for data centres and AI systems, while existing factory capacity remains constrained. TrendForce expects the situation to improve only gradually. It forecasts that NAND supply could begin to outpace demand in the second half of 2027, suggesting that consumers may have to live with elevated prices for some time. For consumers planning to upgrade laptops, PCs, NAS systems or external storage, the message is becoming increasingly clear: The days of cheap, ever-growing storage may be on hold — at least for now.

Brazil orders suspension of Discord livestreams

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil



Bey on Wednesday ordered Discord to suspend livestreams, accusing the messaging platform of failing to protect children and adolescents after a teen girl was allegedly incited to commit suicide. The platform was given three days to comply with a suspension that was ordered "due to robust evidence that the company failed to adopt reasonable measures" to protect children

and teenagers from content encouraging violence, self-harm and suicide, the ANPD agency said in a statement. Investigators say a 13-year-

old girl was encouraged to self-harm and take her own life during a recent Discord. Five teenagers have been arrested in connection to the death. "Live streams have been repeatedly used to facilitate violence, harassment, and the incitement of self-harm and suicide," said the ANPD. In a statement sent to AFP on Tuesday prior to the decision, Discord said it was "cooperating with authorities in the investigation into this serious case." Following the recent death,

Rosangela da Silva, wife of left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, called for Discord to be shut down and urged "the judiciary to remove this horrible network from the Internet." Discord claims more than 90 million active daily users worldwide. In 2024, the platform X was blocked for 40 days in Brazil, until the social media network owned by the world's richest man Elon Musk complied with the Supreme Court's orders to remove accounts spreading disinformation.

Samsung unveils AI smart glasses, bringing Gemini to your eyewear

TDT | agencies

Samsung has unveiled its first "Intelligent Eyewear", bringing artificial intelligence, cameras and voice assistance into a pair of glasses designed to look more like everyday eyewear than a high-tech headset. The glasses were officially introduced at Samsung's Galaxy Unpacked event in London, following an earlier preview at Google I/O. Samsung developed the eyewear with Google and fashion eyewear brands Gentle Monster and Warby Parker. Built around Google's Android XR platform, the glasses use Gemini as an AI assistant and are designed to work alongside a smartphone rather than replace it. Users can interact with the assistant through voice commands while keeping their phones in their pockets.

The glasses are equipped with a camera, microphones and speakers, allowing users to take photographs, ask questions about what they are seeing, translate signs and conversations, receive navigation assistance and interact with smartphone applications. Samsung has also focused on privacy, an increasingly important issue for camera-equipped smart glasses. A small LED indicator is designed to show when the camera is recording, while wear detection is intended to prevent the device from operating when it is not being worn. Battery life is another selling point, with Samsung promising up to nine hours of use under mixed-use conditions. The glasses are powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon AR1 platform and are designed to maintain a relatively conventional eyewear form factor.

But consumers will have to wait. Samsung has said the Intelligent Eyewear will arrive this autumn in select markets, with pricing and a detailed list of launch markets yet to be announced. That means the glasses are not yet a Middle East retail launch, despite Samsung having a major regional presence. The company has not confirmed Gulf availability at this stage. Still, the product marks an important shift in the smartphone race: instead of asking users to look down at a screen, Samsung and Google want AI to become something you can wear, hear and interact with while looking at the world around you. (Sources: Samsung Newsroom, Google, Android Central and TechRadar.)



Hasan takes 6-55 as Bangladesh claim opening day of Australia Test

AFP | Darwin, Australia

Hasan Mahmud took a career-best 6-55 as Bangladesh bundled Australia out for 198 to take the honours on the opening day of the first Test in Darwin on Thursday.

At the close Bangladesh were 96-1, 102 runs behind Australia.

Mominul Haque was on 35 with Tanzid Hasan alongside him on 32 as the visitors made a superb start to a Test match most people expected them to lose inside three days.

Earlier, Hasan led an impressive display by the visitors' seamers as Australia slumped to their lowest Test score against Bangladesh, their previous worst being 217 in Mirpur in 2017.

The 26-year-old was the pick of the attack, but he was ably supported by fellow quicks Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain, who took two wickets apiece.

"I was just trying to bowl line and length, trust the process and follow what the captain was



Bangladesh bowler Hasan Mahmud (C) holds the ball aloft after taking six Australian wickets on the first day of the first cricket Test match between Australia and Bangladesh at Marrara Stadium in Darwin

saying," Hasan said.

"(Taskin and Ebadot) were trying their best and they did very well also."

Steve Smith was the only Australian to offer any resistance, scoring 71, while the rest of the batsmen looked out of sorts

against the disciplined attack.

"We haven't played a Test match for a while and it can take some time to get into it," Smith said.

"It wasn't easy. The ball was doing stuff and you have to be patient.

"Perhaps we got dragged into a few we didn't need to, but that's the pressure."

After skipper Pat Cummins chose to bat on a perfect Darwin day, a full-strength Australia were expected to dominate a Bangladesh side who were well

beaten by a Cricket Australia XI in their only warm-up match.

Hasan made the initial breakthrough in the 12th over with the score on 45.

Jake Weatherald, on 23, had a huge swipe at a ball outside off stump and only managed a thick edge to wicketkeeper Litton Das.

Hasan struck again soon after, fellow opener Travis Head chopping on for 22 to leave Australia 52-2.

Bangladesh then saw a huge opportunity go begging when Smith, on two, edged Ebadot to third slip where Tanzid Hasan spilled the chance.

Smith had a second escape next over when he got a thick edge off Taskin only for the ball to fly through a vacant third slip.

Marnus Labuschagne, on one, wasn't so fortunate.

He poked at an Ebadot ball outside off stump and edged to Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto at second slip, leaving Australia 61-3.

Cameron Green came in and played some big shots before chipping Taskin to short mid-

wicket, where Mushfiquar Rahman took an easy catch.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey looked in good touch after lunch and cruised to 19 until he played on to Ebadot with the score on 129.

Taskin then produced the ball of the day to beat Beau Webster's bat and clip the top of off stump to leave the home side struggling on 152-6.

Cummins tried to steer the hosts to tea without further loss, however Shanto brought Hasan back into the attack with immediate success, the Australian skipper getting a big edge to Litton. Hasan got his fourth in the same fashion, Mitchell Starc getting a thin edge to the keeper with the score on 172.

Smith threw his wicket away going for a big hit before Nathan Lyon was last man out in similar fashion.

Bangladesh started their reply confidently and eased to 36 before Australia got the breakthrough, Shadman Islam (20) getting a leading edge off Mitchell Starc to Lyon at backward point.

Juventus forward Vlahovic signs three-year Besiktas deal

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Serbian international Dusan Vlahovic yesterday signed a three-year deal with Turkish club Besiktas after an injury-marred final year in Italy with Juventus.

The 26-year-old forward, whose contract with the Serie A giants expired this summer, will earn 7.5 million euros (\$8.6 million) per season in Istanbul, Besiktas said in a statement.

The 41-times capped player was greeted by a crowd of supporters as he touched down in Istanbul on Wednesday night.

"We want to be champions," the Serb declared on his arrival.

In Turkey he will play alongside Belgian

forward Leandro Trossard who joined from Arsenal in mid-July.

Vlahovic joined Juventus from Fiorentina in the summer of 2022 and scored 68 goals in 168 matches for the Turin club.

However, Serie A's second-highest scorer in the 2023-2024 season with 16 goals subsequently fell down the pecking order of strikers.

After returning last April from a long layoff due to a thigh injury, the Serbian suffered a calf problem, finishing the league season with just seven goals to his name.

Last crowned Turkish champions in 2021, Besiktas have since struggled to compete with Galatasaray and Fenerbahce, the city's other two major clubs.



Messi returns after father's death but Miami knocked out of Leagues Cup

AFP | Miami, United States

Lionel Messi made an emotional return Wednesday following his father's death and hints at retirement, but it wasn't enough for his Inter Miami side who were knocked out of the Leagues Cup in a 3-2 loss to Mexico's Leon.

The Miami captain flew back to Florida from Argentina on Tuesday night after attending the funeral of his father, Jorge, on Sunday and came on at half-time to a massive ovation.

Jorge, who was his son's agent, died last week at the age of 68. On Wednesday morning, Messi posted an emotional tribute to his father on social media, admitting that he wasn't sure



Lionel Messi #10 of Inter Miami CF is challenged by Rodrigo Echeverria #20 of Leon during the Leagues Cup Phase One match between Inter Miami CF and Leon at Nu Stadium

he wanted to continue playing football. "I don't know what I'll do without you, I don't know how to go on," Messi wrote.

"I just played football, and now I have serious doubts about continuing to do so for much longer."

Miami led 1-0 but two goals from Colombian Daniel Arcila fueled Leon's come-from-behind victory, which made them the first team to qualify for the quarter-finals of the tournament between MLS and LigaMX clubs.

Messi had made himself available to Miami coach Guillermo Hoyos for the must-win final group match, having been absent when they lost to Monterrey on Saturday.

Infantino future should be decided by election says African football chief

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Confederation of African Football chief Patrice Motsepe says Gianni Infantino's future should only be decided by elections after Ireland became the latest federation to withdraw their support for the embattled FIFA president.

Infantino is fighting to save his job after a barrage of criticism for his aborted plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

The governing bodies of European football (UEFA), North and Central America (CONCACAF) and Asia (AFC) stepped up the pressure on Infantino

in a joint letter this week, declaring "trust is broken

through deception, when an individual places himself above the collective that entrusted him with authority".

It is believed they want to Infantino to resign before he has the chance to seek re-election in March next year.

But Motsepe, a FIFA vice-president and CAF president, is adamant Infantino's fate should be decided through the ballot box.

"If anybody has got any problem against anybody, whether it's Gianni, whether it is anybody else, follow the process, follow the FIFA process, simple as that," Motsepe told Sky News on Thursday.

"I f

you want to take him out, go for elections; let the 211 member associations decide. Do that and the vote will express whether they've got confidence in him or not.

"You've got to be very careful. There are elections taking place next year. Shouldn't we allow that process to continue?"

Motsepe was in Salzburg at the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday to hold talks with UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin, whose organisation are threatening to boycott the World Cup and Club World Cup in protest at Infantino's scheme.

"I've heard so many stories about various issues and am careful to pass judgement on anything," Motsepe said.

"Everybody has a right to be heard. Let's have a hearing, and a proper forum."

CAF had already backed Infantino and Motsepe claimed there was no breach of rules over the World Cup sell-off talks, because the proposals would be submitted to FIFA members for final approval.

"There's a lot that's problematic and negative that they have to fix," Motsepe said.

"But he has apologised and said maybe there's a different way these things should have been done, but we also take advice."

However, there has been no end to the tidal wave of criticism engulfing Infantino.

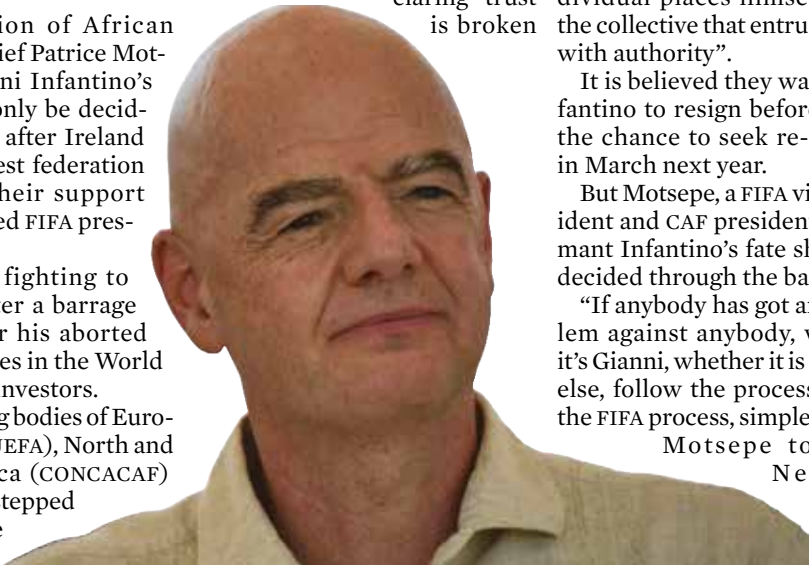
And on Thursday the Foot-

ball Association of Ireland (FAI) became the latest FIFA member to withdraw its support for Infantino.

The English FA and Welsh FA had already withdrawn their backing for the 56-year-old Swiss.

"Following an FAI Board Meeting, the decision was taken to rescind the letter of support that the Association supplied earlier this year," the organisation said.

"It has since written to FIFA to explain its reasoning. The Association is grateful for the support that FIFA provides to Irish football, but recent events have raised significant concerns regarding governance, transparency and the lack of meaningful consultation."



Young Reds sink Lebanon in Asia Cup Opener

Long-limbed Hassan Abdulkadir marches forward

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The young Reds hit Lebanon hard from the off and held off a late charge to win 74-68 in Ahmedabad on Thursday, giving Bahrain a winning start to their FIBA Under-18 Asia Cup campaign. Bahrain tore into Lebanon from the opening buzzer, taking the first quarter 22-11 before heading into half-time 37-25 up. They kept the pres-

sure on after the break. A 21-18 third quarter sent Bahrain into the last 10 minutes with a 58-43 lead and Lebanon with a mountain to climb.

Then came the fightback. Lebanon piled on 25 points in the fourth and held Bahrain to 16, but the young Reds had done enough early on. They held on through the closing minutes to seal a six-point win.

Hot-shooting duo Hassan Abdulkadir and Mahdi Habib led Bahrain with 19 points each, while all five starters reached double figures.

Abdulkadir was a force at both ends. He played all 40 minutes, pulled down 14 rebounds, made four steals and blocked three shots. He hit six of 13 from the floor and seven of 11 from the free-throw line.

Habib ran the show alongside him, shooting six of 10 from the field and handing out eight assists. He also made two steals and sank six of nine free throws.

Somto Patrick ruled the boards with 18 rebounds, including six offensive rebounds, and

added 14 points in 39 minutes.

Mujtaba Ismael and Mohamed Adel chipped in with 10 points each, leaving Bahrain's starting five with 72 of the team's 74 points.

The win gives Bahrain a flying start in Group B, where they will also face New Zealand and Syria. New Zealand beat Syria 67-58 in their opening game.

Bahrain are playing in the Under-18 Asian championship for the first time since 2018, when they finished seventh.

They earned their place in India after topping the Gulf qualifiers in Doha with four wins from four games.

Thursday's result also continued Bahrain's recent success against Lebanon at youth level. Many of the same players featured when Bahrain beat Lebanon 70-68 at the FIBA Under-16 Asia Cup last year.

Bahrain face New Zealand on Saturday before meeting Syria on Monday in their final Group B match.

The group winners go straight into the quarter-finals, while the second and third-placed teams enter a play-off for a place in the last eight.

The four semi-finalists will earn places at the 2027 FIBA Under-19 Basketball World Cup in the Czech Republic.

Leicester's Thai owners put troubled club up for sale

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Former Premier League champions Leicester have been put up for sale by the club's Thai owners, according to reports on Thursday.

Just 10 years after their fairytale Premier League title triumph, Leicester will play in English football's third tier for only the second time in their history this season.

The Foxes, who won their first FA Cup in 2021, have endured a dire period featuring successive relegations from the Premier League in 2025 and the Championship in 2026.

Last season, they were docked six points after breaching the Football League's profit and sustainability rules, sparking their slump into League One.

A BBC report on Thursday said Leicester's Thai owners King Power -- run by the Srivaddhanaprabha family -- have commissioned a leading US investment bank to help find a buyer, with the club's assets said to be listed

at more than £200 million (\$269 million).

King Power bought Leicester in a £35 million deal in 2010.

Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha took over as Leicester chairman following the death of his father Vichai in a helicopter crash outside the club's King Power stadium in 2019.

Following last season's relegation, Aiyawatt said he should shoulder the "blame" for the club's predicament but also stressed the "structure will change".

Russell Martin's side kick off their promotion bid with a trip to Notts County on Saturday.



Leicester City won the Premier League at odds of 5,000 to 1!

Rybakina beats Gauff to book Toronto title clash with Swiatek

Toronto, Canada

Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina battled back to beat Coco Gauff 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday and book a Toronto title clash with former world number one Iga Swiatek.

World number two Rybakina, whose Canadian run has her inching closer to No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the rankings, kept her title bid alive with another gutsy comeback, having rallied from a set down to beat Naomi Osaka in the quarter-finals.



Yousif Yaqoob soars to the basket

Motorsport Team Prepares for Sepang F1 Race

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A national motorsport team has been sent to Malaysia to map out how Bahrain will help run the 2026 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit from October 2 to 4.

The Bahrain Motor Federation delegation inspected the track, garages, starting area and other key parts of the circuit as planning for the Formula One weekend moves into a more detailed stage.

The team also met Sepang International Circuit staff and representatives of Malaysia's motorsport federation to work through race control, staffing, scrutineering, transport and



National motorsport delegation in Malaysia

safety plans.

Part of the visit focused on

how many Bahraini marshals

and organisers will be needed,

where they will be posted and

how work will be split across the

circuit during the race weekend.

Scrutineering staff reviewed

checks on the cars and the FIA rules that circuits must meet before staging a Formula One World Championship event.

Accommodation, local transport and other needs for the Bahraini contingent were also discussed with Malaysian counterparts and other parties involved in the race.

The trip is one of a series of visits to Sepang by the Bahrain Motor Federation, working with Bahrain International Circuit, as preparations gather pace for the October event.

The work is being carried out under the direction of Bahrain Motor Federation president Sheikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, who is also FIA vice-president for sport for the Middle East and North Africa.